

# Nocturne

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The slow gasp of suction draws breath  
Against a quiet morning where  
light leaks in through muffled blinds  
dancing on tubes and drains  
tiny lanterns suspended from strings

oxygen whistles ever so slightly  
a tight and careful melody  
under soft beeps and sine waves  
and echoes down the hall  
public rehearsals in private chambers

and her lungs, how they heaved against the machine  
stacking breaths against an impossible rhythm  
that was music, too  
and the coughing fits, a sharp staccato  
and the hum of her heart, a swan song

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