



Juanita Perfecta

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To me you're more than brittle bones
More than blankets I am careful not to
wrap too tight
More than the special pad I use to
carry you and lift you gently away
from your too playful brother
More than the diagnosis you go by
these three days every four months as I
sit by your bedside watching the
medication drip slowly into your tiny veins

On days when you aren't crying,
aren't shaking your angry, fragile little fists at me
with shortened arms I gave you,
I take my turn to cry,
never understanding the x-rays they show me
nor the words they use to tell me
it's not my fault,
with eyes that seem to judge me
only a little less
for the breaks they see in black and white

You are stronger than your disease lets them know,
than our tears allow them to believe
each time the needle dives into the back of your hand
More than my fear of what can happen
outside of these bare hospital walls that surround us,
you are my perfect one, *mi perfecta*

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