

Conundrums



Look, your heart can't do the Autobahn,
It's no longer built for speed.

But it's still efficient,
You can cruise the back roads just fine.

The patient smiled and nodded,
A mechanic's understanding.

It's not a Ferrari,
It's a Ford.

All sorts of car-like conundrums
Comprise cardiology's lot.

A Lamborghini with a 20% ejection fraction
Can't even handle a Honda Civic stroke volume.

An old woman's Austin Mini may
Outlast a young oversized Hummer heart.

A rusty Oldsmobile lazily ticking at 40
Matches the spry Tesla's beat.

In the blood-pumping business (and the garage)
Pathology knows not age nor asset.

So in five thousand more miles
Your sparks and valves may burn out.

But you know,
In the grand irony of great sickness,

As the luckiest of the unlucky
You just might get a used car.

—Geoffrey A. Rubin, MD

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