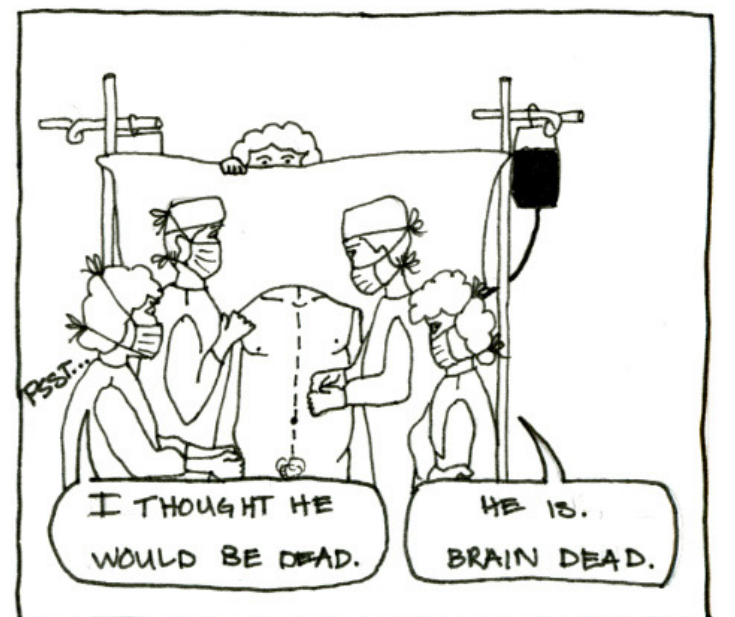
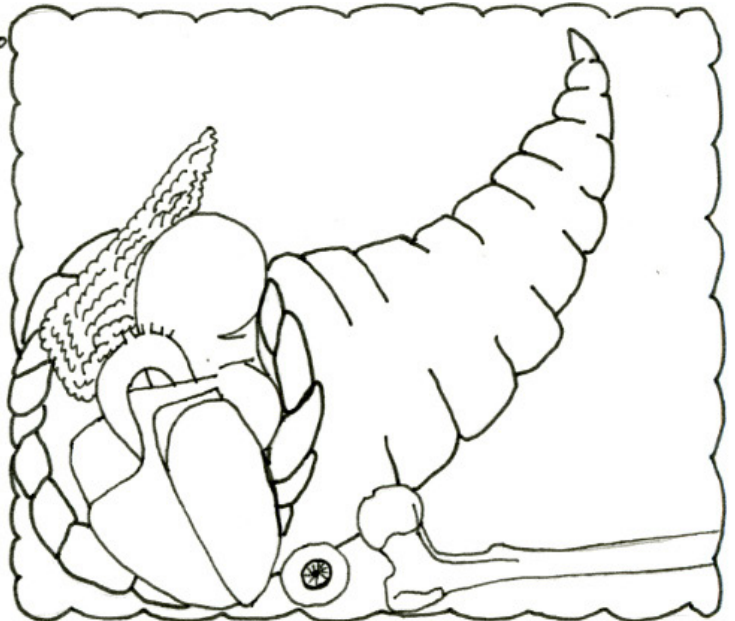


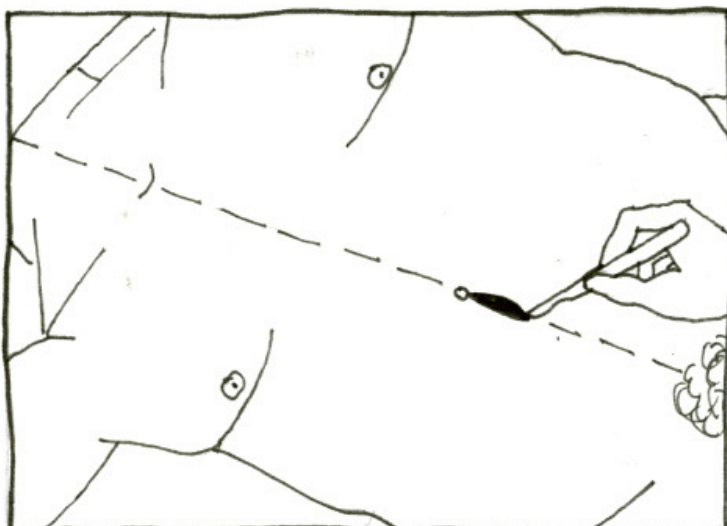
BY: NIKKOLE HAINES

A CALL TO PRAYER

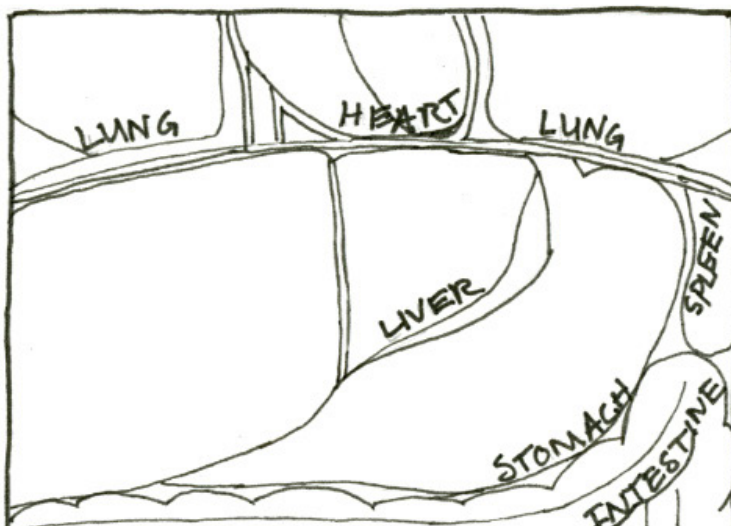


LATE ONE NIGHT ON MY SURGERY ROTATION AN OPERATIVE CASE WAS SCHEDULED





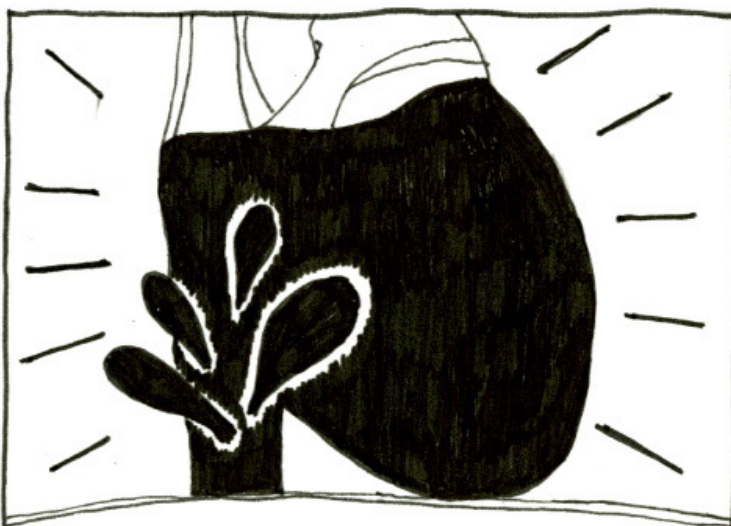
WE MADE THE LARGEST INCISION I'VE EVER SEEN — STEM TO STERN —



TO EXPOSE THE ENTIRE THORACO ABDOMINAL CAVITY



I FELT OUR PATIENT'S BEATING HEART —



AND WATCHED AS BLOOD OBSCURED THE SURGICAL FIELD.



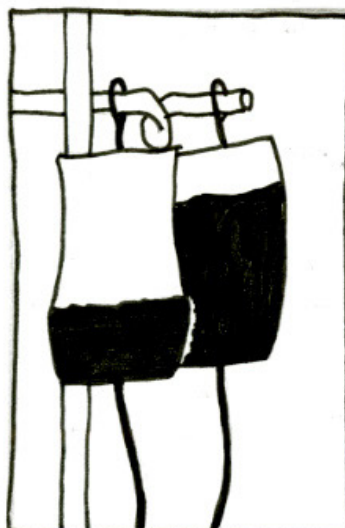
THE BLOOD FLOWED FROM A LARGE VEIN INADVERTENTLY CUT. OUR PATIENT WAS BLEEDING OUT TOO EARLY. OUR PACE QUICKENED.



BLOOD FLEW, AND SO DID
MY MIND, IRRATIONALLY



(IT WAS SAFELY IN
MY BACK POCKET)



SUBSTITUTE FLUIDS FILLED
OUR PATIENT'S VESSELS



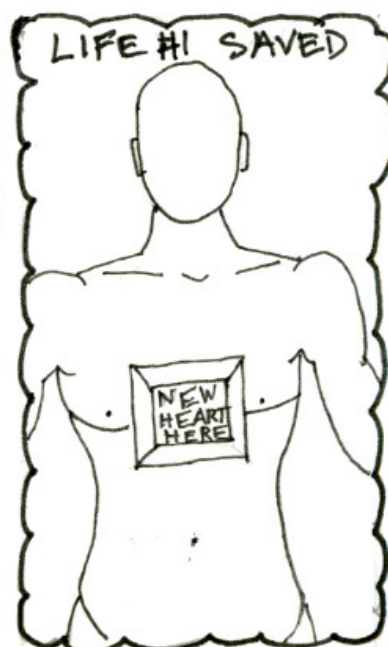
AND STERILE ICE
FILLED HIS BELLY



HIS HEART AND LUNGS WERE DETACHED
AND REMOVED FIRST



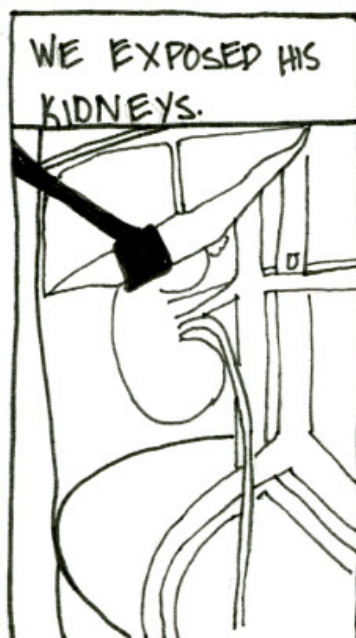
BY A POSSESSIVE
SURGEON RACING
TO THE HELI-PAD



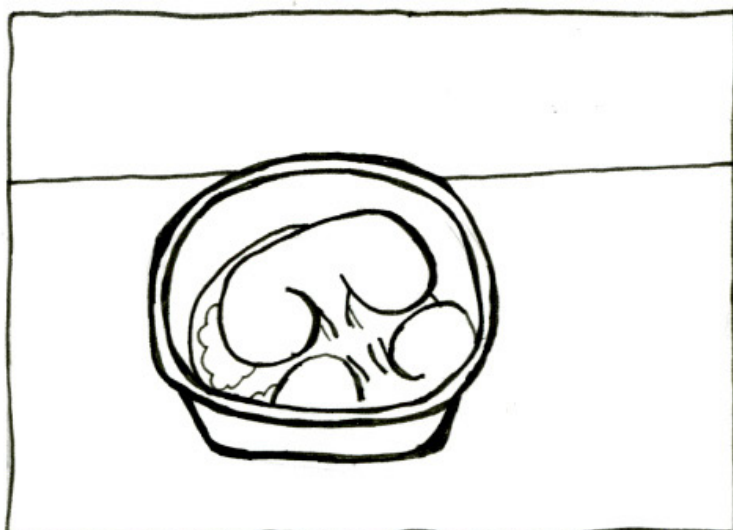
LIFE #1 SAVED



WITH THE THORACIC
CAVITY EMPTIED,



WE EXPOSED HIS
KIDNEYS.



AND JUST AS QUICKLY, PLACED
THEM ON THE BACK TABLE.

