

Please Stand Clear

Category: Poems

written by Sophie Collins | July 18, 2025



I catch the train home after a night shift
my tired eyes take in the harbor view
a child chirps announcements in my ear
sweet mimicry *doors closing please stand clear*
last night a woman died or tried at least
her heart a panicked quivering hummingbird
beating frail wings against its bony cage
we shocked her once then twice my trembling finger
on the button *charging please stand clear*
her body in the bed jumped like a fish
we pushed adrenaline into her veins
pumped her unmoving chest blue gloves sweat-slicked
stuck to my shaking skin

the sea and sky

are sapphire the harbor sun is bright
a child sings too hot to sleep today