



Winter 2014

When Abigail awoke early one cold winter morning she couldn't believe her eyes! Outside every twig, every branch, every bent over plant was coated in a layer of ice. It was like a land frozen in time. BRRRR! Abigail got out of her cozy nest and bundled up to put on a pot of tea. She took a small tin of leftover cookies down from the cupboard to enjoy with her hot drink. Then she added a few twigs to her small woodstove to warm the room up.

Something was different about this day....Abigail sensed it, her nose whiskers bristled and her fur stood up. It wasn't just the cold, something definitely was afoot....but what? Anyway, Abigail finished her breakfast and then did some chores. She had to venture outside so she wore her warmest clothes. She had to go bring in some more twigs for her small wood stove and she had to bring in some icicles to melt for drinking water. To reach the road, she had to lay a path of straw so she was able to get across the ice layer on the ground.

Abigail decided to go to the nearby farm to get some food and milk. Something told her that she needed to be prepared for bad weather. So she got her small metal bucket for milk and her basket for some pigeon eggs. If she was really lucky, she might get access to the root cellar at the farm and snag some small vegetables. While Abigail was at the farm gathering her goodies, she noticed the cows seemed anxious, the horse paced in his stall and the chickens were clucking loudly. What was it? Then all at once she knew what it was....a squall of snow was coming up fast. Oh My! She abandoned thoughts of finding more food and went to the barn door to head back home to her nest under the floor boards of the Pine Grove School House. But she could not even see across the road! It was a full-fledged blizzard! How would she get home?

She decided to try and find her way back following her footsteps. She set out in the direction she thought she had come. But the wind was blowing hard and the visibility was very low. She trudged on but the snow was piling up fast and she had to jump to take each step forward. On and on she forged but couldn't see her tracks and had no idea if she was headed home. She was getting cold to the bone and her feet were getting numb. What would happen to Abigail? She thought she would just freeze to death right there in a snow drift. She started to cry and became disoriented as to where she was. Her cries were heard by a barn owl that swooped down from his perch in the barn's cupola and gently picked up Abigail in his talons. Abigail thought she was his dinner but with his strong wings he was able to fly through the blowing snow and brought her just inside the doorway alcove of the school. Abigail was nearly frozen so she thanked her rescuer named Dudley, and scurried through a small hole to get down to her cozy, warm nest. Angels are all around us!