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POETRY | SPRING 2020

## No Expiration

By Michal Coret

I removed a lung from a woman today,  
Taking away her breath in the afterlife.  
Her body lay bare before me, save for her hidden head.  
A muffled identity  
Naked and vulnerable and still.  
We are flesh  
She tells me  
In her silence, muffled by cloth.  
How will she breathe, and how will I  
In this cloud formed by questions of what air she has breathed  
Posed by scalpels in inexperienced shaking hands connected  
To my body that moves with each breath, uncertain.

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**Michal Coret is a medical student at the University of Toronto. She writes poetry, short fiction, and plays about medical encounters and experiences in medical school. Her creative work and research has appeared in *Survive and Thrive: A Journal for Medical Humanities and Narrative as Medicine* and *The Muse Magazine*. She is passionate about qualitative research in medical humanities, empathy, and education. She is currently the co-director of ArtBeat at the University of Toronto, which strives to bring the humanities to medical students in a meaningful and engaging way.**

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