

Forest snowfall

by [J. Barrie Shepherd](#) in the [January 1, 2020](#) issue

*Before sunrise*

It is as if the light that is to come  
had taken on a flake-like form and substance  
laid itself, in silhouette, along, against,  
the windward part  
of every naked trunk and branch.  
The ground below lies cloaked,  
each blade of grass or bracken  
with its glistening garment,  
so that, even at the darkest hour last night,  
a luminescence shone as if reflected  
from whatever burns within.

Might the bright, promised realm  
lie here and now revealed,  
its last impediment  
my faltering fear to enter in?