

Poetry

Impact statement: fifty-five word stories are a potentially powerful reflective tool in medicine. Here such a story is told as a prose-poem honouring certain elderly patients, who lived through a time and experiences far more violent than my own.

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Hospital visiting-hours:

*“Hello John, heard you were
having a spot of bother.”*

Old men, knowing how to talk,
in the dusk return:
in youth they moved the bodies

of friends into the sun.
Their tender violent brotherhood
was all, gave all -

packed like jewels -
I envy them their friends,
their stories, their loves,

their war.

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