

right hand pointing

(start reading at the bottom of the tree)

covered her mouth and said
breeze but she screamed so Harlow don't
she was so light light as a summer
Harlow reached out and grabbed her cry
let you fall and the little girl jumped and
and Harlow said come to me little girl I won't
opened the window and climbed out on the ledge
soon he was at the wobble-wobble top and the little girl
had turned all softy and bloody but Harlow kept climbing and little
up up up he climbed where the bark was sappy and nubby his hands
pluck the little girl away from that nasty son of a bitch grimes
would say he needed to get his ass up to the top of the tree and
was probably resting up so Harlow best not be dilly dallying as his mama
in his bedroom which was dark now so Harlow reckoned mister grimes girl
when he Watched mister grimes do those nasty things with the other little girls
didn't take him no time to shimmy up the BIG LIMB that he straddled
excepting now he could reach the first branch without jumping
oak tree which hadn't changed much since last time he had climbed it
she was calling to him so he tiptoed out real careful like to the big old
room just below the eaves moonshining bright on her little frightened face
mister grimes house and he saw her way way way up in the attic
bothered but after his mama left he had to take just one little peak at you're
things that Harlow didn't want to think on because it got him all
the worst kind of pervert who did naughty things with little girls
on mister grimes even though Harlow knew mister grimes was
him sent away so he wasn't going to do no tree-climbing-spying
want her calling the AUTHORITIES again and have
nean sonofabitch and he didn't
because truthbetold she was a
Harlow wanted to obey him mama
out of that goddamn tree
and blow Harlow's ass right
might take his old twenty gauge
wouldn't be so nice this time safe
him in that tree again he
if mister grimes spotted
goddamn oak tree cause
and don't go climbing that
stay in the in the house
nothing) she told him to
legs or take a leak or
couldn't move his arms or
he'd get tied down so he
they'd lock him up and
Harlow tried to come home
wanted whereas every time
up an leave anytime they
cause those old folks could now
where she had Harlow sent
folk which wasn't a home like
(she was night nurse at the old
before harlow's mama left for work

Harlow Comes Home

Len Joy