

FM REVIEW COMMENTS 2009-2012 16

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: The vast middle of submissions may be a murky area of conflicting opinions, but people know a wonderful piece of writing when they see it! We are lucky to get this submission from this author, it elevates the entire narrative essay section. The second reviewer raises a question about possible identification of individuals in the story. While I'm pretty sure this experienced author has taken this issue into consideration, the cover letter should clarify this point. The second reviewer also recommends "questions for thought" for the reader interspersed in the second to last paragraph. I don't know that this approach would actually improve the manuscript, but I would leave it to the author to make this determination.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:, thank you for this beautiful, touching, and humble piece that captures so much of the (often disappointed) hope that is family medicine; and reminds us of what that now cliched phrase "patient-centered" really means. Reviewer 2 makes a minor suggestion to integrate a few "questions for thought" in the second to last paragraph - I am concerned this will interrupt the flow of the narrative, but will let you decide. Possibly you could add a single sentence about the changes in maternity care over the decades, right after the sentence "Society threatens..." Something like, "For example, in maternity care..." However, it's your call, I leave it in your experienced hands.

A few very minor things - pg 2, 2nd para from end, sentence might be clearer if it read "losing for the whole 8 hours, until just before the woman began the second stage of labor WHEN my winning streak got me back to even"; same pg, final para, I think you could just say "..if we DID a home delivery..."; pg. 4, 2nd para from end, could the sentence "I have carried that image..." just go? You have already done such a superb job of creating the image in the reader's mind that further underlining seems redundant; top of pg 5, "an artist who lived in the house" should probably be followed by a comma; finally, pg. 5, 2nd para from end, it should be "Meher."

Thank you for a truly luminous piece that speaks to the heart of family medicine.