1990

2 Man Tent

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2 Man Tent
Raymond L. Antel III

One me alone
One foot of the cleanest whitest powder underneath
One-half inch of ice on top
Cleared a spot big enough for the tent
Five lines to white pines
One line to a birch
One line to a mutant poplar
Sunny day—27F
Completely still
Tent pitched

Gathering of firewood
Snap off dead brittle cold limbs as flush as possible
This will be the kindling
Collection of deadfall
With the snow one foot deep it doesn't leave much

A cooking fire
Not the bonfires I've been noted for
Three fresh Bratwursts from Jerry's IGA
Cooked in snow water, onions and beer
Browned on the grill
Two Green Onions
Two potatoes wrapped with onion and foil
Poked with a fork
Set in glowing coals

A tin of smoked oysters
Opened with one of those awkward army-issue openers
Frankenmuth Dark Beer, red foil wrapt
Pee anywhere
But like a dog, kick and cover the yellow

Sony Walk
Leon Redbone sings
I dance a life
Blue jazz guitar
Boompa Umpa tuba
The lone dancer wildly
Tonight I'm alone with just
Tonight I'm the
It's getting col...
I dance a life-dance
Blue jazz guitar acoustic
Boompa Umpa tuba and clarinet
The lone dancer wildly prancing fireside
Tonight I'm alone with just me and my thoughts
Tonight I'm the star

It's getting colder.