



Winner 2020 - Youth

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Quilt: *Marmalade's First Snow* by David Taylor

The barn door creaks as it is nudged open, and  
A cat, small and ginger though she seems,  
Steps out with a glittering and tense air of curiosity-  
Glances, left and right  
Stretches out a tentative paw, and brushes the snow  
With a gentle caress,  
And the snow huffs as it is drawn away again,  
Her whiskers bristling and thinking of the contrast between this and the hearth in the sitting room  
In the house nudged against the hillside not far off  
She glances back at the window behind her  
As the white dust drifting down from the sky comes to greet the glass  
The cold air pressing in upon it  
Like an old friend, wrapping its long  
And nature-made arms around the wood of the barn,  
Wet yet light with the absence of responsibility, save of a sole purpose of beauty.  
Then she turns back to face the outside once more,  
Hazel eyes reflecting the brightness of the hidden sun glancing upon the snowfield  
And then down at the small ledge from which she was to jump  
If she desired to face the morning

With all the courage of a feisty and yet careful feline wanting  
To learn more of this new and exciting entity.  
Shifting so that her other paw was facing the snow now,  
She slowly lowered it to the ground  
And touched it again- her small imprint lasting this time  
The warmth of it still present  
In the crisp air of the winter morning.  
Perhaps a quiet spring would make the best of it, melting this stuff  
And if only she could have those same powers, so she could  
Hold it off until next year once more, so that she may visit  
The field mice and be tickled by the green blades of summer grass!  
But alas spring was unto itself, and she resigned with quick jump over the wooden ledge  
And into the frigid depths of the snow below  
Wait.  
A few seconds, in which she wonders what to make of the cold yet albeit refreshing feeling  
Spreading now through her toes  
And then hops off, sprightly, in the air of a new and fantastic wonderland of winter.