

Drowning by: Brenda Rodriguez

I can't breathe,
I can't swim,

I'm pulled deeper
Into this sea,
Struggling so hard
To breathe.

When I somehow
Make it to the
Surface,

I only manage one breath,

One desperate gasp
For air.

Until my demon
Snatches my ankle
And drags me under.

Sometimes I am
A warrior, fighting
For my life,

Other times I am a failure,
Still, silent,

Letting myself be
Pulled into this sea.

I drown, I drown, I'm drowning.

Drowning in my thoughts, the
Voices of those around me,

Drowning in the fear of being
Hated, judged, and rejected,

Drowning in my screams and
Cries that were never heard

By others,

Drowning in a darkness I
Created, one where my monsters
And demons live.

Sometimes I fight, kicking,
Grabbing, reaching my arms
Desperately toward the surface.

Afraid of sinking any deeper.

Then there are those days,
The days when my legs
Stop kicking, my arms reach upward
But are still rods,

My body and mind slowly
Giving out

I drown each day and
Each night.

The sound of two
Rings bringing me back,
Back into a warrior
Who fights the tides.

I'm drowning, sinking
Into a darkness that
Numbs my soul.

The light of the Surface
Hardly ever gets closer.

Even while drowning, I
Smile, one that far too
Easy to pull off.

I laugh but I can't for
Long, laughing hurts me, I
Lose air I need to breathe.

I'm drowning in a pool
Of sorrow, one that's too deep to
Fully understand.

The demons they pull while
The monsters just laugh.

The surface never
Within reach.

I can't breathe.

I can't breathe.

I can't breathe.

I am drowning instead.