

## **Dark Clouds and Rainbows**

By Shirley A. Todd

The days were overcast by dark clouds.  
And the fat shadows of winter's tall trees looked like  
sticks of gray crayons dancing like ghosts upon  
your youth and smiles that were.

So many seasons have come and gone now,  
You missed the blossoms that crowned the dogwood  
trees. Their fading beauty fell upon your face like tears.

Summer nights are no longer lit by the lightening  
bugs that you chased as a child. It's all dark now;  
Even the moon and stars are hidden from sight.

It was autumn again, and the leaves clung  
to the tree branches like an infant to its mother.  
I closed my eyes and I saw your spirit being blown away.  
Tell me! I am dreaming.

Your soul and spirit are my life line too. It was your bouncing  
laughter that picked me up and tossed my spirit to the winds.  
The laughter stopped; and I wrapped myself in melancholy.  
It covered me like a blanket that has no power to warm the soul.

It was late summer – almost autumn again, and your arms  
hung from your frame like branches that were never strong and full  
of life. Like your strength, the leaves withered and kissed the ground.  
Like trees tossed by howling winds, your spirit was broken. The sun  
Fell behind the fat clouds. It is winter now, and you begged  
the long shadows to hold your hands. The first flakes of snow fell softly to  
match your tears. So much has been broken, too much for the mind to heal.

I watched your dancing legs, radiant laughter and sparkling  
eyes bid me goodbye. They are hidden behind winter's dark clouds now.  
Oh! You bounced across the chilled landscape with purpose.  
I think you knew that you were leaving beautiful and graceful imprints behind.  
Rest easy now. Winter is long.

Spring came, and your warm smile melted the misery of winter away.  
I am waiting. I know you will bloom again. Once again, you are ready  
to meet the warmth and beauty of God's gift – bright days and sunny skies.  
It will kiss you full on the lips, and life a charming princess,  
You will come back and stand strong,  
like old trees with deep roots and ancestors that never die, you will dance again!