

## 260 Lorna

As I began this COVID-inspired series, a 49-year-old New York City emergency room physician, a front-line soldier against its first wave, contracted the disease. Although she recovered from the virus, she later committed suicide, unable to cope with the emotional strain of an overwhelmed medical system and a shortage of ventilators.

Medical workers across the globe are committing suicide at abnormally high rates. These lost champions, and those who continue to fight this virulent disease, have saved lives indiscriminately, treating both the vaccinated and those who refuse the vaccine.

I imagine this figure, Lorna, feeling powerless over this horrible disease. Her work has been thwarted by a political administration that initially denied its prevalence, failed to provide personal protective equipment to those most in need, and recommended ineffectual medications and bizarre treatments to its earliest victims.

An oxygen tube is attached to Lorna's heart, sucking the life out of her. Her patient has died. Her empty hand is loosely clenched, weaponless. Her blistered, pale glaze/skin outwardly manifests the helplessness and despair she feels within.