

## Snow is Calling Me

By Angkana Wattanadumrong Jeab

I grew up in Thailand, a country without snow. I knew about snow from the movies that I saw on TV, but I could not imagine it. In the movies, they made a snowman, played snowball fights, and went skiing and snowboarding. Actually, before I came to the United States, I always had the dream and desire to see and touch snow. Snow is something that I can't find in my country, and it makes me excited.

Two years ago, when I came to the U.S. for the first time, I had an amazing experience with snow. I had the chance to go to a ski resort, and before I went, I had many ideas of what to do with it. Winter came at the end of the year, and my friends and I went to Lake Tahoe. We got a wonderful cabin with a view of the lake and the snow on the top of the mountains. There were also many flowers and deer near our cabin. Our cabin was not big, but it was very warm and comfortable.

On the first night, we decided to cook sukiyaki by ourselves because we had all the ingredients: lots of vegetables, pork balls, chicken, seafood and others. Suki-yaki was the best choice. It was easy to cook and made us feel warm. The cabin had two bedrooms, one bathroom and one kitchen. The kitchen was small but full of kitchen utensils and housewares.

While we were enjoying dinner in front of the fireplace, I saw something magical outside the cabin: Snow was falling! It was like white feathers or maybe really slow white rain coming down. We heard it falling, a very soft pattering sound. Then, I opened the door to our balcony, stepped outside, and then ran out the front door to enjoy the snow. I sat down and touched the snow without my gloves because I would like to know whether or not it seemed like ice. It didn't have any smell; it was soft and cold. I walked on the snow for 10 minutes with friends and took photos. Then, I saw my red face and blue lips in the mirror. I couldn't feel them. As I went back to the cabin, I saw some people shoveling snow from sidewalks because the snow was so deep that they couldn't pass the way they wanted to go. The snow was causing a lot of other problems with transportation.

The next morning, I opened my eyes and saw the beautiful snowflakes. I was so excited about the idea of trying to ski for the first time. First, my friends recommended that I choose between skiing and snowboarding. I saw many people skiing and snowboarding, and I felt it might be easy, just as they said before I got there. Most of them were good skiers; they could ski as if they were walking on the street. Then I saw some people who were beginning and had the accidents falling down on their skis. That is why I thought I couldn't ski like my friends. Finally, I just walked around the park, enjoyed the snow, took photos, and watched people who were playing, skiing and taking the ski lifts.

Today, I still have those photos, and when I see them, I feel excited and happy. All the thrills are still in my mind. Everything was very wonderful, and time has gone by so fast. If I have a chance to see snow, I want to ride a snowmobile. I still keep in touch with the friends who joined me on that trip and see them often. We had such a quality time together. I will look forward to our next trip absolutely.

