

## **Thriving, not surviving**

by Stephen Elliott-Buckley - Saturday, December 21, 2013

<https://politicsrespun.org/2013/12/thriving-not-surviving/>



### **Thriving, not surviving**

the slow cello accompaniment  
wasn't haunting

it wasn't doubtful

it was the soundtrack for the path she was on  
and it was trapped in a coda

trying to find some gravitas instead of just being in touch with her own  
integrity

it was the difference between surviving and actually  
thriving

it was the recognition of internal strength instead of that manic need to grip  
control

it wasn't too much to hope for  
because it was underneath the layers of clothes and cologne and masks of assertiveness and cleverosity

it was about knowing what time the sun will rise tomorrow  
and how much earlier the next day

it was about mastery of meteor shower tracking  
and constellation counting

and telling mythstories to eager ears of children

it was about knowing if that smell of impending rain in the summer  
required an umbrella  
or just a willingness to be misted in a sprinkle

it was about waking up in the morning  
not wondering any more  
not worrying about absent gravitas  
but knowing which rules  
didn't need to be followed  
and which friend to visit unexpectedly

for it was all  
about  
the  
grade 4 daisy chains  
and 104 year old grandmothers  
and the smell of the long grass  
going to seed.