

## **A Chilled Evening Stroll**

by Alice Trantum

Visiting town  
for a stroll

The shops and stands  
pass by as I walk

The chilled air condenses  
around my breath

Surrounding my freezing frame  
in a misty halo

A collage of faces  
congregate in the streets

Families stalk  
the sidewalks this evening

People chat  
and have a merry time

They barely notice the others  
treading beside them

So many floating notes  
fill the brisk air

A shriek fills the air a child  
realizes the gentle tender snow flakes

Sinking to the ground they land on the  
pavement and melt in hair on hands or coats

The children are elated  
as they bound through the fluff

Parents give chase  
to their children

To promise there will be enough snow  
to build a snowman when they return home

Each child cheers in chilled delight  
and asks for a hot chocolate

They are going going  
gone into the pale night

Exit the sidewalks  
the shops and stands

They leave it all behind  
but I stay

The scattered foot prints  
are littered about the walk ways

The snow has been trampled  
after its descent to earth

I walk as the silent shrill breeze  
echoes solemnly in the alleys

At last I turn  
and retrace my steps

With the remnants of laughter's notes  
buzzing in my empty ears."