

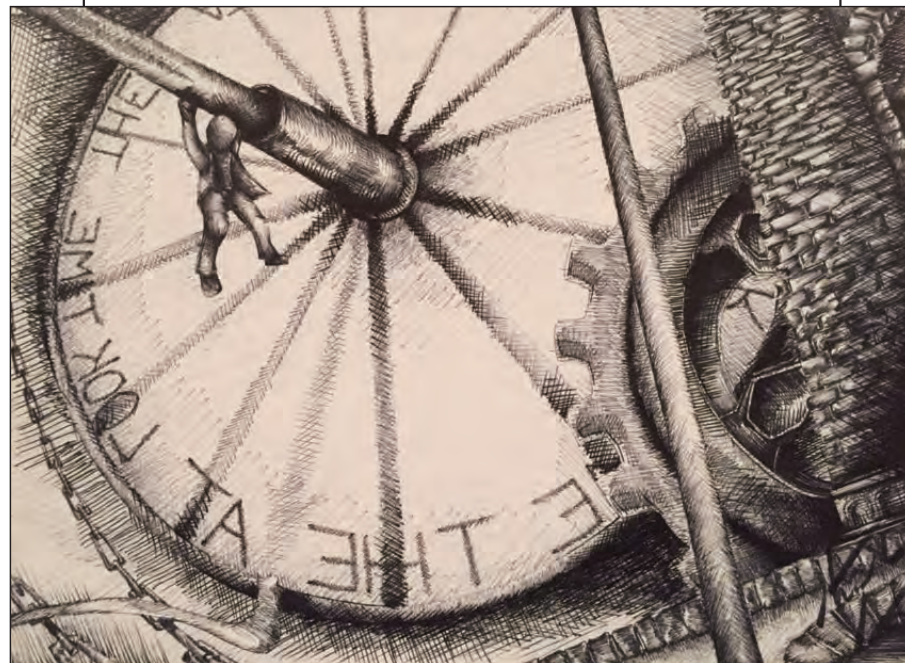
Narrateur

# Narrateur

REFLECTIONS ON CARING

HOFSTRA NORTHWELL  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ART & LITERARY REVIEW



ISSUE SIX 2017

HOFSTRA NORTHWELL  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
ART & LITERARY REVIEW

ISSUE SIX 2017

## Rhabdomyolysis

In the ER, I see the word *rhabdomyolysis*  
 And write it down in my little red notebook.  
 And then old James says, Come here. Can I  
 Tell you something terrible? I always tell you  
 The terrible things.

This man in 4A? No history of medical anything,  
 No nothing. Then this morning, he  
 Sees a tiny bit of blood in his urine. He  
 Comes here only because his kids  
 Bug him to.

He gets a CT scan, and it turns out he  
 Has a softball-sized tumor  
 On his kidney, and it's already,  
 It's already spread  
 All over his body, to his pancreas,  
 Everywhere in his abdomen.

Can you believe it? No medical history  
 Whatsoever. You know, I'm so bitter, but  
 This stuff gets me. I'm almost afraid  
 To go over there because of how  
 It messes me up.

Standing beside me, he fills  
 His pockets with syringes as a waiter fills  
 His apron with drinking straws  
 And returns to the patient as to a customer  
 At a diner —

And as a waiter places first the napkin  
 Then the fork and the knife, quickly  
 He draws blood from the offered arm  
 And turns, the thought of it traveling  
 From his shoulders to the corner of his  
 Eye, hidden from us, and then gone.

*Adam Lalley is a first-year medical student at the Hofstra Northwell  
 School of Medicine.*