

Found in the Street

Richard Bronson, MD

You were dead drunk, smelling of piss,
swollen toes bursting maggot-filled socks,
legs a mottled sea of cellulitis.

Soaks and antibiotics, a sheltered week
of rest, a haircut, a shave
revealed a man my own age!

In the intern's bright office, a cloistering darkness
around us, we talked past midnight,
two guys in our twenties,

as the city murmured
through an open window,
the ward of sleeping men our witness.

We offered what we had,
found you a place
to address your addiction;

for the one task required—
to arrive on your own—
we gave you the means,

ten bucks placed in your hand
to travel by bus out of the city.
Clean but not healed,

ten bucks burning your pocket,
you left our care
and I wished you godspeed.

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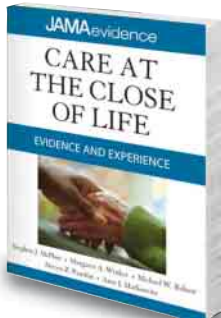
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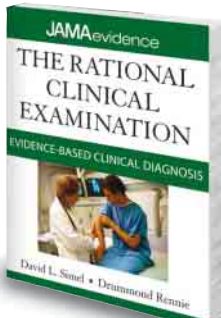
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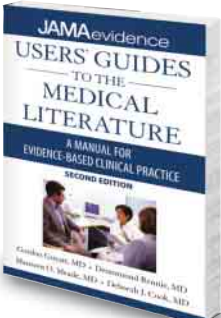
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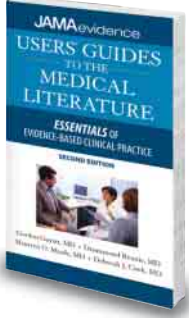
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