Night Shift

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Night chariot
Speeds,
Sirens shrill,
Piercing reds.

Shackled stretcher,
Fisting fingers.
Saliva splattered
Shirt.

Slithering
Tattered blanket.
Shoeless,
Blackened toes.

White coatless,
Stethoscopeless.
Starched shirt
Scribbling.

Twin brothers
In the midnight womb.

Poet's Statement

This poem speaks to the authors experience as a resident psychiatrist on call. It builds on some of the difficult imagery of working in a busy inner-city emergency room (ER). It also calls to mind the reality of the revolving door challenge in many ERs and the perplexing relationship that emerges in seeing the same person in succession in the ER.

Compliance with Ethical Standards

Disclosures Dr. Danilewitz reports personal fees from Eisai Limited for advisory board work, outside the submitted work.

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