

# Patience

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### 🔊 Audio

Listen to Dr. LaBuzetta  
read this poem.

[NPub.org/f2e9iw](https://www.npub.org/f2e9iw)

Thirty six years (thirty in school)  
and still I'm just another girl  
walking past his room.

"Nurse!"  
An honest mistake, I tell myself.  
"I'm your doctor, sir; how can I help?"

This patient isn't from a different time.  
He's young, like me.  
Doesn't he see my white coat, my badge (MD)?

Tell me, I want to know:  
Last time normal? What happened?  
I examine him from head to toe.

"Honey" that, and "Sweetie" this.  
Would he call his male doctor buddy or dude?  
Inside, I'm screaming  
I want to spit.

I'm told it gets better with a little gray hair.  
*Not. Fair.*

Perhaps his new brain injury made him this way;  
I wonder what he would he have said yesterday.  
I suppose it's a good sign he's speaking at all.

My trainees come in. They present to me—  
the attending physician, I oversee;  
I command their attention.

And still, before I leave the room,  
"Please tell the doctor I'd like to see him."

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