THE CRACKING OF A STATUE
THE MELTING OF AN ICY HEART

By Shannon Zusi

The wind whispers through the trees...
Words are carried on this sweep of wind,
Words that only she can hear...
For she knows these words all to well.
Even with her icy shell she can recognize a plea for help
She knows those longing cries for an understanding soul...
The wind swirls about her, telling her the secrets of a lost spirit
He’s locked himself away...
She knows this...
She hears his heart, his silent screams...
With an icy grace she flows...
Searching for this soul, this lost spirit
In hopes to release him from his stony prison...
Being alone, being so cold to those around...

The wind guides her through the forest where “they” live...
He’s there, trapped in their world, where he was forced
Imprisoned by their ignorance, and treated as if he were nonexistent...
Feeling the pain and torment of that familiarity,
She can’t let him stay that way, no one should be alone...
Taking heed from the cautious whispers of the wind,
Her icy gaze falls upon the Statue.
He is weathered, for it’s been a long time since he has been free...
With a cold hand she touches the face of this statue, searching in his eyes
It is her wish to know him, this man inside the statue.
There are small cracks in the stone...
A sign of hope...

For days, she stays by his side
She talks to him, sharing secrets that she herself, had kept hidden...
A small part of her warming, each time a new crack appears in the stone
The newest, being a crack across his lips
Emotion grips her tightly, where she thought it could never grip her. She was made of ice...
But she felt a sudden warmth bring a wetness to her eyes. While being with this statue, A glow had fired up inside of her, melting her own icy heart.

"Be free..." a soft, lingering whisper of lips against lips....

**ALMOST**
By Rebecca Kraft

When relief is close
But not quite in reach
When the end is near
But hasn’t quite come
When one could relax
But it would cause all to suffer
When the pressure is on
But soon to be removed
When success in established
But has yet to be claimed
True character is revealed