

## FM REVIEW 2018 11 COMMENTS

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR:** This poignant essay about the death of a two-week old infant in PICU sets up a rather standard criticism of cell phones and social media, then veers into an unexpectedly touching final moments fueled by Elvis filtered through a grandmother's cell. It shows how technology not only disrupts but, used properly, can unite. The essay is quite well-written; the author is clearly in control of her material. I'd like her to consider reviewer 2's minor suggestions for reworking the introductory sections of the essay; this is a keeper!

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR;** Thank you for sharing this poignant story, which goes in an unexpected and interesting direction. You are a very strong writer, and obviously have control of your material. We liked everything about this essay, except that you are describing the death of an infant. Nevertheless, you do that with assurance and compassion.

You've made an authorial decision to intersperse the patient case with your more general observations about PICU deaths, which have to do both with the inability to really predict how these deaths will occur; and with how technology has inserted its own noises and demands into the final moments of these children's lives. This opening part of the narrative is a little disjointed (perhaps intentionally so). Reviewer 2 suggests one way of making these transitions smoother, which we'd like you to consider. Another possibility would be to group your general comments about these sad deaths together, then proceed to tell the story in chronological fashion. It is your choice how to revise this section, but the fact that both reviewer and assistant editor stumbled a bit here suggests that it can be improved.

Otherwise, a truly heartbreaking, but surprisingly sweet, essay.

**COMMENTS TO EDITOR II:** The author has done an excellent job of incorporating requested revisions (which were not extensive). The most important improvement is a little reorganizing and providing transitions at key junctures. This is a lovely, touching essay that should be accepted for publication.

Sam, there is an extra "are" p. 2, line 53 that should be removed.

**COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II:** Thank you for these changes, which you've made in an assured and skillful manner. You've solved the difficulty of occasional disjointedness in the narrative really well. The paragraph about "no surprises" is really good - sad and sweet and a great introduction to Sophie's story. The addition of a transitional line from the grandma's cell to the noise and distractions social media has brought into the rooms of dying children also now works well. The essay gives hope that, sometimes, our technologies can bring us together and make more meaningful these precious goodbyes.