



POETRY | FALL 2022

Human Encounters

By Amanda Osta

“I’m not going to stop”
She said about dope
Nodding off as we spoke

“I’m sick of the pain”
An illness he can’t outrun
But unbothered by blood in his lung

“I was told to say ‘no’”
About her PHQ9
Her mother’s eyes not meeting mine

No words can be heard
But his pupils said it all
4:29, the time of death call

Words ring and silence stings
No textbook can teach
Listening to that unspoken speech.

Amanda Osta is a fourth-year medical student at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine. She received her B.S. in Chemistry at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. In medical school, she performed research on the impact of interprofessional education on professional students. She completed her third year of medical training at the University of North Carolina’s branch campus in Asheville, North Carolina, where she was a co-leader for Caring, Connection, and Wellness (CCW), an initiative-focused organization geared toward improving student wellness. She is planning to specialize in Emergency Medicine.
