

“An IED Blast Survivor Runs a 10K Race”

by Carlin Corsino

The day I met you
was the story about
mechanical legs falling off
in a ditch on a 10k race
covered in excrement
by the roadside

blast
years before left
incapable of running alone
across the line to which
you crawled even after
leftover medals

found homes
in the trash and littered
confetti stuck to your mess
tar feathers
in the machinery
intended to preserve

life had failed you
now lying in the sand
Sun burning down
yelling or laughing
even to be
heard faintly

across the desert
something pooled
unaware hands
pulling, finish
line evaporates

100 meters away.

Carlin Corsino is a retired Army physician. The great privilege of his Army career was training medics. This is a poem about the man who inspired him to set off on that path.