Reflections for December

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ANTICIPATION

You're asking about your test results
with soft brown eyes, and fair, unaware voice.
In about ten seconds I will announce
that you have Lou Gerhig's disease.

Like nausea before the vomit
I want it to stop—
this moment before the tears—
get it over with.

I could say it's Motor Neuron Disease or ALS
but it doesn't matter because each is the same
name of what the distant future should bring.

Three names yet
I don't know how to tell you that
it is the deathly now—unrecoverable—
one more random catastrophe.

Perhaps it's better that you talk.
Ask me something else. Ask.
We can wait a little longer—
here, at the river's edge.

CONFESSION

—superior division MCA occlusion

No no no
this shi hit!

“He didn't answer when I called him.”

No no
“I found him beside his bed.”

—

“He couldn't move his right arm.”

she just friend like you lovernot
“His 60th birthday was last month.
We've been married 40 years.”

herme her me
“He loves to cook.”

friend on—ly
what sorry no
“What are you trying to say Honey?”

ago nonow yearsago friend
“Doctor, do you think he will ever be able to explain?”

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