

Community learning triptych

PATIENT

Who's this?

I didn't know them at all
But when they came through the door
I saw them as my sons,
Or lovers.
Or
Someone with a need
That I had met before

And I
Told them about
What happened to me.
I knew I could make them see

How it was to live
Both after and before
My heart attack, or

Stoma, or
Lobectomy
(Shock horror and gore, yes,
We all go there sometimes)
It's this they didn't understand
It's this
That I could make them know and see

Through show and tell

By the end of half an hour

We knew each other
Very well

STUDENT

Who's this?

I didn't know him before
But going through the door,
I saw
A man I expected to be old, and frail
Welcome me in as
His child
Or child's friend, that
He was keen to nurture —
And I

Found myself asking
About me

How it was to see
Him both after and before
His heart attack.

A crisis
Cutting through his well loved
Life ...

His wife
Serving tea, and standing
On the edge

Knew well

By the end of half an hour

We had not even edged
Into the kind of hell
That they had both lived through

(GP Community) TUTOR

What next?

I'm not sure
Whose door
I ought to choose,
To let them know

How people
Choose to show
Their pain.
And I

Remember when
They first showed me

How I might be
(For them and for the rest)
The best of me

Sharing their pain,
Their lives,
Their ways,
I want to show them

From the margins

How the hell

Of half an hour
Of damaged life
Shows us
The way
To understanding

Amanda Howe