



## *Cheated*

Winged doors slid open and she came rolling through,  
Leaving behind a trail  
drib, drib, drib

So that death could follow her in.  
Sterile curtains slapped aside rattling hands grasping  
for her soul.

All right, docs, we will save a life tonight!  
A faint pulse electrified with new life  
lub, dub. lub, dub

Her breath exploded with new strength  
lub, dub. lub, dub. Hah!

Vessels and nerves severed now resewn  
Her heritage replaced by a stranger's blood.

And thus she was assembled—the Bride of Frankenstein.  
The surgeons and therapists so proud of their creation,  
On how they cheated death trapped behind the iron gates.  
To the world she was released in her suffocating existence,  
Drowning in air, yet wanting none.

Gretel set her last trail to sight,  
Along with a note and "I love you's."

As the water engulfed her mangled body, she saw death's face  
for a second time:

An indifferent emptiness for the game it had won.

*Aysha Malik*

Ms. Malik is a member of the Class of 2015 at the University of Missouri—Kansas City School of Medicine. This poem won honorable mention in the 2010 *Pharos* Poetry Competition. Ms. Malik's e-mail address is: amd96@mail.umkc.edu.

Illustration by Jim M'Guinness

JM