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poems
by
doctors

Article 3

Frederick Hopkinson

She screams.
Seconds pass, she screams again.
Psst, psst, psst psst psstpspsst.
The cuff tightens around her arm.
Our grip on her tightens.
Stabbing. Holding her down, stabbing. Missing. Holding her down. Stabbing.
Blood. Bruises.
No answers.
She screams and screams and screams.
In protest? In pain?
Tap chest. Push tummy.
She screams and stares me in the eye.
She doesn't eat. She doesn't drink.
We won't let go.
She screams and screams.
Plaques? Tangles?
The cuff tightens.
An ambulance called. Looking for something. New surroundings.
Fluids: lines that tie her to the earth.
No answers.
Back to the ward, familiar surroundings?
Shouts. Screams. Falls. Bruises.
Stab.
The needle probes for answers.
Flesh, tendons, blood, bruises.
Finds nothing.
Flash.
Xrays penetrate, organs exposed.
Nothing found.
Shouts. Screams. Every few seconds screams
No rest.
Anger.
We search on.
Grip. Tap. Prod. Stab. Flash. Scream. Screams, screams
No rest.
Anger.
We search on.
Grip. Tap. Prod. Stab. Flash. Scream. Screams, screams

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