Richard Carr

Richard Carr’s *Fitzpatrick* is forthcoming from Broadstone Media and is his tenth full-length poetry collection. 
“Experience / Knowledge” and “Language” are from a manuscript called *Abstractions*. A former systems analyst, web designer, and tavern manager, he currently teaches English in Minneapolis.
EXPERIENCE / KNOWLEDGE

Experience doesn’t care if he is cremated
or buried whole
so long as he is planted with an acorn.

Knowledge assures his old friend
that it will be done,
knowing, as he does, the potential of acorns.

The two enjoy their coffee in silence,
the one comfortably retired,
the other resting his feet between shifts.
LANGUAGE

An awkward godparent
who vouched for my infant head
and dabbed the droplets from my skull,

the piano teacher
with a car-wrecked hand
who talked me through my lessons,

a sometimes friend
who laughed with me over beers
until our ribs shared the happy pain of it,

the doctor who told me I would die
without his care,
Language,

the embalmer
who glued my eyelids shut,
murmuring kindly as he worked,

turned and fell to silence.