

Snow pauses the scene.  
An arguing couple  
is poked by drifts of light  
keen to understand  
who will collapse first,  
what is holding them together.

**Early Snow**  
Christian Ward

When I step out to my porch  
and welcome winter  
to suspend itself in my lungs  
I swear, for just a moment  
my nerves built of static  
are iced.

**Iced**  
Kelli Lage

My new falsetto  
through chattering teeth  
sings the lyrics  
frozen and lost  
My shivering bones  
dance to a rhythm  
that's harsh and hard  
as permafrost

**A song of the cold**  
Penny Sarmada

A million tiny white hearts  
in the gloaming  
winter sky—secrets  
on the iridescent black  
feathers of starlings,  
flying in time  
to a beat of their own.

**Stars**  
F. E. Clark

## January's Child

Julie Claire Ma

Give me the cold  
the dark  
the still frozen nights  
the bitter blue mornings  
the 50 kinds of snow  
but especially the  
softly falling  
in the woods  
kind.

With cold fingers  
clasped around a hot cup  
cheeks rosy with  
pleasure  
or maybe just the wind -  
it looks nice on you anyway.

## A New Year's Eve Reflection

Elayna Mae Darcy

Rest  
now,  
knowing  
this ending  
did not destroy you.  
You are always just beginning.



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