A Chilled Evening Stroll
by Alice Tranum

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."