

The Avalanche Effect

By Teresa St. George

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Cold, white, and dazzling  
Shimmer, silence, and crisp air  
Snow settles gently on the mountain  
Layer upon layer

The weight of the snow begins to sag  
Against trees and rocks  
Growing heavier as time goes by  
But the cold keeps it frozen

It only takes one  
Unseasonably warm day  
For the cracks on the surface  
To begin to form

The snow underneath  
Begins to shift  
Gently at first  
But little by little it

S L I D E S

Slowly, then faster and faster  
The weight cracks under pressure  
The warm sun melts the top layers  
And then the rumble starts

First distant and low  
Growing louder and louder  
As the snow lets go and  
Rushes down toward me

Sweeping me under the white  
Burying me under the cold  
Encasing me in ice  
I don't know which way is up

It's the avalanche effect  
Of loving someone  
Who won't love me back