



Illustration by Steve Derrick

Syncope

A dazed look marks them out
from other visitors—
a slower pace,
a look of sadness,
regret upon the brow,
an odd uncertainty
in moving to and from
the center of concern,
a loved one lying ill
or injured there,
so rudely severed from
what was just yesterday
a daily life.

Their lives changed, too,
made suddenly appended
to another life,
selves on hold,
suspended,
uncertain,
upended,
seeking ways to tilt
back in balance
to find a rhythm once again.

— Jared Curtis, PhD