

## Anesthesia

Dread followed me through endless alabaster hallways that seemed too bright; my vision blurred as we went on, adrenaline spiking. Four gurney wheels shrieked as two heavy doors opened. A breathing mask was settled on. “Start counting,” they said, “most make it to ten.” I closed my eyes, and the world lapsed without a blink. An unnatural feeling, time hadn’t passed—only a missing scene. The short silence, soothing. A cruel pain woke me. My eyes ached. I lay confused; time passed too quickly. Light so brilliant, the pain unrelenting, but that was fine. The dread had finally abandoned me.