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A Doctors Visit

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A Doctors Visit

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Italia Lewis is a first-generation math and political science major. Lewis is a freshman with plans to become either a data analyst or head to law school in hopes of becoming an attorney.

A Doctor's Visit

ITALIA LEWIS

Smile

That's what the nurse tells me because I am a "healthy gal." *Nothing's wrong you are too pretty to be sick.*The doctor tells me that I have nothing to be worried about, I rest my worries, at the words of the doctor and nurses. But in the back of my mind, I know something is wrong

Looking in the mirror in the doctor's office, I think that maybe they are right. *You must be healthy*. I have the long hair, clear skin, and I'm skinny. *Nothing is wrong*.

But I know something must be wrong, I cannot keep food down, I sleep too much, I cannot sleep enough some nights, I haven't menstruated in months, I've lost so much weight, I barely have boobs.

But you are a Hot, Sexy, Healthy Gal.

You are just thinking too much.
You must just be too stressed.
You look healthy.
Some women just have irregular periods
I look to say something more,
to continue the conversation.
That's when he clears his throat,
Time to go.
He rests his hands on my small of my back,
ushering me to the door,
but instead, it felt like a shove out the door.
A guest who overstayed their welcome.

And just like that I was all alone, I was left in a silent abyss. My silent sob just barely breaking the silence, I had no thoughts nor feelings. I had no boobs, no periods, no sleep. But I was the Hot, Sexy, Healthy, Gal.

Author Statement

"My poem follows the story of a woman's doctor's visit. It is meant to convey what women face in going to the doctor, highlighting how women's health is often ignored or pushed off as a nonissue. The inspiration for this poem came from a women's health class I took last semester, in which we read different passages about the disparities women face while trying to get medical help. From being gaslighted, ignored, and shamed for being unhealthy, my poem is meant to highlight each and every one of those issues."

