P 4 scripperscraps – stethoscope

“My kids’ll be wearing white coats and have them scripperscraps hangin’ round their necks

P 11 manumission – freedom from slavery

Robert Carter of Nomony Hall, Westmoreland County, Virginia, in a deed of manumission dated August 1, 1791, freed his slaves

P 40 Musterole – vaporizing rub

P 86 blandishment – something that tends to coax or cajole

Our success brought agents buzzing around with their blandishments

P 105 brocade – a fabric characterized by raised designs

Even with all our costume changes and Mommy buying brocade at forty and eighty dollars a yard.

P 129 – fulminate – to utter or send out with denunciation

In between his fulminating outbursts, Daddy was a broken man.

P 133 – flummoxed – confused

“The one that flummoxed Jeanette and Donna?”

P 139 – histology – branch of anatomy that deals with the minute structure of animal and plant tissues as discernible with the microscope

P 152 – sufferance – consent or sanction implied by a failure to enforce a prohibition

She thought I was one of the affirmative-action people allowed into medical school on sufferance

P 168 – nephritis – acute or chronic inflammation of the kidney

P 168 – hematuria – the presence of blood or blood cells in the urine

P 168 – idiosyncratic – having a characteristic peculiarity

P 173 – chivy – to tease or annoy with persistent petty attacks

As an intern, you’re at the very bottom of the hierarchy; you’re harried, chivied, and bullied by everybody from the chief resident on down

P 175 – diffident – hesitant in acting or speaking through lack of self-confidence

I took the bus there and walked in – diffidently because I was awed by the soaring space and the echoing silence

P 190 – brashly – marked by vivid contrast

P 190 – dashiki – a usually brightly colored loose-fitting pullover garment

Jeanette walked into the reception dressed in a brashly colored dashiki

P 197 – goiter – an enlargement of the thyroid gland visible as a swelling of the front of the neck

She doesn’t have a goiter

P 197 – cardiovert – to send electric shocks to the heart through electrodes placed on the chest

If her heart is still fibrillating by tomorrow, we’ll have to cardiovert her.”

P 198 – hod carrier – a laborer employed in carrying supplies to bricklayers, stonemasons, cement finishers, or plasterers on the job

She had been Daddy’s hod carrier building the house

P 203 – coverlet - bedspread

P 206 – patent (adj) – obvious

It was patent that Rita was at least as bright

P 235 – dystocia – slow or difficult labor or delivery

Even though I’d witnessed the situation only once before, I recognized the problem immediately – shoulder dystocia.

P 235 – episiotomy – surgical incision

I did an instant large episiotomy, cutting all the way down into the rectum and opening it up so I could try to maneuver the baby’s shoulders.