



*I found it in the woods...*

*(Je me suis retrouvé dans les forêts)*

*I found it in the wood,  
Beneath the gangly tree.  
Somewhere in between the root,  
I found what's left of me.*

*I saw it on the reflection,  
Of the crystal lake,  
Somewhere beside the tiny pebbles,  
A piece of me did flake.*

*I heard it in the tree tops,  
In the throats of many fowl.  
I heard it in the mountain lion,  
In his mighty growl.*

*I felt it in the soil,  
The earth spoke to me.  
As though, every grain I saw,  
Flowed like blood in me.*

*With every growing moment,  
Time did pass me by.  
No longer did I worry,  
No longer did I cry.*

*The wood is now my city,  
Skyscrapers hail galore.  
Instead of falling with age,  
My buildings slowly soar.*

*The squirrel is my neighbor,  
My loved one is a boar.  
No busy crowds or busy streets,  
Or being called a whore.*

*Here, nature reigns supreme,  
So no more worry,*

*Pas plus, no more.*

*Michael Clyde Flagg, University of Arizona, April 2011*

Michael Flagg, University of Arizona

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LASC195A Digital Humanities

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I found it in the woods: The Process

While writing I experience adversity due to the difficulty that came along with cultivating the verses. I tried to make the poem as rhythmic as possible without losing the narrative quality that I had hoped to gain. In the prewriting process, I had some issues with selecting a theme but ultimately I decided to go with the point at the end of Pig Tales when the main character decides to settle in the forest and ultimately find herself there. The poem focuses on the nature aspect and how Darrieussecq captures nature and basically expresses it through the eyes of the main character in her beast form.

The forest in my poem symbolizes a place where one can release its carnal animal side and thus become uninhibited by societal norms. I represented a variety of releases that the main character felt once she embraced the fact that she was becoming a sow. One being her sexual inhibition, there is a line in the poem when I say “No more being called a whore”, basically I am saying that the main character no longer needs to follow model that is civilized and thus gains freedom. Another release that she felt is from the pressures of being part of the economic system that involves “busy people and busy streets” this all goes along with problems that the main character overcame by accepting her animal side and letting it coexist equally with her human side. Ultimately, I used the forest as a symbol for freedom emotionally, physically, and spiritually.