

# Knowing People by Kamayani Sharma

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## Knowing People

One of the profound pleasures of reading  
is the odd recollection of someone  
whom you vaguely know in a distant  
two-streets-down-neighbourly way,  
as a fuzzy figure with a random  
attribute or two. It could be something  
as bland as what they studied in college  
or what happened to their marriage.  
Or it could be  
some incredibly accurate detail  
about their private life  
like what they were eating on the night they died  
or what the afternoon sunlight looked like  
lancing through their bedroom pane  
and fanning out by the window  
into a dust-filled geometric design  
a shade lighter than the wall.  
And the completely comfortable realisation,  
a second later, that this acquaintance  
is a fictional character.

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