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Winnower

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WINNOWER

The surgeon inserted:
one tiny incision
made the difference of

A wieldy blade of grass
cutting flesh of a curious finger.
He cut, the fervor filled him

The way summer days
spent stripping thorns
from a rose

Found him seeking perfection. The virgin
steel suffered so, how it cried
blood dew drippings:

A splattered chaste floor.
But what about
the girl? Where does

The life snipped from her soul
withdraw with satisfaction,
when he must discover

The frontiers of men
are behind them? O sure
the Knights will survive without

Him, the war will march on
stoccado, orchestrated,
in dying color, he will

Never even query of
the road not taken. The doctor
will wonder for both of them.

Christopher E. Heller
February, 1970