

# MIND TO MIND

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

*Stephen T. Harvey, M.D., Editor*

## On Scene

James M. Berry, M.D.

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Late home alone, in hopes of rest  
But daughter phones in great distress;  
Had desperate call from high-school friend  
Arrived at house, forced her way in,

Saw bottle empty, bathroom scrubbed  
Friend very still, face-down in tub;  
“Call 9-1-1, stay on the line,”  
I drive like mad, thoughts slowing time;

Strobes flash red through viscous night,  
Medics on scene, chaos and light  
Daughter pale, faint cry from rear  
As wounded soul spills pain and fear;

Gurney bumps down long back stair;  
Now it's quiet, drink fresh air—  
I'm like a felon, freed from jail  
Her endless hug, and long exhale...

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Carol Wiley Cassella, M.D., served as Handling Editor for this submission.

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