

Arboretum by Karter Kane Reed

I stood there staring
My heart wrenched
My feet like anchors
Unable to turn away from the horror

Behind the double row of fences topped with glistening razorwire
Lay the greens and browns of trees
Swaying in the majestic beauty
And it pains me to see them caged that way
Behind those fences
Unable to breathe
Suffocated

It's inhumane!

The loudspeaker comes to life, and a voice tells me
It's time to go
The trees hardly seem to notice
Oblivious to my pain
And the tears that've streaked my face.
They watch with seeming indifference
The sorrow in my gait
As I trudge back to my cell

An hour passes when the electric buzz of my door's locking mechanism
Brings me back from my far away dream
Another loudspeaker crackles, this one saying
The warden would like to see you

*Have a seat son, as I enter his office
They saw you from the tower son, staring out into the woods
What was it that you were looking at?
Woods! I scream with indignation
Those are not woods! Those poor trees!
Caged by your fences! They're TREES! And what you've done to them is wrong!*

He chuckles a bit
And smiles knowingly
Understanding now my outrage

*Son, those fences are not around the trees
They're around you*