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The Telling Heart

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The Telling Heart

Tricia Cimera

In the hospital,
she watches her heart
now visibly pumping
on a screen, in a box
called an echo
cardiogram machine.
Strange to see.
She is here yet
her heart is there.
Inside but outside.
Hidden and exposed.

Her doctor suddenly
leans forward,
close to the screen,
listening intently.
When she asks to what,
he is annoyed, saying—
If you let me listen,
I can hear,
just let me listen!—
and turns back to her
throbbing heart,
focusing avidly, ardently,
and the heart,
beats faster, louder,
drowning her out.

What can it be saying?
Her very own heart,
she should know.
Beating inside of her
and no one else.
Nothing to give away,
to say or betray,
her own private heart.
But what if
there is a hole and it leaks?
She watches her doctor's face
and knows.

Apparently the heart
is telling,
telling all,
telling
the whole story.