

Breath

--for Dad

All of a sudden you slumped out of life
those bluest of eyes staring out to where
form collapses unaware in your awareness
of the sudden blows back against the floor
the cracking of sternum beneath my hands
attempting to call you back from wherever it was
you were wandering off to forcing air into your lungs
the hum high-pitch squeal the call to *Clear*
electricity lifting you for a moment near resurrection

I hold your hand in the ER as you die again
and again and again and again
epinephrine norepinephrine vasopressin
amiodarone propofol fentanyl
a dozen more dripping portacath in your neck
femoral line IVs snaked into both your arms
Swan-Ganz fish-hooked through the heart's chambers
the plastic tube in your lungs jitters each breath

I sit beside your bed hoping God
might be bothered enough this time to answer a prayer

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