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**“Wintering Wisdom” by Autumn Holmberg**

In the darkness of Winter, all you see is empty, lifeless trees.

Naked branches, a barren sight.

Look closely, something amazing, something beautiful is revealed.

Trees replenishing the forest and area around them with fallen leaves.

Limbs budding with new life.

Similarly, in dark times we can replenish each other.

We can all become the new buds of a new beginning.

Trees all live and thrive together.

They communicate in their secret language.

The language of the garden.

We can be like trees as we grow through our Winter together.

We learn together. We persevere together, in our own secret garden.

We create something beautiful.

Something everybody can love.

Something everybody in the whole world can care for and tend to.

We may perceive the pandemic years as dark, depressing, lifeless.

Reflecting on the wisdom of wintering trees, we too may grow together in the darkness.