

Poem

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## Arachnoid Mater

unforgettable but

beyond

recollection

a single sanguine sample

declares its delinquency

*dolor rubor*

the fulmination inside her head

crimson crawling along her silken web

wracking nerves

a family waits, wonders, and bargains

inside, strangers purport to understand

humans and their humours they hope

anatomy, capricious as it is, will now

permit them entry

anaesthesia standing by, Neith reminds them yet again

a moment astray and the web is unwound

they bate their breaths so that she may breathe

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