

# MIND TO MIND

*Creative writing that explores the abstract side  
of our profession and our lives*

*Carol Wiley Cassella, M.D., Editor*

## A Foot

Audrey Shafer, M.D.\*

I ntestines and their manila frill of fat  
nestle cozily in a metal bowl

but a foot  
can't be contained even by a tub;  
jutting over the edge  
the calf exposes its brutal ovoid slice

a foot  
perhaps with purple gangrene  
black-lipped ulcers  
toes already missing  
itches to hop off  
a mutant bunny on the lam

a foot  
could jerk its big toe to hitch a ride  
or, impatient  
stomp out of the operating room

anything to forget the fine crack of bone  
from bone

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but even if the foot flees the scene  
the nonfoot remains  
below the stump, below the wound  
sealed by interrupted sutures  
perfect blue knots teething a frozen smile  
see, there it is  
faux foot, doppelgänger foot,  
ghost foot.