

Meanwhile

Lauren Pischel¹

Published online: 19 November 2015
© Springer Science+Business Media New York 2015

but today
while the sun was hot
while tomatoes burned
while ladies sweated in fresh sundresses
and the outside floated along
a man died in the hospital

he came in with some bit of banality:
a nosebleed, the hiccups, belly pain
he planned to slip back through the ED doors
into the night to
have left overs for dinner

but after the compressions stopped
and the wife cried on the floor
and the attending washed his face,
the ER pulses on. The clerks check their boxes
and the residents peck from phone to computer
for there are more patients to see

and still the sun shines perfectly
and the hospital sighs out its nurses at 7
and then breathes in a new batch
and a woman drives alone.

✉ Lauren Pischel
lpischel@stanford.edu

¹ Stanford School of Medicine, MSIV, Stanford, CA, USA