



Dissecting silence

When you did not
make it home
I set your absence
on the cloth
of our kitchen table.
Held the margins
of my head
between coffee and booze.
Like a pathologist,
I tried to measure
the width
by summer's bull thistle

the length
by autumn's ginkgo leaves
the depth
by winter's frozen section.
Waited for the unrolled
stone of spring
to stage
acceptance.

—Aaron McGuffin, MD

Dr. McGuffin (AOA, Marshall University, 2002) is Professor of Pediatrics at West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in Lewisburg, WV. His email address is: aaron.mcguffin1@gmail.com.