Temporary Connection

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Her soft boned fingers clung surprisingly
to my biceps, breaking sterility
and ages of cultivated physician dispassion
until the nurse restrained her attempts
to make me feel her fear
of uncertainty,
at hand and beyond
somehow assuaged by touching the doctor
she does not know
but will permit to slip a wire
into the very center of herself
to pulse her broken heart
with the current of Edison's intellect.
But foremost she craves sensation —
that tiny voltage between our skins
transmitting the power of caring
without the masks of should and should not.
She might even have felt my fear
of a wrong turn by the liver
that could make a mess inside,
or desire to sleep
anywhere but standing up,
or uncertainty at being the best
not just the only
one to do the job tonight.

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