SHE NEVER WOKE UP

IT WAS LATE.

THAT MUCH WE KNOW.

BY BILL DOAN
WHAT WE DON'T KNOW IS WHAT
REALLY HAPPENED. AND MORE
IMPORTANTLY, WE HAD NO IDEA THAT
NOT KNOWING WHAT HAPPENED WOULD
MAKE NO DIFFERENCE AT ALL.

WHAT HAPPENED WAS NOT THE ANSWER
WE NEEDED.
She Never Woke Up
The speedometer read 47 MPH at impact.
Suddenly we needed to know a thousand new things.

What is a severe traumatic brain injury?
How long can a coma last?
What is a vegetative state?
Will she wake up?
Can she hear us?
Does she know we’re here?
Will we be able to take her home and care for her?
Why isn’t she waking up?
Why have you stopped therapy?
Is she in pain?
Should we think about withdrawing artificial nutrition and hydration?

How long can this go on? Does she know we’re here?
IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

She Never Woke Up
She Never Woke Up

Not even a mother's kiss or a family's love...
She Never Woke Up

...Could stop her from fading away.
She Never Woke Up

AND SO WE SAID OUR FINAL GOODBYES.

RIP SWEET SISTER.
Disclosures: The author has disclosed no conflicts of interest. Forms can be viewed at www.acponline.org/authors/icmje/ConflictOfInterestForms.do?msNum=G15-0014.

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