

# A Man Turns

By [Edward Curtin](#)

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Theme: [History](#)

Hush! She called him,  
Dusk and the first snow  
Are falling, come, join me  
On the deserted lake road  
For a twilight rendezvous  
Destined for us.

Never one to refuse her siren call,  
He dressed and headed up,  
Silent in the silent snow,  
The noisy world shut-in for once,  
His pounding heart the sole sound  
Shared with thoughts of beauty's face.

The lake was painted yin and yang,  
Swirled snow on thin white ice,  
Black geese floating spies on  
The misty black open water.  
Glowing eyes in the gathering dusk,  
Searchlights on his slipping steps.  
No one will see us here,  
He thought, swallowing the uncanny  
Sense of someone lurking near.

The crepuscular light on bright  
White snow made going slow  
As he side-stepped drifting mounds,  
The newly ancient burying grounds  
Of what he took to be  
The call refusing wizened ones  
Afraid to meet desire in the snow.

Stumbling spellbound mindless now,  
Lost in this very moment,  
He steps gingerly over the fallen  
Body of a still warm life,  
While the snow whirls, though fall fell  
Not that long ago. Geese honk  
To jolt him wide awake.

Now slightly smiling since  
The slumped down snowy body  
Of this life he oversteps  
On the road has been hit,  
Knocked down, but not destroyed.  
And though it's wet and cold,  
An abandoned child,  
He knows he'll turn in a minute,  
Go back, pick up his life, slip

Into it as if it were a shirt  
He had never taken off to wash.  
It's cold, he's wet, it's snowing.  
But he sees in the image of his body  
Lying down behind him  
A way to take up the life that lies  
Before him.

He feels she called him out of love,  
So turns, his life jumps up, they run  
Joyously into each other's arms  
As the snow falls upon them  
For the first time, alone to face  
The gathering storm.

*Edward Curtin is a writer whose work has appeared widely. He teaches sociology at Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts. His website is <http://edwardcurtin.com/>*

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