

What does it take to **unwind** the **unwanted**? It takes twelve surgeons, in teams of two, **rotating in and out** as their medical **specialty** is needed. It takes nine surgical assistants and four nurses. It takes three hours. /

Roland is fifteen minutes in.

The medical staff that **buzz** around him wear scrubz the **color of a happy-face**.

His arms and legs have been secured to the operating table with bonds that are **strong** but **padded** so he won't hurt himself if he struggles.

A nurse **blots sweat** from his forehead.

He feels a **sharp pinprick** in the right side of his neck, and then in the left.

Although he can't see her mouth beneath her surgical mask, he can see the **smile in her eyes**.

The nurse takes his hand.

One of the surgical assistants **wipes Roland's legs down with brown surgical scrub**.

**The nurse pats his hand**.

Already Roland feels his **limbs starting to go numb**. / He **swallows hard**.

Twenty-eight minutes in.

The first set of surgeons has arrived.

Someone drops an instrument. **It clatters** on the table and falls to the floor. Roland **flinches**.

The nurse holds his hand **tighter**.

An hour and fifteen.

**Surgeons leave, new ones arrive**. The new ones take an **intense interest** in his abdomen.

He looks toward his toes **but can't see them**. Instead he sees a surgical assistant cleaning the lower half of the table.



The nurse was holding his hand before. She's not anymore.

A **clanging** of metal. The lower half of the table is unhooked and **pulled away**.

Roland feels **discomfort** in his gut. **Discomfort**, a **tickling sensation**, / but no pain. The surgeons **lift things** away. **He tries not to look**, / **but he can't help it**. There's no blood, [breathe] just the oxygen-rich solution, which is fluorescent green, **like antifreeze**.

**One team leaves; another comes in**. They take an **intense interest** in his chest.

Two hours, five minutes.

**Everyone's so close around him now**. **Yellow figures lean all around him like flower petals closing in**. Another section of the **table** is **taken away**. The **petals** move in closer.

**He locks his eyes on the nurse, whose eyes still smile**. / **They always smile**. / **Someone** made her have **eternally smiling eyes**.

Key:

**Purple:** Do what the text says

**Blue:** Repeated fluctuating for rotations

**Yellow:** Subtext

**Dark Red:** Deeper pitch

**Light Red:** Higher pitch

**Dark Green:** Quick or building tempo

**Light Green:** Slow, decreasing, or drawn out tempo

**Orange Underline:** Building dynamics – louder (forté)

**Bold:** Alliteration

/: Pause