



## *Thursday Memo – April 9, 2015*

### **Vulnerable – by Jenny Labonte**

She sits across from me on the crinkly paper of the exam table

#### *Vulnerable*

A white sheet draped across her naked lower body

#### *Exposed*

She tells me the story of that night last weekend with her boyfriend

#### *Embarrassed*

Dealing uncomfortably and silently with the symptoms that kept getting worse in the days following

#### *Suffering*

She's been my patient since she was sixteen. My face is open and kind. No judgment.

#### *Trusting*

On exam, I find what I was hoping not to find

#### *Concerned*

Gently breaking the news, I swab the blisters for confirmation

#### *Tearful*

The groundwork is laid for our future conversation

#### *Despaired*

We say our goodbyes as I send prescriptions to the pharmacy. She's off to talk to her boyfriend

*[Fill in the blank]*