

## As I Grew

I was planted as a sapling. I was sad and lonely in a new place, but then I met you. You were just learning to tie your shoe when I met you. Your blonde hair was up in pigtails, and you loved the color blue. And soon we became friends.

As I grew so did you.

In the summer you would color under my shade and in the winter my growing branches would protect you from snow and rain.

My branches became thicker and I was getting wider and stronger, but I remember when my branches were so thin that you climbed and swung and all that hullabaloo.

As I grew so did you.

In the spring you got your braces and you cried under me for days at a time because of all the teasing. You told me middle school was hard and you could barely chew.

I grew taller, and soon you climb up me and into my big branches to do homework.

As I grew so did you.

You were a straight A student and yet you were upset. The kids at school teased you and made you so sad that you just blew. You got upset and got in a fight and then you were with me on a day when you should have been in school. You said you got suspended and you thought your mom would hate you.

I got bigger and as you got older you changed and soon you couldn't climb up as far.

As I grew so did you.

During high school your days were getting better. You came home with a smile that was bigger than ever, and I thought I knew why. A certain somebody always stopped by. You took him and together you sat under me, talking about school and homework. Sometimes you would sneak a peck, but I knew you would always be my girl. I loved you.

As I got wider, you would weave your fingers through my roots and talk to him.

As I grew so did you.

"High school is over." You said with grin. "Time to think about college." and then my tummy fell in. I realized that my baby girl would be gone.

My branches dropped as you packed your bags, and talked to me one last time. Without you, I knew, nothing would be the same.

Then, the moment came, when you came to say goodbye. And as you hugged me, I began to cry. You held onto me for awhile, until your mother called you over. And as I looked at you one more time, I saw your tears begin to dry, and I knew that my little girl would be happy and that is what mattered.

Years passed and I was alone, no more hugs or sitting in my branches, you were grown.

As I grew so did you.

one dark and rainy day, the door opened and I heard a voice say, "Hey." and there you were and as you ran, the day seemed a whole lot more grand. You ran and jumped into a huge hug, and cried for a while out of pure happiness. And when you came down all the clouds went away and the rain dried up and there was my baby. You sit with me and tell me stories and it takes days at a time. Stories of A's and drama and fun, of your friends and eventually, the one. You told me how you got engaged, and you showed me a ring as beautiful as a rose.

My branches began to loose leaves quicker, and the breeze was hitting me harder. But nonetheless I felt much better because you were home.

As I grew so did you.

You got married on the second of september, and the weather could not have been better. You went away with him, and came back after a few days. You told me you would stay at home until you found a house. A few months passed and one day while you were talking to me, you got sick and I was worried. A few days later you came to me with a look of giddy glee. You said you were having a baby. And then you sat with me.

Months later you were overjoyed. You welcomed your new daughter into the world. I was filled with joy as I saw her tiny nose and beautiful eyes for the first time.

As I grew so did you.

You are older now, your hair is graying and you have 4 children. Although you don't climb my branches, they do. And as they do you give me a hug and tell me stories again. Stories of me and you. Baby, I love you.