



'I never saw my guitar again':

readers on belongings they lost in a breakup

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Long after two people have gone their separate ways, some partings still **rankle**. Readers reflect on the beloved items they left behind.

'I retained my stick blender but forgot all its accessories'

Even though my breakup was **amicable**, I felt a lot of guilt – so when I moved out I said: “Keep it all.” But, in the years since, there have been a few items of kitchenware that I wish I'd **held on to**: a Le Creuset casserole dish, my favourite mug, a digital cooking thermometer, the plastic bowl attachment for my stick blender (the blender itself I retained at her insistence, but I forgot all the accessories that came with it). There never seemed like a good time to ask for any of it back – I hope she's at least getting some use out of them. **Anonymous, Australia**

'I found him online and returned his Spurs top'

Just before he moved away, an ex-boyfriend gave me his childhood Spurs football top from the early 80s. It was the 90s, when tiny T-shirts **were in vogue**, and he thought I might wear it for fun. Predictably, though, it was way too small. I put it away in a drawer as **a keepsake** and forgot about it. Fifteen years later, when we had long broken up, I found it again. I realised it was too precious a souvenir for me to still have it, especially as I'm not even a football fan, so I found him online and returned it. He was really pleased to get it back and sent me a photo of his young son wearing it. It was **a perfect fit** and I felt as if everything had **come full circle**. **Lucy, England**

'My ex was amenable to me reclaiming the buddha statue'

When my divorce was finalised in 2014, I had one final day to **pick over the family possessions**, after which anything remaining in her garage would be hers. But after three



hours of looking through the pile of things, I felt weak; three days later, I was hospitalised with **acute pancreatitis**. But never, until recently, did I regret **cutting short** the retrieval.

Two weeks ago, for no reason I can **fathom**, I recalled my 21st birthday in 1986 when my brother gave me a little buddha statue, for luck. But where is he now? I asked my now-wife, but she knew of no such buddha. I asked one of my daughters, now 20, and she said she knew it well – in her mother's, my ex's, home. My ex was **amenable** to me **reclaiming** the buddha, so last week when I dropped my daughter at her house, my daughter brought him out. He's now happily seated in the bedroom at home and my now-wife rubs his belly every day. **Alastair, Brentford**

'He disappeared and I never saw my guitar again'

In my late teens, I played in a band and I met a guy who was a bit older than me, very good-looking. He took my guitar off me and played it – and he was amazing! He didn't have his own guitar, so I **loaned him** mine – it was the same one I'd had since I was about 13, so although it was cheap it had **sentimental value**. He had a Steely Dan songbook I wanted a look at, so he loaned me that. Months went by, then suddenly he disappeared and I never saw my guitar again. I still have his Steely Dan songbook, although I sometimes wonder whether he had **filched** that off someone else. **Anonymous, Edinburgh**

Read the text. Match the highlighted words or phrases in the text with the definitions.

- a. pick over sth
- b. to fathom
- c. acute
- d. to filch
- e. cut sth short
- f. amenable
- g. to come full circle
- h. to rankle
- i. to loan
- j. a keepsake





- k. amicable
- l. sentimental value
- m. to reclaim
- n. a perfect fit
- o. pancreatitis
- p. to be in vogue
- q. to hold on to sth

1. a condition that causes pain and swelling in the organ in the body that produces insulin
2. to cause annoyance or anger that lasts a long time
3. to take back something that was yours
4. to keep something you have
5. things are now the same as they were in the beginning
6. to be in fashion
7. it causes severe problems or damage
8. importance to someone because of a connection with a happy time of life, a special person, etc.
9. willing to accept or be influenced by a suggestion
10. an ideal match
11. friendly in attitude, or (of decisions or agreements) achieved with friendly attitudes and without unpleasant argument
12. to look carefully at a group of things, choosing the ones you want or getting rid of the ones you do not want
13. to have to stop doing something before it is finished
14. something that helps you remember a person, place, or occasion
15. to steal something of little value
16. to discover the meaning of something or understand something
17. to lend something





Key:

1. o
2. h
3. m
4. q
5. g
6. p
7. c
8. l
9. f
10. h
11. k
12. a
13. e
14. j
15. d
16. b
17. i

