

Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal

Volume 4 *Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal*

Article 37

9-12-2024

As She Lay Sleeping

Jessica Nwankwo

Follow this and additional works at: <https://mavmatrix.uta.edu/stimulus>

Recommended Citation

Nwankwo, Jessica (2024) "As She Lay Sleeping," *Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal*: Vol. 4, Article 37.

Available at: <https://mavmatrix.uta.edu/stimulus/vol4/iss1/37>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Mavs Open Press Open Access Journals at MavMatrix. It has been accepted for inclusion in *Stimulus: A Medical Humanities Journal* by an authorized editor of MavMatrix.

As She Lay Sleeping

Jessica Nwankwo

As she lay sleeping,
 Bundled up in blankets in the room beside,
 Bedside care we carried out
 From our living room lookout post.
 Rising for observation
 Through a sliver into her slumbering world,
 Each and every time
 She snoozed soundly.

As she lay sleeping,
 Time slipped by sneakily
 As we conversed
 In this universe
 Of cinnamon-scented candles and holiday warmth.
 Minute by minute,
 Hour by hour,
 A sacred silence.

Fold by fold,
 I cherished the quiet
 And the lack of distress
 In the room beside
 As she lay sleeping.
 My brigade of paper cranes
 A rainbow of protective peace
 In parallel to her gentle sleep.

And come again,
 As she lay sleeping,
 Our hearts fluttered
 At every stir and every sound
 And we watched quietly, the rises and falls of her chest—
 Slow but steady, a sweet somnolence—
 From the doorway, now a wider invitation
 Into her slumbering world.

And in due time, her daughter would return,
 Her eyes glistening with gratitude
 The love and care emanating from her radiant presence
 With a tiredness that lurked behind.
 And in our parting, as we exchanged words of well-wishing,
 I pondered what she dreamed about
 As she lay sleeping,
 As she snoozed soundly in the room beside.

DOI: 10.32855/stimulus.2024.04.031

