

# EUCALYPTUS & ROSE

← HEARTWARMING AND THOUGHTFUL →

## Abode Ann Kathryn Kelly



She feels January in her joints,  
her bones a built-in bellwether  
to barometric bounces. To forget, she points  
to a metal birdhouse out the window, red/yellow/  
blue, with last summer's sticks stick-  
ing out—it's true!—from a surprised tin mouth. O!  
Like my mother's delight in watching aerial tricks  
as tiny bodies winged in and out.  
The H | O | M | E welcome, now draped in snow.  
Mom rubs knuckles and knees, to take  
her mind from her aches, her pleas  
for summer to get here, quick! I compare  
how our friends feathered a once-hard abode,  
layering comfort leaf by leaf, soft as an easy chair.

Ann Kathryn Kelly writes from New Hampshire's Seacoast region. She's an editor with *Barren Magazine*, a columnist with *WOW! Women on Writing*, and she works in the technology sector. Ann leads writing workshops for a nonprofit that offers therapeutic arts programming to people living with brain injury. Her essays have appeared in a number of literary journals. <https://annkelly.com/>