

For Mom, who teaches us everyday what strength looks like.

*Hannah*

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# ANITA AND THE DRAGONS

HANNAH CARMONA  
ANNA CUNHA

 Lantana





“They aren’t real dragons,” my brother Juan reminds me.  
“They’re just planes in the sky.”

“Humph,” I say. “Leave my palace at once. You servants  
can be such a nuisance.”

“We don’t live in a palace!” my older brother Tony retorts.

“Of course *you* don’t! I, *Princesa Anita*, would never  
allow a toad like you inside my walls.”





I breathe in the sea salt-drenched  
air deeply. I send a silent message  
to my island. A message filled with  
mango-sweet kisses; black, stormy  
nights; glassy, blue waves; spicy,  
hot heat—and sandy, snug hugs.  
I will see you again.