

Day 13

Healing

by

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A woman, asleep in a hospital bed. She has a breathing tube down her throat, an IV, and various machines beep and boop.

On the other part of the stage, a young boy whimpers, holding his leg. His knee has a good-looking scrape.

On another part of the stage, a middle-aged woman is bundled up in the fetal position, crying.

On another part of the stage, a man sits in a chair, head in his hands.

On another part of the stage, a news report on a small TV:

REPORTER

On Wednesday, Israel and the Palestinians have agreed on extending the ceasefire by five days said officials.

On Thursday, however several Gaza sites were bombed by Israel, which has offered no comment. The attack was most likely in response to Palestinian rocket fire that had violated an earlier ceasefire.

On another part of the stage, another news report on another TV:

REPORTER

A World Health Organization statement released Tuesday says that it is, in fact, ethical to administer untested drugs to those infected with Ebola as long as patients give their full, informed consent. In a statement released Tuesday, the World Health Organization says it's ethical to administer untested drugs such as ZMapp to people infected with Ebola, provided the patients give their informed consent.

A woman enters. She watches the TV for a moment as the news report repeats. She walks to the young boy with the scraped knee, but before she can sit with him, she's compelled to cross to the woman in the hospital bed.

As she is about to touch the woman's arm, she's compelled to go to the man in the chair. As she's about to put her hand on his shoulder, she's compelled to go to the woman on the ground.

She stops, looks around herself at all the people and the TVs. She closes her eyes. She breathes. She breathes. She breathes.

Things fade to darkness and silence.

We hear her breathe again in the darkness, a deep breath that blows out in a cleansing, healing breath.