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After CPR Stops

By Marta Christov

When you call my husband
don't say she didn't suffer
I wanted too much to continue living—
and suffering is part of it.
Don't tell him how, in this last hour
you cracked my ribs
and sent my body levitating
with the shocks.
Say: we did everything.
She is at peace.
Her heart gave up its electricity
but not its lust for life.

Marta Christov is a practicing nephrologist in Westchester County, as well as a research scientist studying phosphate regulation in health and disease. Christov has a particular interest in making science and medicine easier to understand for her patients and the general public. She is currently using poetry and essays to reflect on her experiences as a caregiver and a patient family member.

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