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Plant a Weeping Cherry

by Laura Wine Paster

Plant a weeping cherry near
the place where I rejoin the earth.
Grant this final guardian
to abide close beside me,
to mark the moment when
my life meets my death.
Let its stark, dark branches
flare out uncovered into
the low winter sky, as I,
living, reached out for love
and connection. Let its
glorious froth of flowers
welcome each spring as my
bones become soil, as my
heart feeds the roots of what
will grow there. Let it bear
fruit as I, living, bore
my children and my poems:
some coming into fullness,
some perished in the bud,
some whose sweetness is touched
with a tinge of bitterness.
And bless this tree with a
long, rich autumn of leaves
slowly turning, slowly
dropping, one by one, where I
lie, unknowing, unseeing,
at last at one with all.



Photo (detail) by Joel Kendall

