

Addi Schroeder

English 1110.01, MWF 12:40-1:35

Instructor: Cathy Ryan

Assignment: Character Sketch

January 30, 2017

The Night Shift

It is 3 in the morning and Renee is sipping on some recently brewed coffee. Her long brown hair is tied back into a bun and her pale skin glows from the harsh florescent lights. She chats with the other doctors for a while until they have to go, leaving her alone in the break room. She wonders if she made the right career choice. She basically lives at the hospital and when she is home she is catching up on sleep. She is always apologizing to her loving husband, Brad, for not being able to attend his work events or being too tired to go out. Even though he is always saying, "It's fine. I'm ok, really. Have a good night at work", she feels as if he is hiding his loneliness and the resentment he has for the hospital because it spends more time with her than he does.

The sound of her beeper pulls Renee from her thoughts. She is needed in the ER. She throws her coffee away and begins to jog down the hall towards the operating room. A family had gotten in a bad car accident and a young girl has a few broken ribs and is unconscious. Renee's heart starts pounding as she begins to scrub in. The young girl is prepped and ready for surgery. Renee closes her eyes, takes a deep breath, holds it for just a second, then slowly lets the hot air pass through her nose. She opens her eyes and pushes open the doors leading to the operating table, where the little girl waits to be saved.

An hour into the surgery Renee is carefully fixing the little girl up as fast as she can. The girl's spleen had ruptured and she lost a lot of blood. Renee starts to worry. She is determined to save her, if there is one thing about Renee it is that she is persistent when doing a surgery. Small beads of sweat form on her forehead and tiny damp hairs are stuck to the back of her neck as she feverously works to save a life.

Three hours later Renee emerges from the operating room. Her legs hurt and her back aches from bending over so long. The hair in her bun is sticking up in every direction and she looks as if she has not slept in a week. She walks over to the hall desks and leans over the counter for support. The nurses are eager to hear if the girl has made it. Renee just smiles and nods before walking off to get ready to go home.

The sun is just now beginning to rise. As Renee is walking to her car her breath can be seen in the cold morning air. She pauses and smiles to herself. She lives for the rush during surgeries. The thought that she just saved another person's life, its unexplainable she cannot put it into words. She realizes yes, it is all worth it. The long hours, the night shifts, the endless tiredness, all worth it. She gets into her car and heads home to her husband who is patiently waiting for her.