

A Difficult Airway Course

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CLOSE Call

At best, a second attempt, a second pair of hands.
Sometimes just a missed lunch.
Sometimes a bloody nuisance.
A change of topic from politics and recipes.
A bottle of wine for a colleague who bails me out.
“No one is perfect” does not apply in this deal.
My reputation is salvaged after the patient is discharged.
Whatever happened is still rational, forgivable, and forgettable.

Potential Fatality

A last heartbeat of hope,
Hurled into desperate action.
Cold metal in my hand
Silver blade stained with dark blood.
Green oxygen misses the window.

There is nothing to say as failure hovers in silence.
Hides behind eye contact avoided by all.
A medical mission suddenly severed.
Disrupted schedule, disrupted life, no more allies.

MD discharged home, unemployable.
Forsaken into a lifetime of therapy.
A nauseous nightmare with a mangled outcome.
Irretrievable, professional ruin.
This must not happen!

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