Break-in

Douglas Hester, MD

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After the burglary—
when surgeons scraped
scalp from cranium, drilled
through skull, unearthed dura,
and raised tumor from
the temporal lobe
with stealth—you woke
from propofol and asked
me to hold a coffee
while you pawed through IV
tubing, your gown, blankets
soiled with blood and betadine.
Your hands snatched and grabbed
on the stretcher because
lost, here, *somewhere*,
lay the key to lock
strangers out of your
mind while you were gone.

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MORE ONLINE

Audio

Listen to Dr. Hester read
this poem.

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