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## THE BATH

By Janice Veldman

*She came to bathe me.*  
can you imagine?  
How does one go about that?  
*The Depend is removed.*  
*I sat on the safety seat*  
*We will have to remove your top*  
Really? Could we just leave it on?  
It is a covering.  
Completely vulnerable.  
*Thankfully the faucet needed attending.*  
*I quickly removed it and wrapped myself with myself.*  
*She prepared the water, the cloth*  
*Gently she started washing my back*  
*Then one arm*  
*Leaving the other for my covering*  
Some covering I thought  
*One leg, then the other*  
*She let me do what is private*  
*Shampooed my hair*  
*Then, like a mother, she took a cloth*  
*and wiped the water from my face*  
Seemed like an unnecessary step at the time  
*Covered me with a towel as she began drying*  
*Combed my hair,* another unnecessary step  
For I was headed to bed  
*Dressed me*  
*Tenderly tucked me into bed*  
*Hooked up the oxygen*  
*Lingered asking if there was anything else needed*  
What could be needed?  
*She ignored my frailties, my ugliness*  
*Said I was beautiful when I apologized for my appearance*  
*She did not shame me*

*She gave me the gift of dignity.*  
*She is a Mother of Mercy.*

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/The-Bath>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/The-Bath>