

## The Emergency Room

This is not your TV's ER  
There is no code blue or George Clooney or shuffling feet in a flurry  
These are tepid emergencies, defeated defibrillators  
You're dead on arrival, a wristband in non-slip socks, as urgent as purgatory

Hear the clang of the cage — the beep beep beep of locks snapping into place  
The bureaucracy thick as cold cafeteria roast beef  
Procedure-group-consult-let's-have-a-see-with-a-CT  
Doogie Howsers rehashing chapter 7 from "Medical School 103"  
While you're sprawled on a glacier  
outside Radiation down the hall,  
committed  
A specimen and case study  
The fluorescent night listless  
Your phone cordless

Powerless  
While they "move as fast as they can"  
Discharge papers jammed, sticky  
with molasses  
Hurry!  
It's only a matter of

life

and

death