

## curiosity shop (iron man dream #2)

facing east I park the truck  
is this the right direction?  
inside the truck some treasured things  
a box of rocks and childhood charms.

across the street inside the shop  
a thousand things for second sale  
big-bellied happy plastic goat  
in overalls and farmer's hat  
a cardboard box sedan inside  
*IRON MAN FAMILY OUTING!*  
behind the wheel he's grim determined  
full armor wife and kids.

the old man smiles  
he's open friendly  
I feel distrustful ill at ease  
*my dad was iron man too* he says  
he knows too much to be a stranger.

old woman's voice is hard to hear  
immersed in static broken fading  
she seeks the owner of a truck  
she wants the box of charms and trinkets . . .

*your talismans are very bad  
it's not your fault they came like this  
someone passed them on to you  
do not pass them to another  
let me clear the bad luck for you  
contact me it's very urgent.*

she gives her name and how to find her  
I can't hear there's too much noise.

young woman stands behind the counter  
tired of taking care of others  
I ask her who the woman was  
the one who made the last announcement  
she answers several times but I can never understand her  
*please write it down  
I can't quite hear you*  
inside I feel embarrassed.

the writing on the card she hands me  
looks like nonsense out of context  
I fail to see how this will help me  
the writing on the card is mine.

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