

MIND TO MIND

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

Stephen T. Harvey, M.D., Editor

On Scene

James M. Berry, M.D.

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Late home alone, in hopes of rest
But daughter phones in great distress;
Had desperate call from high-school friend
Arrived at house, forced her way in,

Saw bottle empty, bathroom scrubbed
Friend very still, face-down in tub;
“Call 9-1-1, stay on the line,”
I drive like mad, thoughts slowing time;

Strobes flash red through viscous night,
Medics on scene, chaos and light
Daughter pale, faint cry from rear
As wounded soul spills pain and fear;

Gurney bumps down long back stair;
Now it's quiet, drink fresh air—
I'm like a felon, freed from jail
Her endless hug, and long exhale...

Carol Wiley Cassella, M.D., served as Handling Editor for this submission.

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