in turn, used to teach viewers about how to be good “biocitizens”10 or die.

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REFERENCES


A time like all others

Clear midday summer sunlight comes in through the lowered Venetian blinds and, once inside, mixes with the scattered fluorescent ceiling lights of the waiting room where I’ve been looking at the covers of the magazines lying on the table, not doing the work in the backpack at my feet. Whether you’re aware of it at the time or not, what always feels most distinctive about hospitals, I think, is how similar they are to other buildings, how unexceptional the other patients and nurses and doctors are, how ordinary disease is, while around the corner behind the reception desk or through the swinging doors at the end of an unmarked hallway you didn’t take, there are things you know nothing about. Unimaginable pain and hardship, of course, but, perhaps, also hints of happiness, probably not encountered today or tomorrow, but eventually, at a time, like all others, you can’t move toward, or away from.

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