

Leaving the Hospital

[Announcer] This program is presented by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

[Dr. Anya Silver] As the doors glide shut behind me,
the world flares back into being—
I exist again, recover myself,
Sunlight, undimmed by dark panes,
the heat on my arms, the earth's breath.
The wind tongues me to my feet
like a doe licking clean her newborn fawn.
At my back, days measured by vital signs,
my mouth opened and arm extended,
the nighttime cries of a man withered
child-size by cancer, and the bells
of emptied IVs tolling through hallways.
Before me, life—mysterious, ordinary—
holding off pain with its muscular wings.
As I step to the curb, an orange moth
dives into the basket of roses
that lately stood on my sickroom table,
and the petals yield to its persistent
nudge, opening manifold and golden.

[Katie Cowart] You've just heard Dr. Anya Silver read her poem "Leaving the Hospital," which appears in the April 2012 issue of CDC's journal, *Emerging Infectious Diseases*. You can read the poem online at www.cdc.gov/eid.

If you'd like to comment on this podcast, send an email to eideditor@cdc.gov. That's e-i-d-editor – one word – at c-d-c-dot-gov.

I'm Katie Cowart, for *Emerging Infectious Diseases*.

[Announcer] For the most accurate health information, visit www.cdc.gov or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.