

## **Allison by Train**

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So small in the large leather chair  
You nod your head with short black hair  
Your blonde pigtails.  
I told you you were big now,  
That you could fly all alone on an airplane.  
I'd pick you up on the other side.  
I didn't think you'd come by train.  
And all those times we sat on your bed  
And talked about brave and right  
And you cried.  
But now you hold in your tears  
And you are brave, but who's to say if it's right?  
They talk of papers, inspections, citizenship  
And we both just stare  
I wish I could tuck you back into that nice warm bed.  
And make Santa Clause and the Tooth Fairy and the Easter Bunny come all at once.  
Megan and Mikey and Sarah  
Carlito and Olga  
I used to tuck you into the same bed  
And now they are so, so far away.  
You always were my protector and their helper  
But can your tiny arms reach  
Over the ocean and the violence and the pain  
To guard them from here?  
When you come home  
If you come home  
I will hold you tight  
And I won't let you leave my arms again  
And each night I'll dream I can give you  
Everything my brave, strong Allison deserves.  
So that you don't have to take the train again.