

Nomenclature

Beneath the sterile bulbs, a heart
Silenced by science then split apart,
Bobs softly on an open sea
Of blood, cracked rib, and arteries.

Each brilliant node and nerve attests
Either to forms within the chest
Or glassy, color-printed clones
By which the parts had once been known.

Recounting these invented terms,
A name for each detail, confirms
There is no man beneath the knife,
And calms the fear of ending life.

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Illustration by Jim M'Guinness