

FROM THE INSIDE

ICU



Fiona E. Brown 

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I see you,
Beneath the mask,
Visor, gown
And gloves.
Wearing your new skin.
Protecting yourself.
Protecting me.

I see you,
The redeployed nurse
With panic in your eyes.
Acting like a swan,
Out of your comfort zone.
Role modelling resilience.

I see you,
The domestic staff.
An integral part of the team,
Yet rarely celebrated.
Demonstrating bravery
Whilst going about your work.
Remaining nearly invisible.

I see you,
The junior doctor,
Eyes wide open,
Surveying the situation.
Taking on new responsibilities,
Learning through the pandemic
Or just trying to cope?

I see you,
The registrar
Breaking bad news
Over the telephone.

Dissatisfied with circumstances,
Enduring families' emotions
As well as your own.

I see you,
The experienced consultant,
Previously infallible,
Now scared of the unknown,
Fearful for the future.
Holding strong for the team.

I see you,
The other patients,
More unwell than I.
Deteriorating.
Is this what I will become?
An entity of lines and tubes.
Hope is necessary
But COVID is cruel.

I see you.
I.C.U.

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