

## FM REVIEW 2016 17 COMMENTS

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR:** This is a 55 word story about the narrator's struggle to muster compassion for the perpetrator of sexual or physical violence toward his daughter. With a daughter the same age, the narrator finds she cannot completely alter her feelings of judgment and revulsion.

The topic is an important one, no question. The problem for me is that I just don't feel the story is particularly well-written. Although the encounter had a visceral effect on the narrator, this is not conveyed to the reader. There are some awkward phrases ("maternal defense") and jerky sentence fragments. The last line is the best, because it is open to several possible interpretations; but the word around which it is organized ("disappointed") does not seem commensurate with the severity of the issue.

Regrettably, I do not think this piece merits external review; and I recommend we reject it.

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR:** Thank you for this submission. The topic of how, as healthcare professionals, we manage the emotions evoked in us by perpetrators of sexual/physical abuse, is a critically important one. Your description of your struggle, and in particular the evocation of your own daughter the same age as the victim, is moving. However, overall the writing does not convey to the reader the distress you obviously felt. Regrettably, because of the large number of submissions received, we must sometimes turn away interesting pieces. Thank you for considering the journal as an outlet for your work.