## **Before I Could Cry**

## By DEVEAUX

I was born in a fight I didn't choose to enter,
A tiny soldier in cold November.
Premature, frail—doctors said I wouldn't last—
But I came out swingin', breathin' through the blast.

They said I died more than once in that room, Laid lifeless and blue in a sterile tomb. But the breath of God whispered through that air, And life came back—I wasn't goin' nowhere.

Tubes in my nose, wires on my chest, Still I clung to life with a lion's unrest. The nurses cried when I blinked my eyes— A baby too stubborn for a final goodbye.

At first, my mom held me with gentle care, Cradled me close like a whispered prayer. But love turned cold around four or five—
That's when the fear started eatin' me alive.

The warmth faded fast. Silence grew loud. I became the storm beneath her dark cloud. She looked at my face and saw someone else—Like my presence alone betrayed her self.

So, before I could walk, I was braced for attack, Before I knew hugs, I learned to hold back. Born into war—no medals, no fame—
Just a soul in the storm, with only me to blame.

Still—I rose, with scars on my soul, Fighting for peace, in a house with no control.

And that's where my story, this journey, begins—Before I could cry, I was battling sins.