

Ever BLOOM

STORIES *of* LIVING DEEPLY ROOTED
AND TRANSFORMED LIVES



by women of
Redbud
WRITERS GUILD


**Edited by Shayne Moore
and Margaret Ann Philbrick**




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Roots



This Tree

by Sarah Finch

A strong woman is like
a tree
planted in the desert,
her bark stripped raw from the wind and sand.
In the dry season she waits for
the rain;
her roots
cling to what little solid ground lies underneath the shifting surface.
Her eyes sting with abuse from coarse dirt;
tears fall like dew drops but
her roots
do not give way, even when attacked by
the wind.
Her hope
lies with the scent of
the rain
that always arrives with the storm
which she anticipates with fear and delight.
Her roots
will be tested and the reward will be a quenching of her soul.
The drought ends and she drinks deeply of
the rain.
Her faith
transcends her moment of glory, for when she is finally cut down,
she leaves a legacy—
a seed.

Her mighty shadow is a new shoot,
taking root in soil that knows how to grow a tree
like her.
Rooted in
truth,
she leaves
her traces of
faith
behind.
This tree
will dance
forevermore.

For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. Though its roots grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant.

—Job 14:7–9 (ESV)

■ PRAYER

Lord, help me leave a legacy of grace. Help me weather the storms that you have sent so that my words and actions will withstand the temptations and trials of this earth, so that I will not lose hope in your faithfulness. I pray that the work of faith you have begun in me will take root and spread. Amen.

■ WRITING PROMPT

Describe the seeds you will leave behind.