
POETRY | FALL 2018

GSW Abdomen

By Evan Geller

A young man lies naked
on the cold steel table
before me, dying.

Silently, I hear his blood
rushing frantically
into the dark cavern--
organs awash on a deadly,
clotting tide.

I stare for a contemplative
moment at his frail skin,
made glistening bronze
by antiseptic solution.
I cannot take my eyes off
the small hole, neat and
glistening, just to the left
of his navel.

I peer in, but see only dark.

“No pressure,”
a voice to my left.
It is time to dive into the
crimson sea.

A deep breath.
Scalpel, please.

Evan Geller is a general surgeon practicing in NY. In addition to his trauma-themed poetry, he has published a couple of novels and edited a textbook. His essays on medicine and other topics are published at theGoatRodeoBlog.com. The final novel of his award-winning trilogy, *God Bless the Dead*, is due out in January 2019.

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