

A metal sculpture of a flower is the central focus. The petals are made of a material that has rusted to a brownish-orange color, while the stem and leaves are a dark, possibly black or dark grey, metal. The flower is positioned in the upper left quadrant of the frame. The background is a light-colored, textured concrete surface. The title 'Built to Endure' is written in a black, serif font on the right side of the image. Below the title, the author's name 'By Rachael R.' is written in a smaller, black, serif font.

# Built to Endure

By Rachael R.



I thought I was a  
flower.

*Resilient,*

*grounded,*

*graceful.*

I lived gingerly

because flowers can be  
delicate.

I feared the winter

believing I had but one  
chance to bloom.



But as time passed, I realized...

The wind was blowing, yet I was still **standing**.

The snow was falling, yet I was still **growing**.

I severed my roots, yet I was still **thriving**.

I wondered if maybe...

I'm more *steel* than *flower*

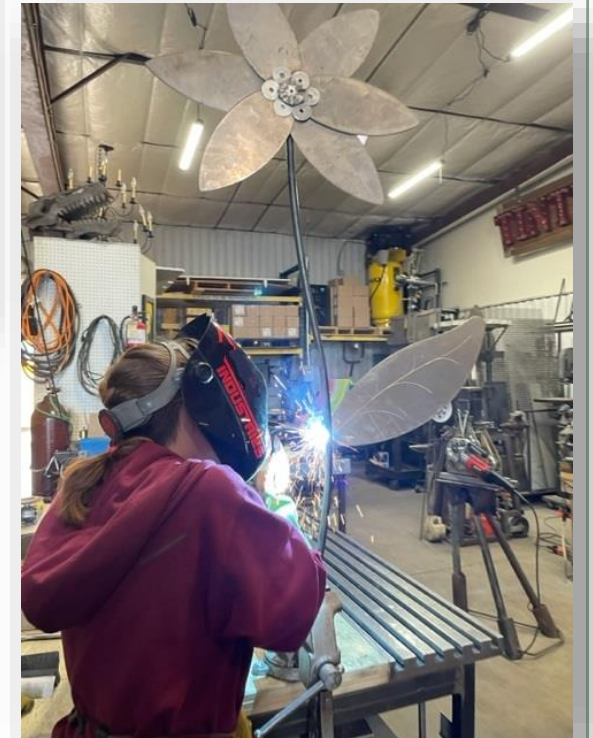
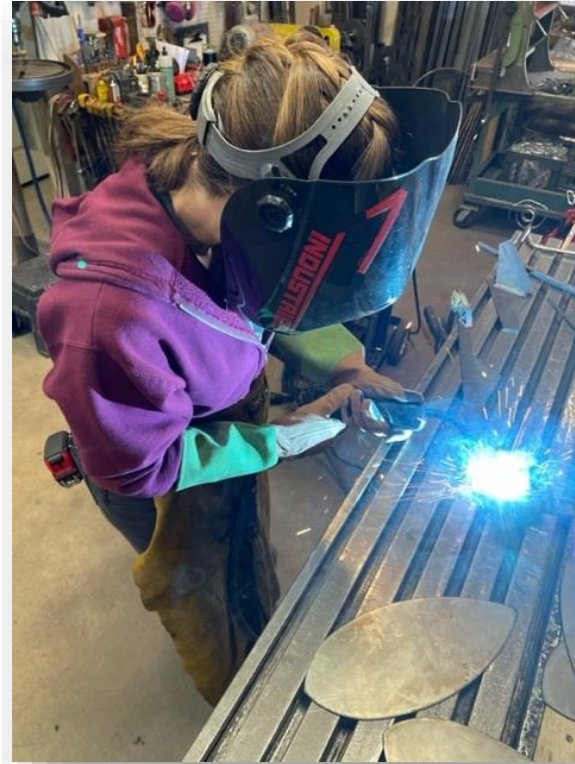


*Strong,*

*durable,*

*versatile.*

Born of fire and strengthened by heat,  
I bend without breaking  
and adapt without compromising.



And maybe, like steel,  
my body can be mended and repaired, too.

Maybe I'm not meant to just last the season  
**but rather, I'm built to endure.**

