

Third place, Poetry

**Alone**

By Laura L. Machado

(Author disability: Multiple Sclerosis)

What made you think

I could do this

Alone?

The pain and the loss

And the pity

Alone?

A tall picket fence

On my horse

Alone.

A slip of the saw

In a tree

Alone.

A tumor to silence

The sound

Alone.

The answer was given

To me

Alone.

On your horse

At the fence

You were not

Alone.

In the tree

With the saw

You were not

Alone.

With the doctors

In silence

You were not

Alone.

I was there

Gave you

Life.

I was there

Gave you

Strength.

I was there

Gave you hope.

You were not

Alone.

I gave you

My Son.

He gave you

His life.

In Him you

Will live

Have strength

And life.

Life with one leg

One arm

No sound.

I am here

I am with you.

You are not

Alone.

I know he believed

I could do this

Alone.

But in him and with him

I am not

Alone.

God gave me

Life.

Gave me

Strength.

Gave me

Hope.

I embrace

My new life.

With Jesus

The Light.