

# Even If

by Rachel Harris

Darkness envelops the clinging branches  
Bark rougher than the spikes along a prison roof  
Scraps across what had been skin  
Now lacerated.  
Bloody.  
Without the cuddles of a summer day  
Winter snow gathers in  
Frozen.  
Heartless.  
Nothing left to care about  
Wind blows through  
Wrecking a position of balance that once held steady

Palms slip  
Arms flail  
Legs drop  
Eyes searching for a place to hold on  
To the only moment left of nothing  
Pain spreads throughout her arm  
An arm that had once journeyed to the end of the  
woods  
The girl stays silent  
Winds wisp once again  
Trees sway  
But if you look closely you can see the tears  
Tears of when you're lost  
Tears of sadness  
But again the girl is silent  
Up again she climbs  
Straining to reach  
The way top  
Where you can see everything  
And you can command everyone  
The canopy  
From the ground she looked like a queen  
But really she's just another girl that's brave  
Brave to strive through the slips and falls of life  
Along the branches that grow to lead your way to  
the canopy  
Bark can be rough but so can troubles  
Slippery when it's just rained tears of sadness  
But she can get past all that

We all can  
We all can climb the tree of life  
Even if we fall again and again  
Even if.