HALLOWEEN

A gentle breeze rustling the dry cornstalks.
   A sound is heard, a goblin walks.
A harvest moon suffers a black cat's cry.
   Oh' do the witches fly!
Bonfire catches a pumpkins gleam.
   Rejoice, it's Halloween!

-Richard Anderson

Halloween isn’t a Finnish holiday, though most are aware of it; American culture is ubiquitous. So when Jen began decorating our apartment (see below) last weekend and the kids went outside with their costumes on, it caused quite a stir in the neighborhood. Other kids got their costumes on too and came over and we had quite a ruckus on our hands.

What a great holiday Halloween is! It might be my favorite. Am I pagan at heart? The unclothed earth, the cool, crisp air, the falling yellow leaves, and costumed kids bring me joy. Yet, at the same time, winter is in the air, and the ever-increasing darkness calls my own inner darkness forth. Ugh! So as the earth transitions, so do I, so do we all.

Ellie and her buds with the scarecrow in our tiny garden.
The Day of the Dead is also coming up (November 1 and 2). According to Wikipedia, it is an ancient Aztec celebration, and a good one at that – right in line with Halloween. The idea is to remember those who’ve gone before. The list has grown this year for our family. Condolences if the same can be said for you.

REMEMBER

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go, yet turning stay.
Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann’d:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.
Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

- Christina Rosetti