

MIND TO MIND

Creative writing that explores the abstract side
of our profession and our lives

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Anesthesia Checklist

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A Anesthesia Checklist

Prepare:

- machines and supplies as an extension of you
a connection, so you can hear your unconscious patient
talk to you in ways profound and vital

Confirm:

- the patient's identity
that web of relationships, experiences earned or yearned
spun with a thousand threads, some frayed, some hidden
whose innermost knot is mystery

Acknowledge:

- the patient's fear tethered like a beast in a nearly sealed cavern
ready to rouse, frenzied and wild, especially at the call: *open your eyes!*
- the patient's gift, wrapped in wariness by the family
yet inside nestles trust, shy at being given to you, a stranger

Ensure:

- the surgeon, looking at you, eyes above masks, sees you
and sees the nurse

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Consider:

- the patient's wellbeing
translated into the pulse of ocean waves
reassuring in its relentlessness
- what to do if the ocean stops

Verify:

- your readiness to stick, suck, squeeze, switch, screw, twist, tie,
probe, poke, push, plunge, lift, click, wipe, glide, corral,
inflate, deflate, placate, titrate, direct, triple check and
above all, listen

Render:

- yourself as a wingspread bird set to soar on thermals
adjusting to the tiniest puffs
even in the middle of the bright blue sky