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**Accident Report**

Eric Colburn

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Accident Report

For my son, who fell in foreign mountains

The weak rock broke. He tumbled hard. He lay, broken himself, for I don’t know how long, gasping, alone, blood pooling in his lung. Who found him there? Who called for help? Did they wait with him, as darkness dimmed the day? And did he speak? Or was the only sound his tongue could toll an inarticulate song of pain? He couldn’t—still can’t—say.

I couldn’t even ask—his ICU an intercontinental flight away, his bed unreachable. I only know what I went through: terrifying voids, my head howling for a tube like the one in his chest, to drain the scenes that spread and pooled inside my brain.

Eric Colburn
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