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# Holonym

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## Holonym

There is a shade of white  
the hospital pillowcase  
turns, after the head  
leaves it, after the heat  
leaves the imprint,  
sheets and towels pushed away  
like bathwater foam,  
and the smell grows, the shampoo, the cheap  
thin square of soap still stuck to the bottom  
of the plastic washtub, ashy flecks of used  
dead bubbles dusting its sides;  
and the straw bows lower  
in the plastic glass as sweat hesitates,  
then slips over fingerprints,  
wisps of white and almost white  
curled into the thin teeth  
of the complimentary comb,  
and the blinds are slightly open,  
like his eyes were  
before I closed them,  
light coming through in stripes,  
slow-crossing the room  
like a white tiger.

*Trish Lindsey Jagers*