

Episode 10:  
After the Storm

As the storm crept away with a last shameful howl  
It left the Ash lying alone on the ground.

Asker rushed with panic and knelt by the tree.  
She begged him to stand. She prayed it could be.

But the ash lay quite still. No breath in his bough.  
He, somehow, seemed so much smaller now.  
The grass held him softly, like a threading cocoon,  
As the clouds slowly parted to let in the moon.

As the final grey tears of the rain filled her shoes,  
And her hair caught the last of the wind as it blew,  
Asker's eyes filled with sorrow and tears streaked her face,  
And she knew his was gone. He was lost to this place.

Fox, Squirrel and Magpie sat by her side.  
They watched on, protecting, as tears filled their eyes.  
Nothing could change what had happened that night  
So, they sat, holding hands, as they waited for light.

In the forest around them the trees moaned and wept  
As, out of the shadows a forest cat crept.  
It stood at the edge and bowed as they cried.  
So, they knew that the forest stood by their side.

Asker stroked the tree's bark and whispered sweet stories,  
Of the years they had shared. Of his wondrous glory.  
Of his leaves which shone gold in the late summer glow.  
Of his roots and his branches giving new friends a home.

And she thanked him for being her oldest of friends.  
For keeping her safe from beginning to end.  
And although he no longer stood by her door  
She loved him still. She always would. Evermore.