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## how to dress a tree

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# how to dress a tree

By Brynna Williams

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does everyone have their tree?  
good, then we'll get started.

the young ones are the hardest to dress,  
they always insist on having the choicest flowers  
that are placed "just so" on each of their leaves  
accenting this branch, or perhaps this other,  
(as yet unformed) bud, scantily clad  
with only the barest covering of leaves.

summer trees are always very easy  
because they're so proper.  
they insist on being fully clothed,  
and wear nothing except their appointed  
and to their bark, required, green  
(for this very reason, many owners  
will pine for an evergreen).

then something happens as they grow older,  
and, changed, suddenly they must  
have every color that they can think of.  
worse than the spring, they require of you  
reds, now golds, no wait, I think an orange,  
they seem to say,  
would really go well with my bark,  
while that brown does nothing but clash.

the oldest ones, however, are the most difficult.  
senile and decrepit, with no self respect  
they lose all modesty  
and proceed to leave off all clothing  
dancing bare branched  
and naked in the snow.