

## Wilderness House Literary Review 12/2

*Charlene Jean-Lestin*  
**The Oak Tree Within Her**

Through time, she has disregarded  
the rare fungus that arose  
within an oak tree.

Until the dreaded infection began  
to grow on her.

As a bush, her branches rose, her  
blood shed, and her insecurity  
protrudes

with the looks of sympathy, caution, and angst  
embedded within her memory, tucked away in a cold hard locks of re-  
morse.

Thanks to the strength she has accumulated and the pain that has domi-  
nated,

trips to dermatologists became a tragedy as scales of her dead skin began  
to drown her.

School is a damned danced that's banned

and all she had was the pleasure of her own company,

She reeked in blood, pus, and sadness

for the isolation and recluse had captive all her positivity and happiness.

She sobbed and rocked, watching grandma's clock go tic tock

as she waited timely for her life to stop,

She was castrated, restricted with embarrassment and resentment

for those who never encouraged her to get to the top,

Now, the oak tree still lives, still scarred and torn from the abuse of her  
infection,

But now she knows that this setback was a key --

an ignition for a new and enlightened resurrection.

