



Thursday Memo – February 19, 2015

Life Saved - by Joanne Dannenhoffer

Dropping jaws and wide eyes -

As I speak to life as a family medicine resident.

Amongst Murmurs of "when do you sleep?" or "...can't be healthy" and "... don't know how you do it"

An unspoken question hangs in the air.

Why?

Why live such a life?

"Why not something easier? different?"

In that moment

I struggle to communicate the answer that dwells deep inside my heart...

I tell the story of the hand I held in a sorrowful moment; I recall the eyes that glisten with delight at a much desired pregnancy.

I speak of easing pain

And of curing ills

And bearing witness.

The echo in each narrative I share is of the life that each of these encounters changes and saves.

But as stories spill from my lips, my words fail, And my heart is overwhelmed.

For the deepest truth of all,

The simple and complex and confusing and illuminating long and short of it, Is that the life that I
change and save every hard, frustrating, wonderful day of this path I've chosen Is my own.