

## Uncomfortable

Robin MacDonell

She woke up in ICU today and called her mom first  
Her mom lives alone and she calls her every Tuesday  
She wanted the student to see and do everything  
“You have to learn hon, we all do”

The general surgeon says she’s a schizophrenic  
The internist, an addict who likes cocaine  
The nephrologist thinks she probably overdosed  
Found down with rhabdo, her kidneys failing

I thought she was nice. Her nurse agreed  
We were ignored

My dog sometimes sniffs out dead mice  
She flings them about and dances after them  
Then shakes them in her jaws with pure delight  
I’m grossed out, but I don’t really mind

A patient likes to watch video footage of death  
Terrorist attacks, hangings, executions  
She details her favourites, they make her feel more alive  
I’m grossed out, and I mind so so much

My mind should be neutral. No judgement  
Shaking hands probably give me away

I read Lolita with interest  
So well written, the character’s relatable  
Fall in love as the author does  
Then stop reading when the abuse starts

He’s seven and gives his twin brother handjobs  
His ACE score is 10/10  
He killed his caregiver’s guinea pig  
I want to stop reading but this is real life

Who did this to him? And who did that to them? It’s not ok  
Things don’t always have to be happy  
But they should at least be ok