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## Unheard

Kristin Rothell

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## Unheard

*Kristin Rothell*

i felt the agony  
as it tore through my skull,  
ripped apart skin  
that was meant  
to keep me together,  
instead pulling apart  
like taffy left in the sun –  
so easy to split open

words filter in –  
hemorrhage  
unresponsive  
coma  
brain dead –  
but i can't tell them  
they're wrong,  
that i linger still,  
that my soul wasn't  
taken  
when the droning  
beep sounded  
and my body stilled  
until  
the shock  
dragged me back

back to this:

my eyes stare,  
sightless,  
into the oblivion,  
ceiling tiles and  
faces i don't know  
hovering over me

like avenging angels,  
waiting for my heart  
to stop,  
for my body to stop,  
for *everything* to stop,  
so they can unhook me,  
remove me,  
kill me

i ache to scream,  
to let the scathing words  
tear from my unmoving throat  
and rip them to shreds

i remain silent,  
unresponsive

i hold no power  
over muscles,  
tendons,  
reflexes,  
i have no power  
over my self

i am a husk  
kept alive  
by the nutrients  
force fed into  
my bloodstream,  
by the tube shoved  
down my unsuspecting  
throat that  
shoves oxygen  
into lungs  
that don't want to function,  
by the nurses  
that work my muscles  
for me

Rothell: Unheard

because i lie on  
this flimsy hospital bed,  
in this dingy hospital room,  
breathing stale hospital air,  
and i can't make them hear me

not when no one  
is listening