

# Survive & Thrive: A Journal for Medical Humanities and Narrative as Medicine

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## Hospital (A Duplex)

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## **Hospital** (A Duplex)

Instead of time, she wishes for stillness.  
An IV drips, giving a steady empty.

White drips from her eyes, steadily emptied.  
Oh, to live the life and not the side effects.

In the face of death, life is the side effect.  
It's late, and again, a fight to sleep.

It's late, but her daughter stays, fighting sleep  
and blows a breath to trace a fingertip heart.

Her two-floored heart flutters like fingertips,  
as she lies. Breath undulating in soft waves,

beached under blue linens — each a wave,  
sands piling under her hourglass feet.

Remember when we would use feet to measure,  
instead of time? Yes.        She wishes for it still.