

Young Woman Listens to Cyndi Lauper During Dialysis

By Simona Carini

I want to be the one to walk in the sun-
light, the extra weight I carry shed.

I must shed the extra weight I carry.
They told me fasting made my kidneys fail.

I failed my fasting by eating two lettuce leaves,
had to flush them out or I will never be thin.

I had to flush out the lettuce leaves, thin,
yet they become pounds of fat on my body.

Ninety-five pounds for a five-two body.
Blood is flowing out of my veins, a red rivulet.

I stare at the blood flowing out of my veins
into a whirring machine, then coursing back.

Out of my veins into a machine, back inside me
for hours, I cannot be the one to walk in the sun.

Simona Carini writes poetry and nonfiction and has been published in *Intima: A Journal of Narrative Medicine*, *Sheila-Na-Gig* online, *Star 82 Review*, *the Journal of Humanistic Mathematics* and *the American Journal of Nursing*. Born in Perugia, Italy, a graduate of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart (Milan, Italy) and of Mills College (Oakland, CA), she lives in Northern California with her husband and works as a data scientist at an academic research institution.

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