



Out

*No propriety. The johnny-shirt tied loose
as the slab underneath slides out and light
hits unadjusted eyes. Thirty minutes is
a long time to search for blight, nests of
cerebellar locusts, the exact site of pestilence,
and then to see vast, white emptiness outside.
The machine sits and technicians, nametags attached,
guide noninitiates—plebes who've seized,
gone blind, or otherwise lost their sense—
from the room. I'm exposed, in partial clothes,
and barefoot identity's more than the loss
of health but also less—the business
of symptoms and diagnosis, but also shivers
to keep warm and ask the question: what's next?*

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