

FSH COMMENTS 2014 18

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This is a touching 55 word story, which illustrates well how we all need the encouragement and love of others in our hardest and darkest moments. However, the piece veers into cliché at points. The title seems slightly saccharine. Maybe the candle image could be extended into the title. Also, why does this plain nurse have to have a “radiant” smile? Couldn’t it be a less standard kind of smile? Similarly, does the father have to “beam”? I understand that you are building on the idea of “lighting each other’s candles” and I like that you are working within your metaphor, but seek out words that “shine” less obviously. The last line might be reworked in its entirety, as I don’t find the phrase “seeing her” a particularly strong note to end on. Think about the warmth, the light, the illumination of a candle. Try to show the reader that this is what the father “sees.”