FROM THE INSIDE

Life or Linen

Anab Rebecca Lehr*

© 2020 Springer-Verlag GmbH Germany, part of Springer Nature

	It's an emergency!	
Doc!		Honey!
The patient collapsed		The laundry is ruined
	What happened?	
I don't know;		I don't know;
Let's start with ABC		I can't see
	Why so white?	
Must be anemic,		Must be a forgotten Kleenex
Acidotic or pulseless		In the pocket of a dress
	What should we do?	
Add meds, tubes and lines		Remove pieces
One after the other		One after the other
	Is it over?	
After far too many rounds of CPR,		Can't get rid of them all,
We should probably call it		Even another cycle can't clean it
	Breaking bad news?	
SPIKES won't stop neither the screams		Distressing guilt;
Nor the shivers up your spine		I know the outline
	What else is left to say?	
It was their only kid		It was his favorite kit
Fatality!		Calamity!
	So what now?	
We'll have to cancel dinner plans		We'll have to cancel dinner plans
	A crisis is in the eyes of the beholder...	
	Beware of emotional numbness!	

*Correspondence: anab.lehr@gmail.com
 Department of Critical Care Medicine, Hospital for Sick Children, 555
 University Avenue, Toronto, ON M5G 1X8, Canada

Acknowledgements

With gratitude to the University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine for their support of this project through the Medical Humanities Education Grant; to Kay Min and my colleagues for the opportunity to reflect on our lives as human and doctors through "Literary Arts in Critical Care" Curriculum.

Funding

University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine, 2019 Medical Humanities Education Grant.

Compliance with ethical standards**Conflicts of interest**

The author states that she has no conflict of interests to declare.

Publisher's Note

Springer Nature remains neutral with regard to jurisdictional claims in published maps and institutional affiliations.

Received: 2 May 2020 Accepted: 6 May 2020

Published online: 28 May 2020