The World is at War

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The World is at War

By Sarriyah Hanif

Soldiers are on the frontlines, ready for battle
Their weapons are ready to fire
They head into combat knowing that casualties are inevitable
People are scared to leave their homes, fearful of the battle taking place outside their doors
Soon, the ammunition starts to run out
People fear they will be unable to protect their loved ones
Food runs low, shelves are empty
The battle rages on and the soldiers try their best to save everyone around them

Except...
There are no soldiers; only doctors, nurses, healthcare workers and essential staff
There are no weapons; only N95 masks, gowns, and gloves
There are no winners; just mitigation of the damage
Doctors struggle to decide who gets placed on a ventilator
They are forced to decide who lives and who will not take another breath
They enter a field with vows to do no harm, and they are torn and worn out
But they keep fighting.
Grocery workers, delivery workers, janitorial housekeeping staff, no one catches a break.
They leave their homes knowing they face danger the second they walk out the door.
But they are fearless and they are heroes.
The world is at war with an invisible enemy.

TEST MODE

By Marisella Garcia

Item 30 of Too Many
Question Id: Doesn’t Matter

A 25-year-old female medical student G0P0 (gravitas 0 parachutes 0) presents to your office complaining of 6 months of headaches, decreased motivation, and a recent growing obsession with Antoni from Queer Eye. She has a history of scoliosis, sneeze attacks in the library, and attracting people with her sharp wit and amazing hair. Past Medical History significant for a booboo obtained while razor scootering, status post treatment with Scooby Doo Band-Aid. She has a paternal uncle with Lame Pun-itis and a cousin with beady eyes. She states that she no longer enjoys morning jogs, going out with her friends, or making TikToks about the fools she encounters on dating apps, but would rather just assume a cozy burrito blanket position in bed with her 2 cats all day.

Temperature is 37 C (to us silly Americans, it’s 98.6F), blood pressure is 120/70 mm Hg, pulse is 103/min, and respirations are 21/min. She tells you her tachycardia and high respiratory rate are reflections of the hot lady nurse who just stepped out. During the evaluation she is teary-eyed and weeps with the gentleness of a beautiful woodland nymph. You discover this is because she is hiding an onion in her hoodie.

She tells you, “School is too overwhelming. I don’t feel like I belong here. I’m worried I’m depressed.”

Which of the following is the best response?

A. "Same."
B. "Why the onion?"
C. "Do you have any thoughts of harming yourself?"
D. "Ew, why did you enjoy jogging?"
E. "How did you like the newest Queer Eye season?"
F. "Wow, your case sounds like a weird UWorld question."
G. "Sorry, don’t know what’s wrong with you. That’ll be $825."

*Long frustrating explanation about why the answer that should be correct is not.*