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## I Am A Long Covid Statistic

by Janie Reynolds

I am part of the problem because I'm  
Sick.  
I'm a disagreeable statistic, another  
Inconvenient burden on the  
Health Service.  
Another disturbing layer of disease  
Within the collective trauma. Hidden. Lost.  
Silent. Silenced.  
Weaker than those who didn't succumb.  
Weakened by the bug still living in me.  
Weak.

I am an unattractive factor in an  
Ugly world.  
Covid is ugly.

So now I have told you.  
I have admitted my shame at not being strong enough to fight what others have.  
Now everyone knows what I truly am.  
Sick.  
Poorly – that sounds less abrasive.  
That's better. There, there.  
But *I'm* not better.  
I'm still poorly.  
Poorly understood.  
Poorly mis-understood.  
And it is no-one's fault.