



Kent Academic Repository

Graye, Sarah Marie (2021) *The Unwelcome Visitor*. . Tendon Magazine: Johns Hopkins University's Medical Humanities Creative Journal website.

Downloaded from

<https://kar.kent.ac.uk/89920/> The University of Kent's Academic Repository KAR

The version of record is available from

<https://hopkinsmedicalhumanities.org/breath/the-unwelcome-visitor-by-sarah-marie-graye/>

This document version

Publisher pdf

DOI for this version

Licence for this version

CC BY-NC (Attribution-NonCommercial)

Additional information

Versions of research works

Versions of Record

If this version is the version of record, it is the same as the published version available on the publisher's web site. Cite as the published version.

Author Accepted Manuscripts

If this document is identified as the Author Accepted Manuscript it is the version after peer review but before type setting, copy editing or publisher branding. Cite as Surname, Initial. (Year) 'Title of article'. To be published in *Title of Journal*, Volume and issue numbers [peer-reviewed accepted version]. Available at: DOI or URL (Accessed: date).

Enquiries

If you have questions about this document contact ResearchSupport@kent.ac.uk. Please include the URL of the record in KAR. If you believe that your, or a third party's rights have been compromised through this document please see our [Take Down policy](https://www.kent.ac.uk/guides/kar-the-kent-academic-repository#policies) (available from <https://www.kent.ac.uk/guides/kar-the-kent-academic-repository#policies>).



JOHNS HOPKINS

CENTER *for*
MEDICAL HUMANITIES
& SOCIAL MEDICINE

(<https://hopkinsmedicalhumanities.org/>)



The Unwelcome Visitor

by Sarah Marie Graye

He's tall and skinny, takes long, silent strides
For some people, he carries knives made of rib
For others, like me, he arrives quietly, without a hello
With a squeeze and a ripple, he pushes himself through

He's not the gust that whips up autumn leaves
Nor the icy blast that numbs my cheeks in winter
He's not the breeze that makes spring flowers dance
Nor the warm summer fug that sits on my shoulders

He's the extra breath of air that lives within me
Visits are sporadic, occasional, rarely every season
Growing slowly, I feel him press upon my pleura
Then grumbles and pops, announcing he's here

Occasionally, he'll close the door behind him
And leave me of his own accord

But other times the doctor needs to assist him

Leaving tiny incisions between ribs, like footprints

Where he'll walk again with long, silent strides

Sarah Marie Graye is a PhD candidate on the University of Kent's Contemporary Novel: Practice as Research programme. She suffers from idiopathic emphysema with focal collapse and fibrosis, and both her research and writing focus on illness narratives.

TWITTER FEED

We're proud to support a mini-conference March 26 & 29 as part of the Global Social Medicine Network initiative, with support from [@wellcometrust](https://twitter.com/wellcometrust) (<https://twitter.com/wellcometrust>). The event features social medicine scholars located in Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. [https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/social-medicine-from-the-south-mini-conference-tickets-140640037137 ...](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/social-medicine-from-the-south-mini-conference-tickets-140640037137...) (<https://t.co/655CiGWkhX>).

CONNECT WITH US

[🐦 \(https://twitter.com/JHUmedhum\)](https://twitter.com/JHUmedhum) [✉ \(mailto:myrobbins@jhmi.edu\)](mailto:myrobbins@jhmi.edu)