

Readers' Guide

We hope you are once again able to gather with friends to discuss the ideas generated by our artists and writers. Here are some ideas to jump start your book club or discussion group.

Nurses and Physicians

Health care professionals have been especially stressed during these Covid times. They are heralded as heroes; they are also berated and insulted when outcomes are not what everyone hoped for. Look at the following pieces and explore the actions and the thoughts that dominate during each medical encounter.

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| To Open Doors | Ellen Zhang |
| Thank You for Your Service | Bryana Barreto |
| Unfinished Conversation | Sarath Reddy |
| The Greatest Privilege | Kelly Gao |
| 2:23 | Liana Meffert |

Families

The family is a potent influence and can speed healing or interfere with it. What changes do you see in the families depicted in the following pieces. How do their experiences in the hospital or in the clinic affect their relationships with family? Do you see health care professionals factoring in these relationships as they attempt to treat and comfort patients? Do the health care professionals find themselves thinking about their own families as a result?

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| Request Line | Pam Freeman |
| Call Button | Gloria Heffernan |
| Blind | Joan Roger |

I Wish I Had Let Her Know

Terry E. Hill

A Visit to the Emergency Room

Alice Irwin

Upon Receiving the Diagnosis, I Am Fraught

Colette Parris