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Cold Winter Blues

By Lois Homer

The holidays are over and it's January now
It's icy, cold and snowy, winter is here and how
When I was a kid, I loved it when it snowed
Now that I'm older, I hate being on the road
It used to be fun to slide around on the ice
Now that I'm older, it doesn't feel so nice
I've slid down on my bottom which didn't feel too good
Luckily I was well padded down with my coat and hood
The other day I took a short walk over to the store
My neighbor was there also right in front of the door
I was bundled up in hat and scarf and so was she
I didn't recognize her, nor did she recognize me
She tried to help me get a cart unstuck
A man came over to help us, what luck!
Our voices sound familiar as we spoke
We laughed as we recognized each other, what a joke!
When I was a kid, our apartment was always cold
My mom would call our landlord using words so bold
One winter when it got down to twenty below zero
We all got virus pneumonia, our landlord was no hero
We all recovered but my mother got worse
She landed in the hospital for three months with a nurse
My half brother was lucky because he lived with his dad
But I had to stay in an orphanage which was so sad
My dad worked long hours and had to work late
And I was too little to be left home alone, that's fate
I hated to go but there was one consolation for me
The orphanage was warmer than my apartment you see
Some of the kids there had no family at all
Others like me, were there for a short haul
My aunt refused to care for me or take me in
Because my mom had been fighting with her, what a sin
After my mom was back home and well
She stopped wasting time calling the landlord to yell
She called the Chicago Housing Authorities and they came out
Our heat was put on and the landlord did pout
When I got married, with landlords I fought
Because they didn't give heat the way they ought
That's the reason that we bought our townhouse
We share it with insects and an occasional mouse
One winter morning I woke up to look
At a snowy fairyland, just like a book
The only thing that wasn't so great
Our electricity was off, which I did hate
Sixteen hours later it came back on
After bouts with Com Ed on the phone, I won