## "Crescendo" by Ava Jo

A fragile stem breaks through the soil Cold and packed from winter's toil Unsteady though the spring may be It's warm enough to raise a tree Sprawling network of tangled roots Green shifts to brown, sprouts a shoot Seasons fly like the birds passing by Skinny branches stretch, reach to the sky Minuscule plant now towering tree A welcoming home to all who are free Expanses of forest, once icy and bare Now hum with life and warm summer air Flowers and bushes in bright clumps of green All of it painting a harmonious scene And the voice of the forest rises with glee A crescendo envelopes the twisted spruce tree