

## Why I Keep Shoveling the Cursed Driveway

by [Jeff Gundy](#) in the [January 2023](#) issue

Cars waver down the glassy streets,  
somebody in a pickup scrapes the parking lot.  
Nobody trusts anybody to stop for the signs.  
Every cough, mine or yours, might tip us off  
the edge of the world. Still, geese rattle over  
in their honky skeins, and the mallards  
paddle sweetly on the quarry, clump down  
the frozen creek. The famous white duck  
with the bad wing is fatter than ever.  
I shoveled my long driveway twice, grumpy,  
leaving scraps of snow like words snapped free  
from a broken sonnet. *This will all melt,*  
I kept thinking, even as I kept pushing snow.