

imagined scene

Albert Bender
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Kim put her suitcase alongside the other luggage and joined a group waiting in front of Ames Hall. She felt relieved to be going to the music festival in Montreal. Otherwise, she would have been going home for the weekend. Another important political function; we'll pick you up at noon. Kim pictured their arrival. Richard, her mother's fourth husband, Kim's third stepfather, would roll up in front of Ames at about 12:30, fashionably late as always, in his Pacific blue Mercedes. Mother would wait for Richard-the-Third to open her door, *rather than* make a move to get out by herself. She would be overdressed for a car ride, and her greeting, like Richard's, would be warm but formal--people in the public eye must always show decorum. There would be the usual questions as the'd pull away from the college. Mother would want to know how things were going and whether Wellesley was providing an adequate challenge. Richard would say that if there was a problem, he had connections at Radcliffe, Vassar, Bryn Mawr--take your pick.

And Kim also imagined the reaction when she would ask about her sister. Both mother and Richard would look at each other, as if they could draw straws with their eyes to see who'd have to tell. There'd be the usual silence, and then it would be mother who'd say that Madelyn is doing quite well--considering. Kim knew she'd have to make her own inquiries when she returned from Montreal.