

**“Untitled”**

By Kelly Brennan

I stand in the clearing where I've been for awhile  
This is my safe haven, yet I can't smile  
I watched her stumble through the words, lost  
I want to run in and help  
But don't know how without getting lost myself  
Because I've been trapped in this forest, tripped over the branches  
I've been covered in its dirt and darkness, afraid to take chances  
“I'll never get out, the clearing is so far”  
I'd think to myself as I stared at the stars, so far away and cold, barely giving off light  
As I'd huddle on the ground and try to get through the night  
Through the wind I'd hear voices quietly calling to me  
They'd say “We're here and we love you! Come back to us! Please!”  
I thought they were lies, the woods playing tricks on my mind  
Making believe that this forest was kind  
I was happy to be alone, content to be sad  
It was easy to be hopeless and at these woods be mad  
I thought I'd forever trek through this place, lost, with aching bones and sore, dirty feet  
No one would even reach me; I'd live a life incomplete  
Until the day I realized in those woods I wasn't alone  
I saw footprints on the ground that were not my own  
Perhaps the words on the wind were not lies; there was truth in that voice  
I don't have to stay here, it is truly my choice  
It was then that I saw a small beam of light, shining through the trees  
I'd never seen something so bright  
So I brushed myself off and I started to fight  
And in time found that clearing and bathed in its light.  
Now as I look back and stare in that dark wood  
I see others who are lost, feeling their lives are no good  
Especially her, for she reminds me of me  
What can I possibly do to help her get free?  
The journey must be hers, I can't help her with that  
Yet knowing the darkness of this place, I could never leave her flat  
So I will become her faint beam of light  
And shine steady for her, never fading at night  
“My light will never go out!” I will scream through the trees  
And hope my words on the wind make it to her ears with ease  
“Follow my path I've left for you! Look within yourself! I believe in you!”  
“Be brave and be strong! Run as fast as you can into this light and never look back my friend!”  
And hopefully one day she will run as I did and come to the clearing in which I now live  
And make a life for herself in this place she's meant to be, beautiful, happy, content and free