

## **Anthony J. Langford**

### **It's cold out there**

When experience goes sour  
A void appears  
Sucking out hope  
Promptly replenished by bitterness.

When rejection occurs  
Despair sets in  
Superseded by self-doubt  
Interspersed with anger.

If we are worth anything at all  
Despite those who may not think so  
We will come to distinguish our short comings  
And make efforts to remedy them.

Yet too often  
We scurry like insects from the flame  
Covering tracks  
Masking flaws  
And blaming others.

How long then,  
Can we hope to preserve our innocence  
(our sense of goodwill)  
Before we bury that which is vulnerable  
And make a new life  
Beneath the shell.

True salvation  
Lives in risk  
Hiding like a spark in fireworks  
A shelter in a snowdrift  
Rewarding those who take the plunge  
While the rest flounder  
Preferring to seek warmth  
While the answer lies  
In the frosted unknown.

**Anthony J. Langford** lives in Sydney Australia. He writes stories, poetry and makes video poems. His story, The Long Jetty, featured in the Verandah 25th Anniversary

Edition. Some of his recent publications include *Backhand Stories*, *The Rusty Nail*, *Crack the Spine and Eunoia Review*. He works in television and has made short films, some of which have screened internationally. His novella, *Bottomless River* is out now through Ginninderra Press. A poetry collection, *Caged without Walls* was released in 2013. A wide selection of his work can be found at [www.anthonyjlangford.com](http://www.anthonyjlangford.com)

