A 69-year-old woman underwent a coronary artery bypass procedure (allegedly on Valentine’s Day). A portable chest film obtained on the second postoperative day showed a striking radiolucent line bisecting the patient’s heart (Figure). On a follow-up film made several hours later, the line had disappeared, proving that it was an artifact and not the result of the surgeon’s knife (or Cupid’s arrow). The cause of the artifact remains a mystery.

Portable chest film showing mysterious, holiday-appropriate artifact.
A Broken Heart
Herbert L. Fred

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