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# Tending A Ghost

Barney Childs  
*University of Redlands*

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Tending a Ghost

who sits  
huddled, and  
shaking in  
a chair,  
I imagine  
the names of the dead  
come to life  
behind the faces  
of the living  
in this locked ward;  
-the patients  
suddenly calm  
and composed,  
walking out the door  
into the world,  
-the attendants  
letting go,  
walking home,  
giving back  
the care of the living  
to the living.

But I've been  
domesticated  
in this hell  
enough to know  
that the bolt  
still rests  
in the chamber  
behind the strike,  
that the attendants  
collect their pay  
by minute, hour, day,  
according the clock  
a controlled  
and calculated  
reward.

She sits  
in her chair  
and offers  
to do it all again,  
offers me  
one of her blankets  
to keep away  
the cold.