

Sad In Photos

by

Alexander Lee-Rekers

Paula and Kevin at dinner in the hotel dining area. Kevin clicks through the photos on a digital camera while Paula watches him, unimpressed. Finally, fed up, she pulls out her phone. Kevin notices and looks up.

KEVIN

I thought we said no phones.

PAULA

We said no technology.

KEVIN

I don't see how that's a defence.

PAULA

You holster yours, I'll holster mine.

KEVIN

I'm looking at our photos. From today. I'm doing this for us.

PAULA

I'll text you a "thank you".

KEVIN

You look sad in photos.

Pause.

Has anybody ever told you that? You look miserable: at the breakfast buffet, on the tour bus, next to the statue...

PAULA

That's just how my face looks.

KEVIN

At the ruins! We came all this way to see these ruins, all day on the bus we talked about the ruins. And you look forlorn.

PAULA

Two thousand people died in those ruins. It's not like we were visiting a comedy club.

KEVIN

What did I do?

PAULA

Nothing.

KEVIN

Then what *could* I have done? You look really sad in these photos, Paula.

PAULA

So I was tired! I had food poisoning! Somebody snatched my bag!

KEVIN

Did they?!

PAULA

No. That's what you tell people who see these photos and think I'm sad.

KEVIN

They won't believe me.

PAULA

It won't matter. I wasn't really sad.

Silence.

I always look sad in photos.

KEVIN

You shouldn't.

Paula smiles.

PAULA

(Through her teeth.) Come on. Now's your chance.

Kevin snaps a photo, Paula immediately breaks off the smile. He looks at the photo; his face falls.

PAULA

That bad?

KEVIN

It's-

Kevin puts the camera away.

No technology.

PAULA

You'll just have to trust I'm happy. Let's order.