

Writing | Symposium 2022

Mira Cheng | Dissection/ Playing Around with my Scalpen

Physical intimacy
Phys(i)cal intimacy
Physical (in)timacy
Physcal timacy

Maybe if I remove the
 “i” won’t feel each touch
 “in” won’t feel so deep

Emotional
E(motion)al

Maybe if I focus on the “motion”
Slur the words so I don’t have to feel them
 I’m sorry that happened
I’ll sound more like a doctor

Interest
Inte(rest)

Something feigned, something exuberantly expressed
It used to be a place for my mind to “rest”
A place where I could settle in; read, paint, wander for hours
Now instead of “rest,” I test how many hours I can live on 2x

Knowledge
Know(led)ge
Know(ledge)

A fortress where I desired to be “led” as a child
 By my parents, teachers, God, the Nobel Laureates
 Only to realize that there is no fortress, only a “ledge”
 A ledge we grip to peek out over the vast unknown

Anatomy
An(atom)y
Anato(mía)

Like the body, built from a single “atom”
Subtracted and sutured to leave
“any” body

Your heart was yours, but now it is a part of “mía”
Rest in piece.
Rest in peace.