
POETRY | SPRING 2015

Emergency Department

By Stefanie Reiff

Today I cleaned
Bathroom first
Removed the gel, cream, cleanser, brush
Examined the dates
Tossed the old
Wiped the cabinet
Replaced the rest

Remove, examine, toss, wipe
Replace.

Today I cleaned
Living room next
Inspected the floor, shelf, bookcase, stand
Swept the dust
Opened the shade
Visualized the os
Shook my head

Inspect, sweep, open ...
Shake.

Today I cleaned
Bedroom third
Paired the socks
Five toes stretching through the os
Stripped the sheets
Translucent, baby bird skin
Stifled sob within your breast, lost breath within your soul, still heart within your beat

Pair ... Strip ...
Stifle.

Today I cleaned
Kitchen last
Consult: PPROM 42 yo Female
20 weeks
So you saw retained products of conception?
I saw a foot
Cleared the ~~thought~~ dishes

Today I cleaned.

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