## The Climb

## Michael S. Craig

At last, she gave way The cliff finally ceded her summit

Climactic release simmered from within We had been intimate as lovers for hours

I had sought to know her every curve, every detail I began to understand her closest mysteries

I'd gently caressed her face Then held her with furious intensity

She was a demanding lover Unforgiving if not given full attention

But always providing what I needed Never allowing me to fall

In her every feature she held out possibility Her very form, key to my life

A wild creature, challenging me to tame her Though only for the briefest moment

At last I lay above her Sweat soaked and gasping for breath

I had not conquered She gave herself freely

As I gazed out over the wave swept sea Wind blown tears drawn from my eyes

Only then did she share the true ecstasy that she guarded Only then I understood the full measure of her gift.