

Intro to Doctoring

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Practice introducing
yourself so it's organic
when the time comes.

First, Last. who you
are then who are you?
~~Shake hands (if appropriate).~~

our patients come standardized
in all sizes & shapes. ours leaves
breadcrumbs

in bits of advice: don't bend
over or everything
will fall right out

your white coat pockets.
gives tips for testing sense

of touch and smell. we ask
how to listen with only half

a face. she asks the name
of an artery we don't know.
(knowing:

- matters
- most is
- we see
- is we
- can't)

conjure

a rehearsed
confidence
who sits

up straight
doesn't bend
herself into lie.

Practice asking
open-ended. don't trade
eye contact

for memory
remember it.
(remembering:

- offer
- an ambiguity
- I stand straight
- by
- to know)

enough

that I forget it all.
that my head doesn't heat
up like a big balloon

and float me away
from this mock room
that I don't realize

the air is thin only
after looking down
that with each

breath I choose
oxygen over flame
that of all

the body I know
I'll know I have

yet to remember
you
& your

answer rests
atop tumbles
down every

question I have ever
asked together
we will not know

together we'll arrive.

Practice posture. strong
in the back, soft in the eyes.
practice staying soft.

I miss hugs, our patient says.