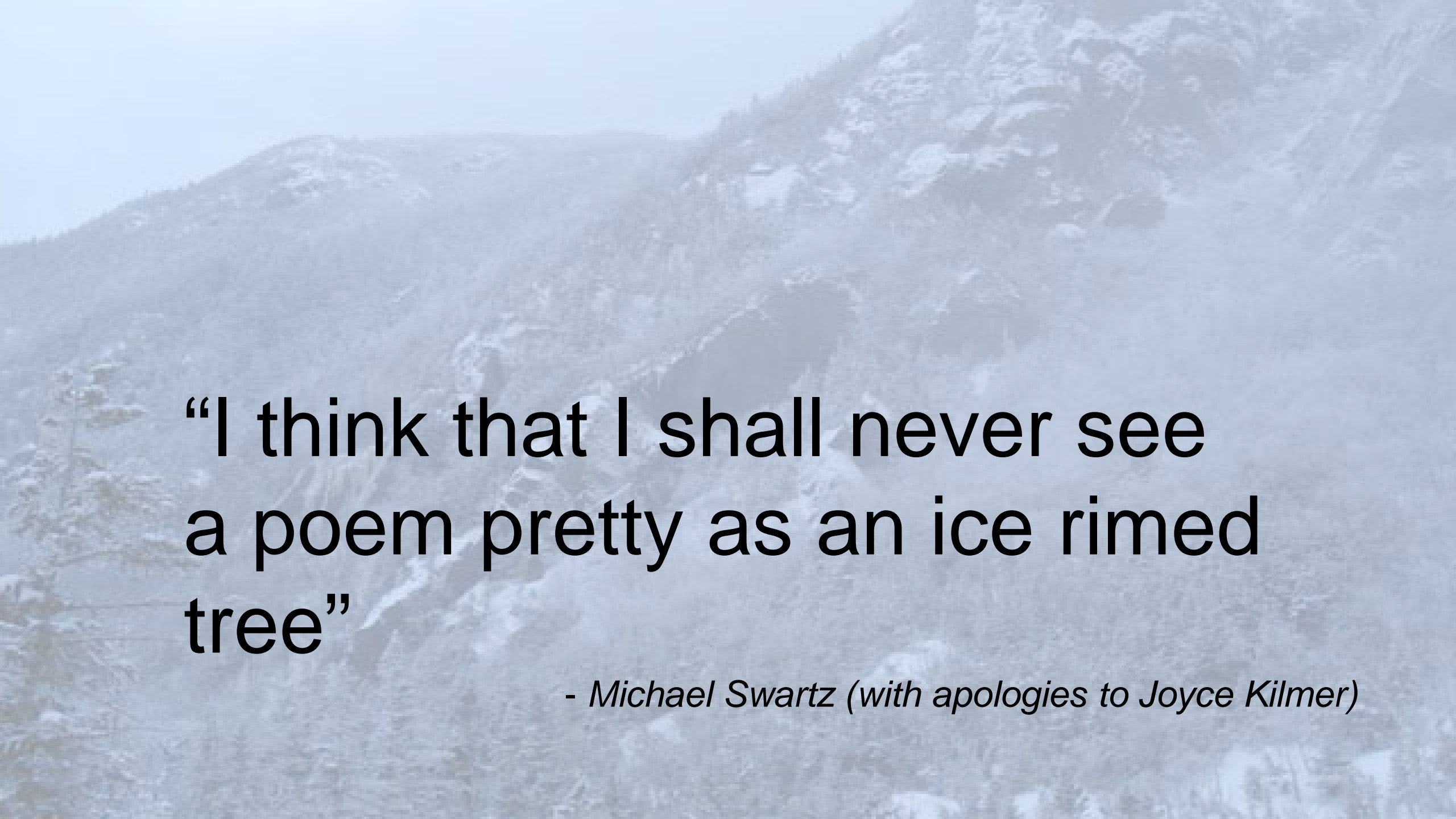


A blue-tinted photograph of a mountain trail. A hiker is visible in the distance, walking along a path that winds through a rocky and forested landscape. The overall scene is misty and atmospheric.

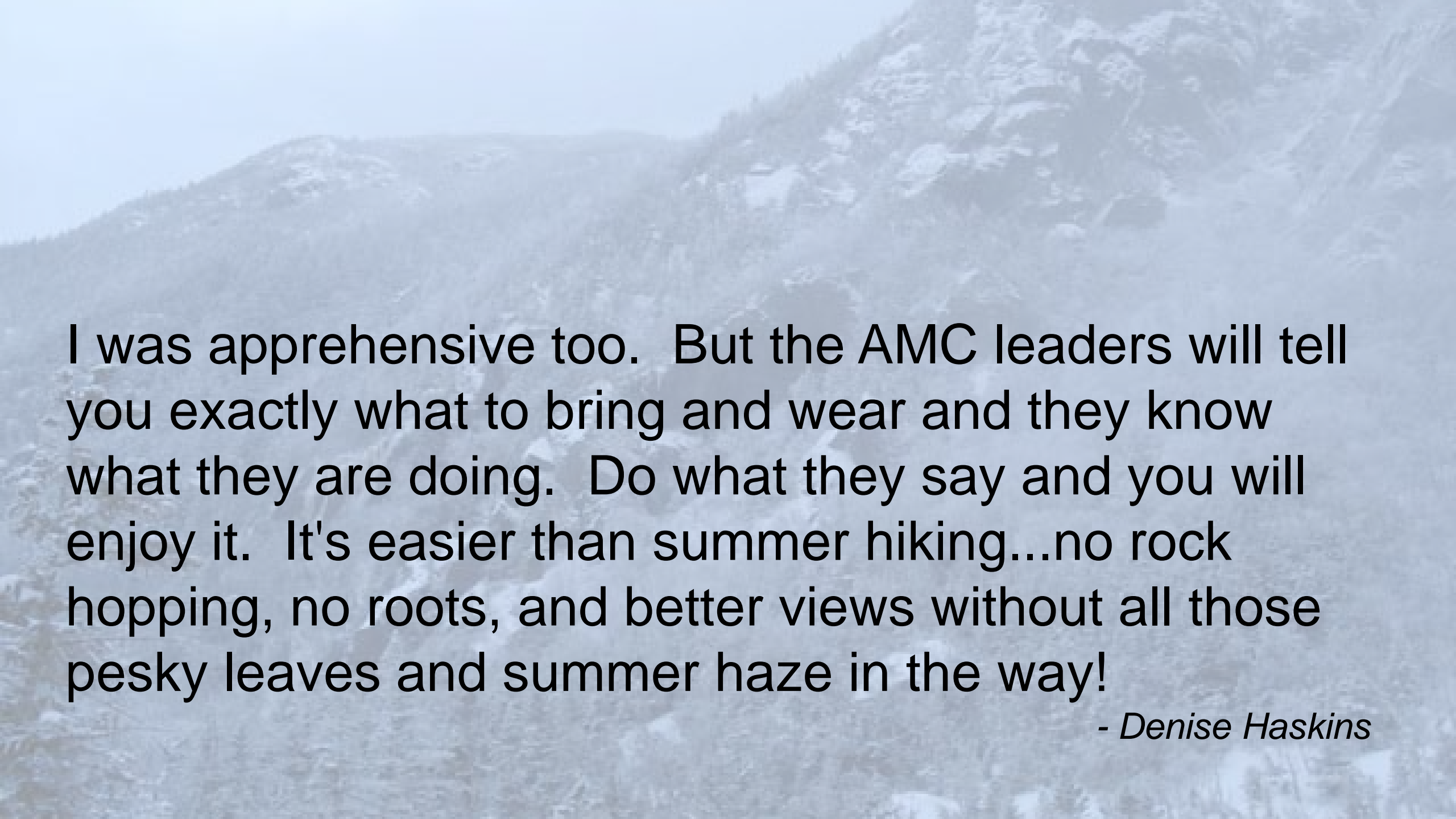
WHY DO WE LOVE TO HIKE IN THE WINTER?

SEE QUOTES FROM OUR HIKERS

A blue-tinted photograph of a mountain range with a river valley in the foreground. The mountains are covered in dense evergreen trees, and the river valley is visible in the center. The overall scene is serene and natural.

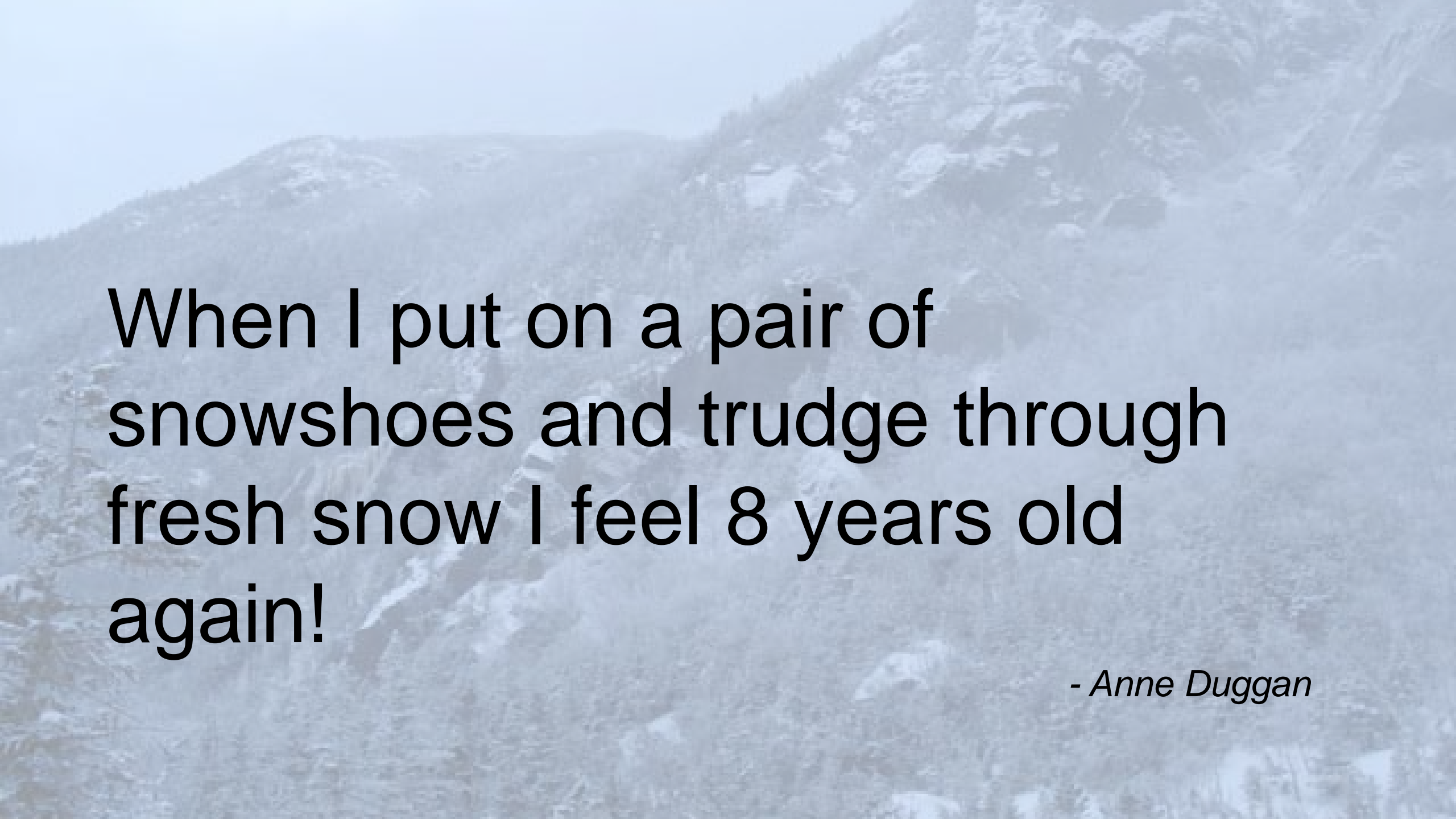
“I think that I shall never see
a poem pretty as an ice rimed
tree”

- *Michael Swartz (with apologies to Joyce Kilmer)*

A blue-tinted photograph of a mountain range with a river valley in the foreground. The mountains are covered in dense evergreen forests, and the river winds through the valley below. The sky is overcast and hazy.

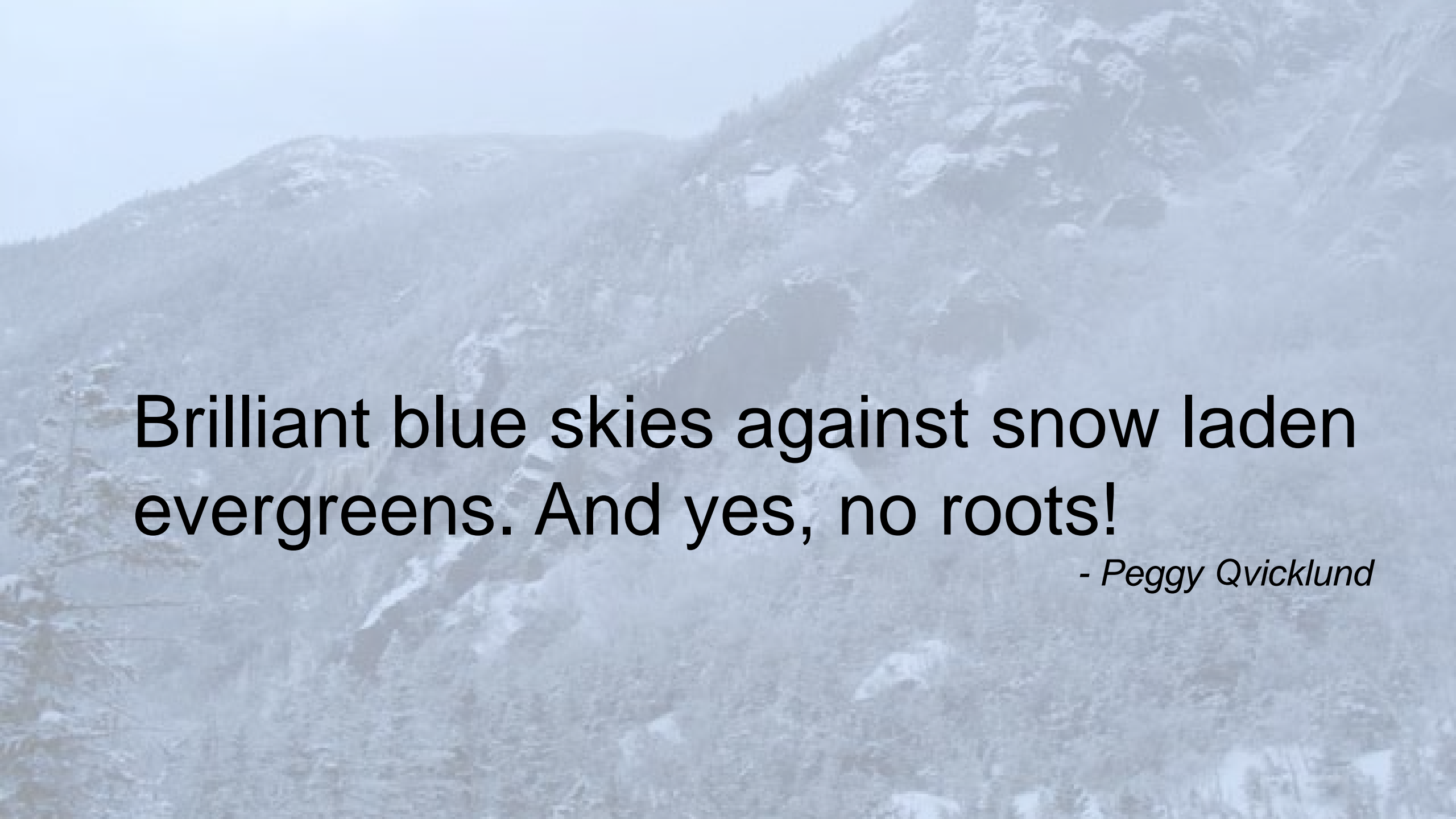
I was apprehensive too. But the AMC leaders will tell you exactly what to bring and wear and they know what they are doing. Do what they say and you will enjoy it. It's easier than summer hiking...no rock hopping, no roots, and better views without all those pesky leaves and summer haze in the way!

-Denise Haskins



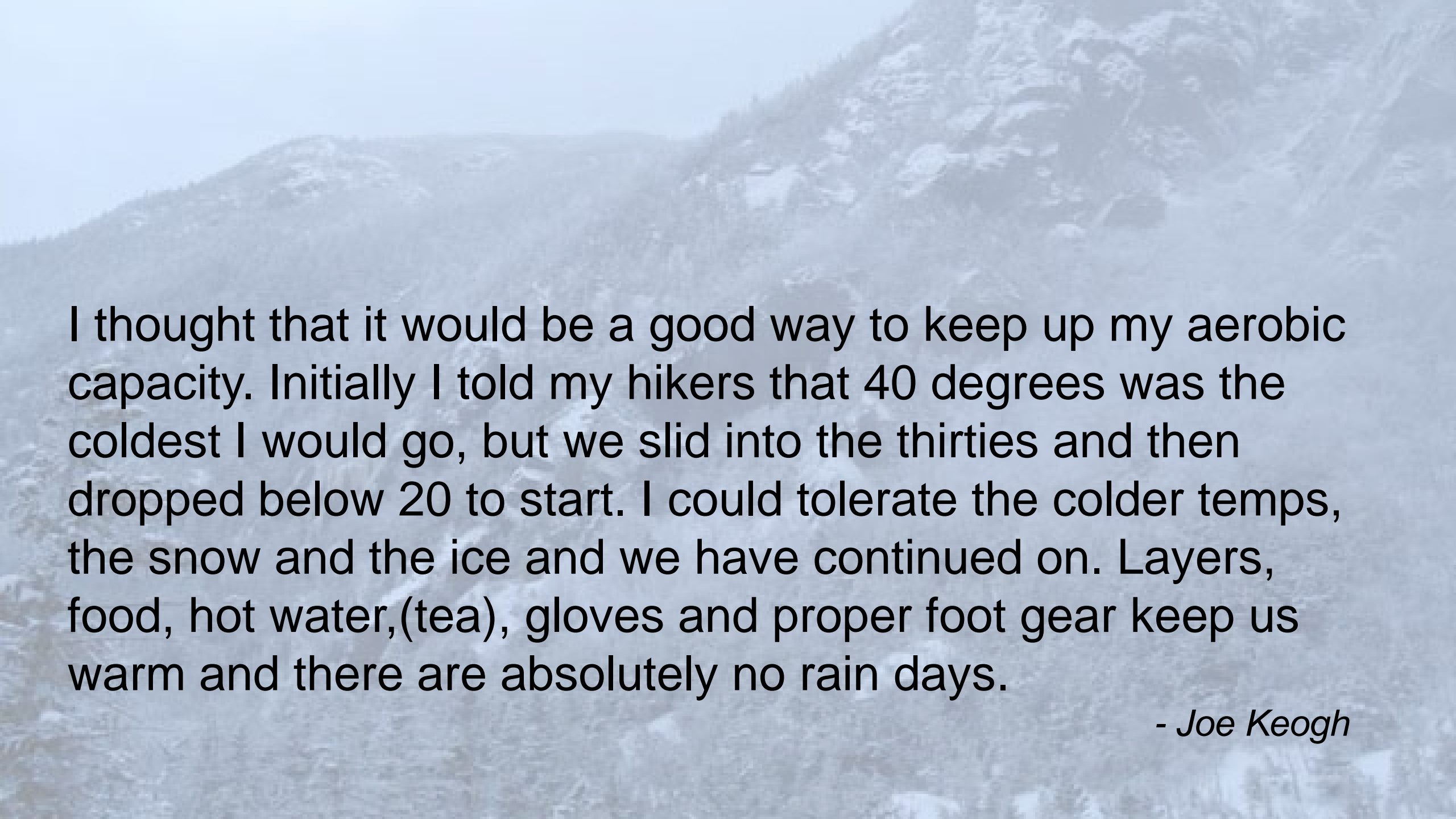
When I put on a pair of
snowshoes and trudge through
fresh snow I feel 8 years old
again!

- *Anne Duggan*

A blue-tinted photograph of a snowy mountain landscape. The scene shows a steep, rocky slope covered in snow and patches of evergreen trees. The sky is a clear, bright blue, contrasting with the white snow and dark green foliage. The overall mood is serene and wintry.

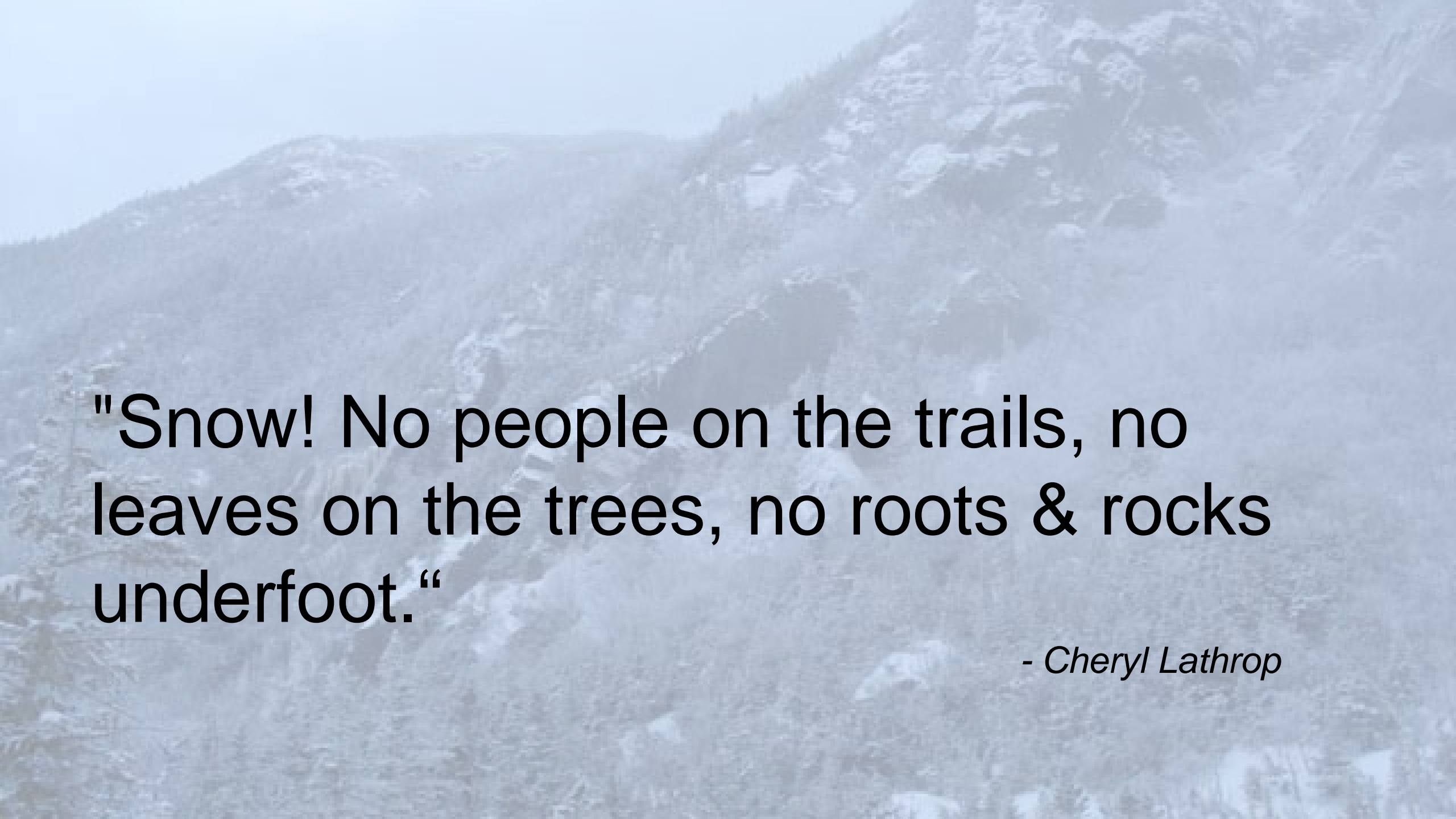
Brilliant blue skies against snow laden
evergreens. And yes, no roots!

- Peggy Qvicklund



I thought that it would be a good way to keep up my aerobic capacity. Initially I told my hikers that 40 degrees was the coldest I would go, but we slid into the thirties and then dropped below 20 to start. I could tolerate the colder temps, the snow and the ice and we have continued on. Layers, food, hot water,(tea), gloves and proper foot gear keep us warm and there are absolutely no rain days.

- *Joe Keogh*

A blue-tinted photograph of a mountain trail. The trail is rocky and partially covered with snow. There are trees on either side of the trail, and the background shows a mountain range under a clear sky.

"Snow! No people on the trails, no leaves on the trees, no roots & rocks underfoot."

- Cheryl Lathrop



The stillness and solitude of the mountains and forests in winter.

- *Ken Jones*

I first started hiking in the Whites in the winter because I love being outdoors in the snow and thought the hikes would be slower so I could keep up easier. Hah! I didn't take into account the full pack on my back. I was ready to quit after the first one but I was already hooked on the beautiful views and snow covered trees on the trails. I switched over to the snow shoe hikes and slowly increased my stamina. (If the snow shoe series of hikes weren't there as an option, I probably would have quit winter hiking because it was a little too strenuous for this newbie hiker). I like winter hiking because you don't sweat, there are no bugs and the trail is smooth. And, of course, the camaraderie.

- Sue Mulligan

A blue-tinted photograph of a snowy mountain landscape. The scene shows a path leading up a slope covered in snow and ice. The background features more snow-covered mountains under a pale sky. The overall mood is serene and cold.

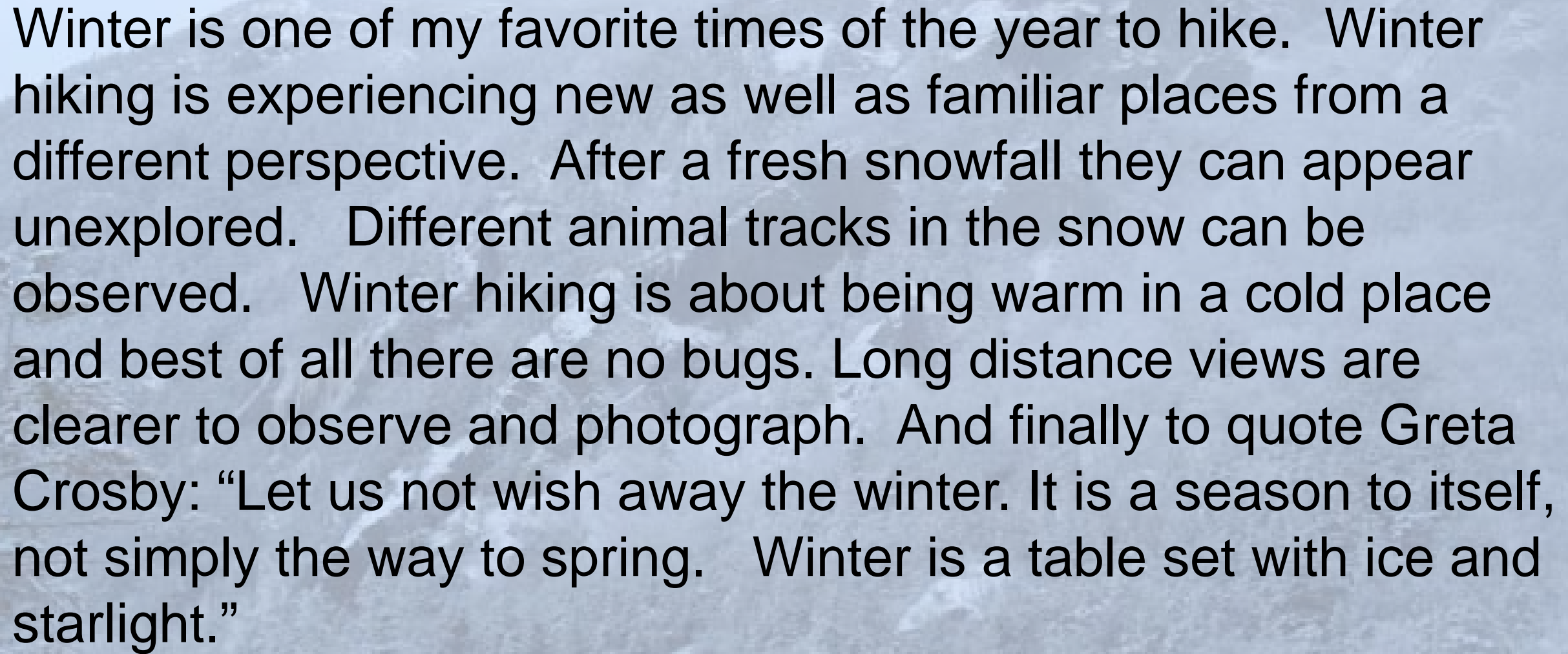
The light bouncing off the snow and ice.

- Ken Carson

A blue-tinted photograph of a rocky mountain trail. The trail is a narrow path of rocks and dirt, winding up a steep, rocky slope. The surrounding landscape is rugged and mountainous, with sparse vegetation. The overall mood is quiet and serene.

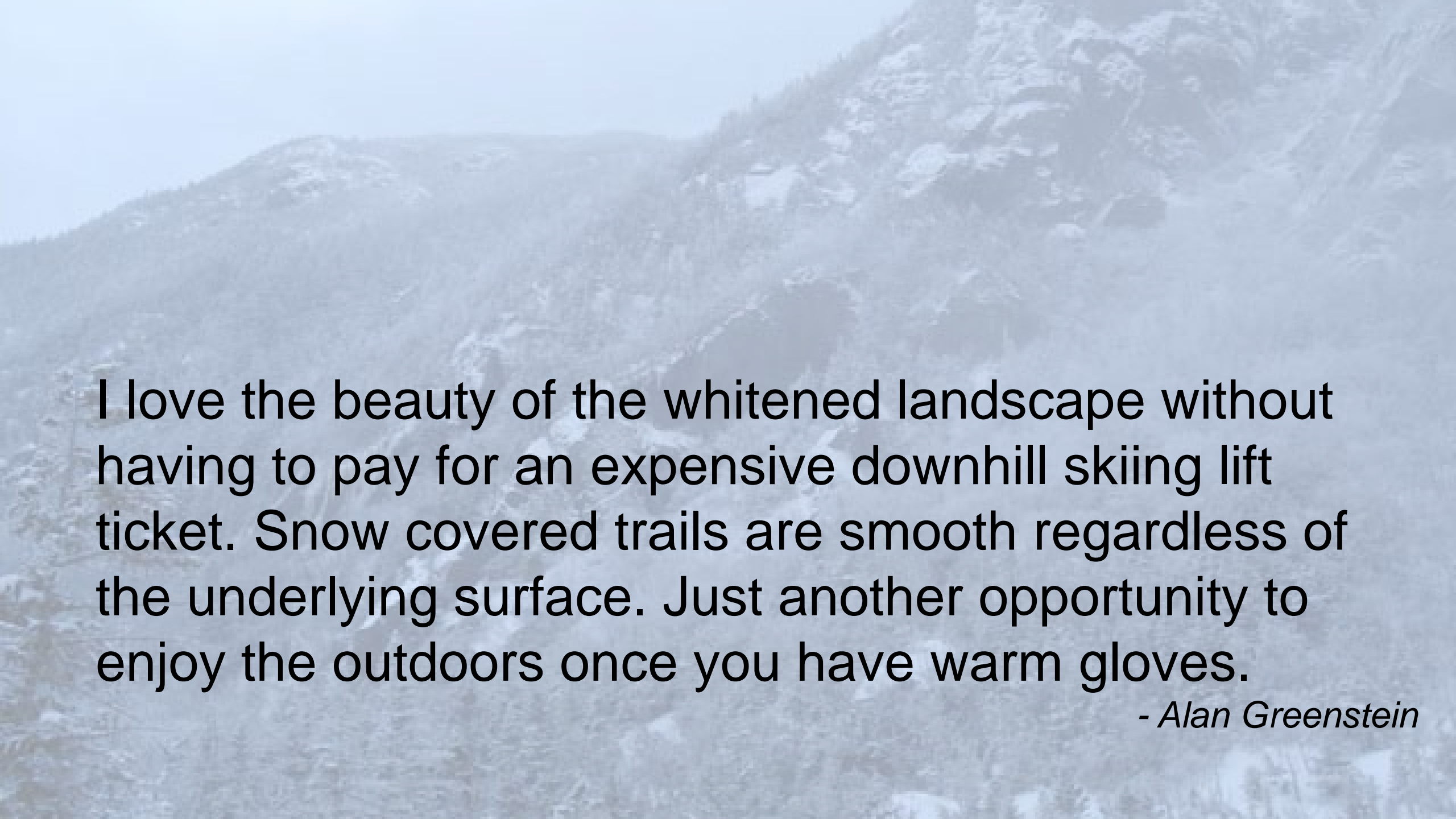
The quiet, the beauty & looking at
the animal tracks!

- *Jeannine Audet*



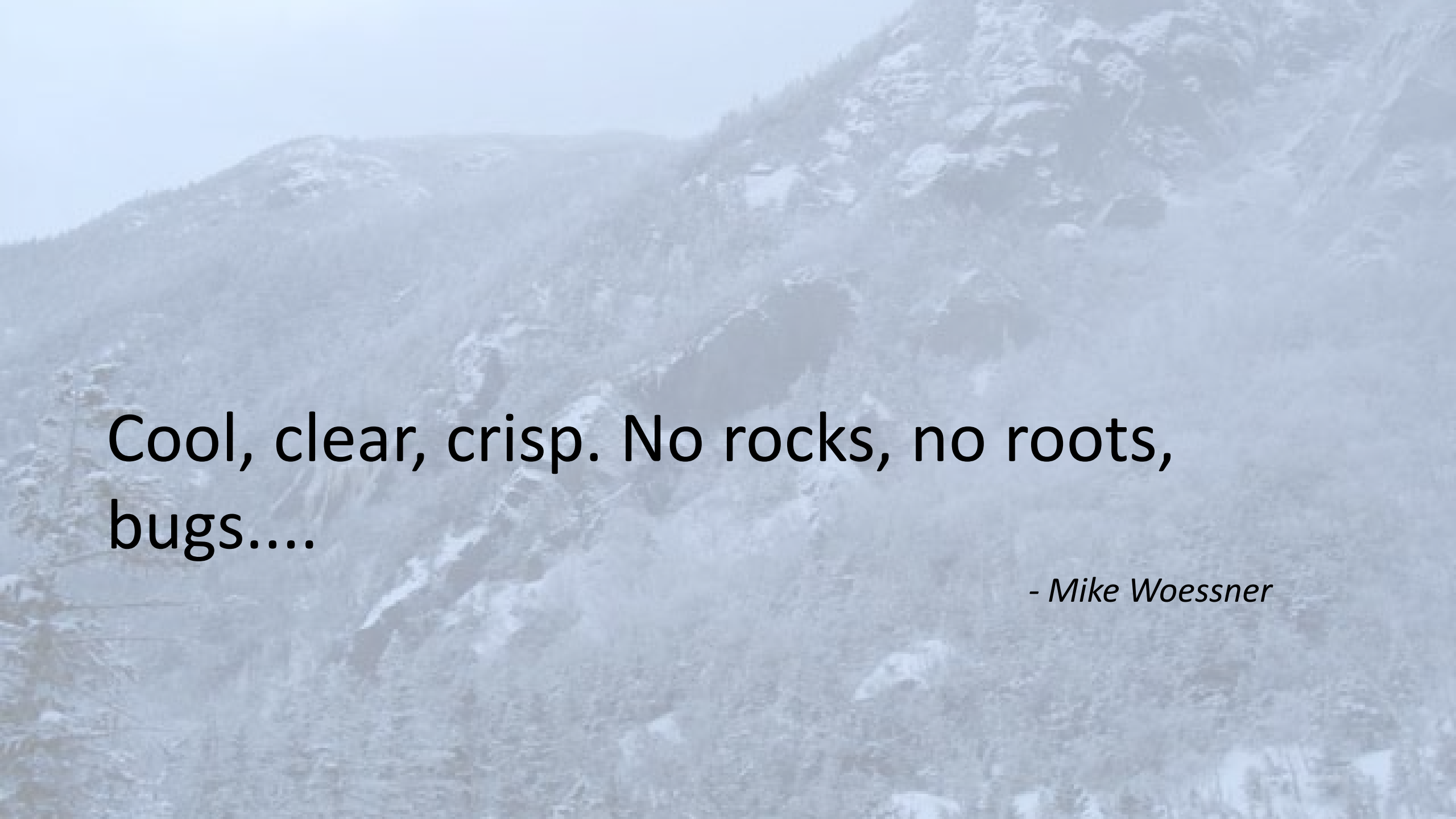
Winter is one of my favorite times of the year to hike. Winter hiking is experiencing new as well as familiar places from a different perspective. After a fresh snowfall they can appear unexplored. Different animal tracks in the snow can be observed. Winter hiking is about being warm in a cold place and best of all there are no bugs. Long distance views are clearer to observe and photograph. And finally to quote Greta Crosby: “Let us not wish away the winter. It is a season to itself, not simply the way to spring. Winter is a table set with ice and starlight.”

- *Dexter Robinson*



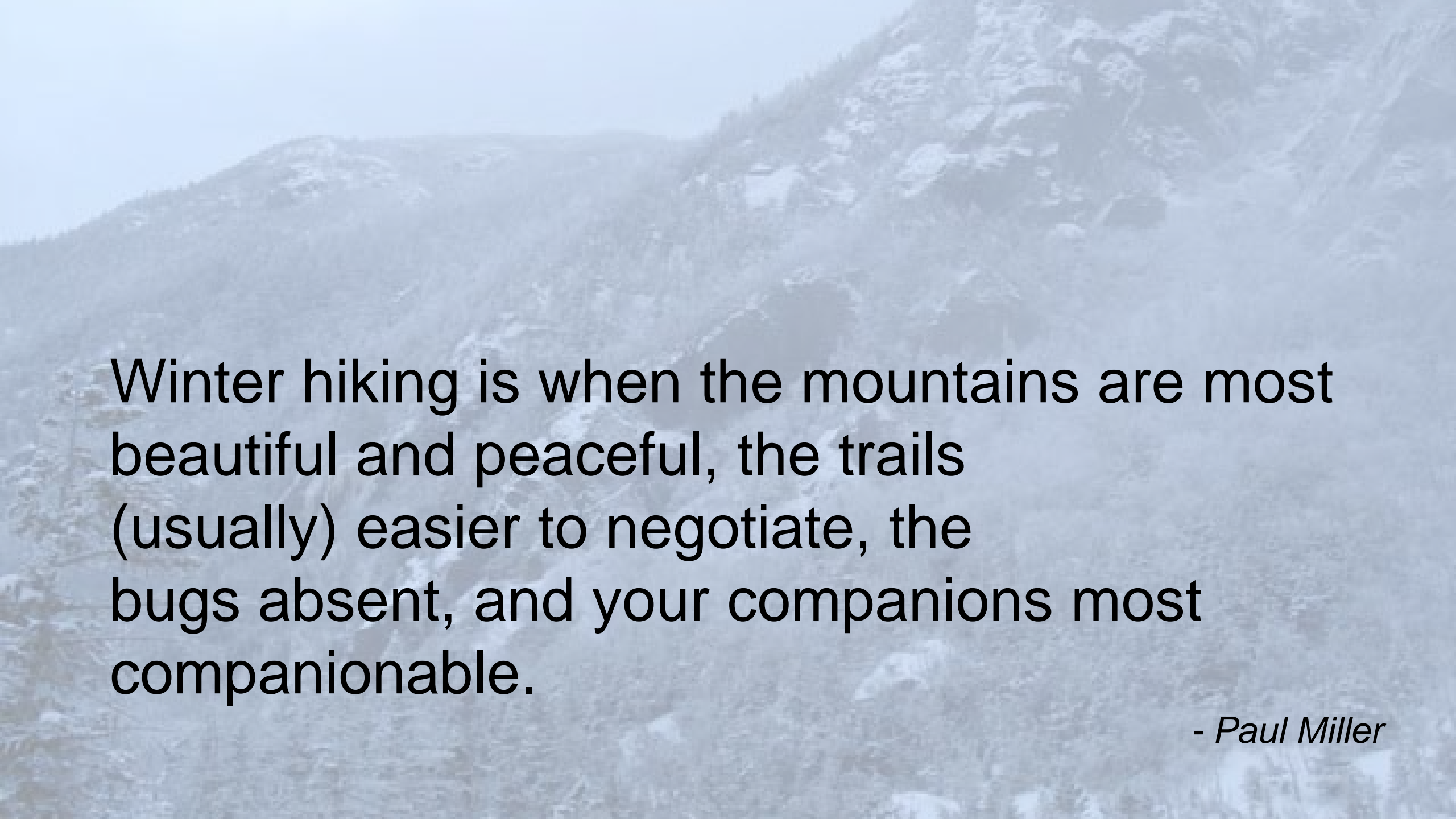
I love the beauty of the whitened landscape without having to pay for an expensive downhill skiing lift ticket. Snow covered trails are smooth regardless of the underlying surface. Just another opportunity to enjoy the outdoors once you have warm gloves.

- Alan Greenstein

A blue-tinted photograph of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, a rocky, uneven path leads up a slope. The middle ground shows a dense forest of evergreen trees covering a ridge. The background features more mountain peaks under a clear sky. The overall scene is serene and natural.

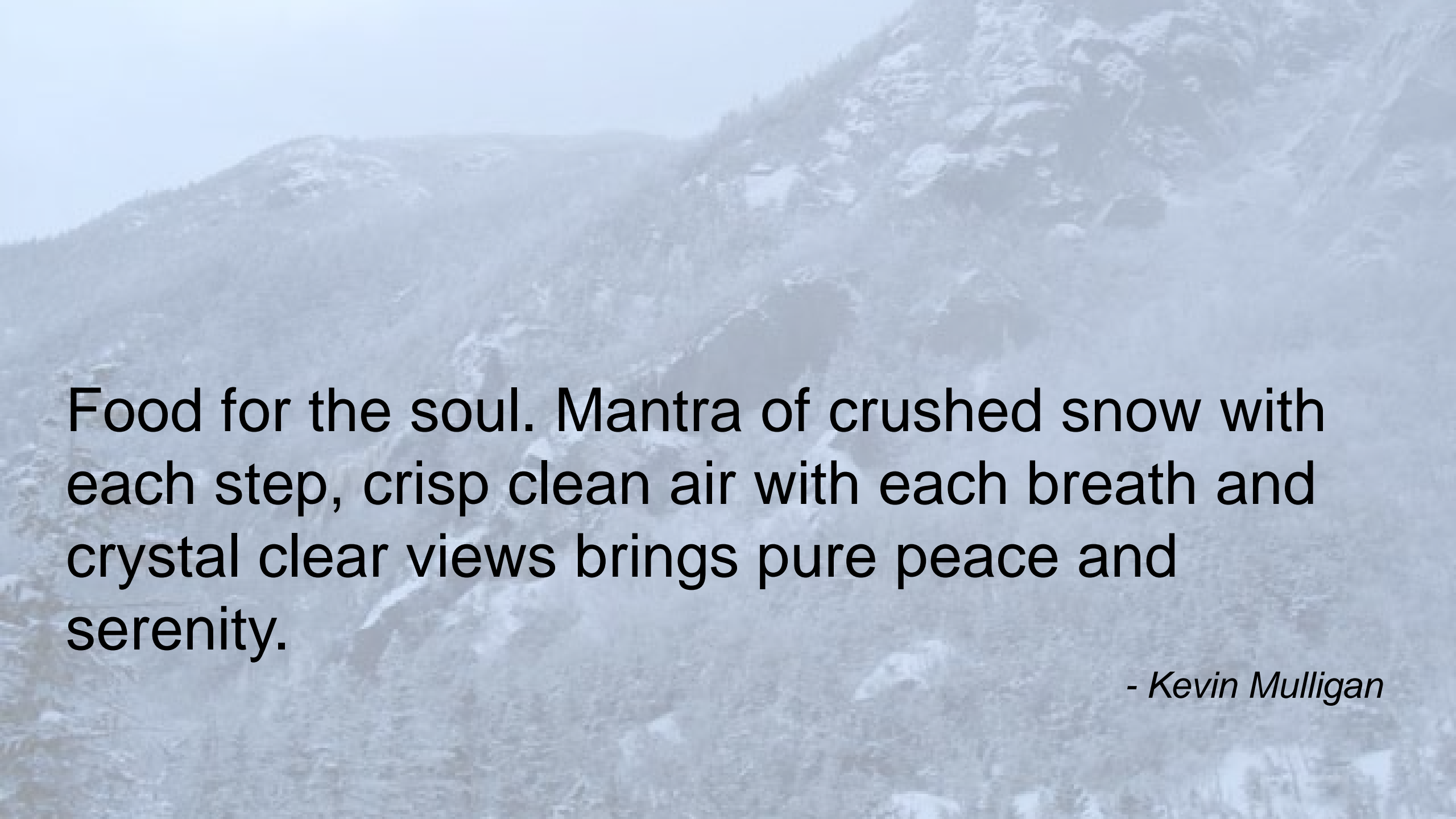
Cool, clear, crisp. No rocks, no roots,
bugs.....

- Mike Woessner



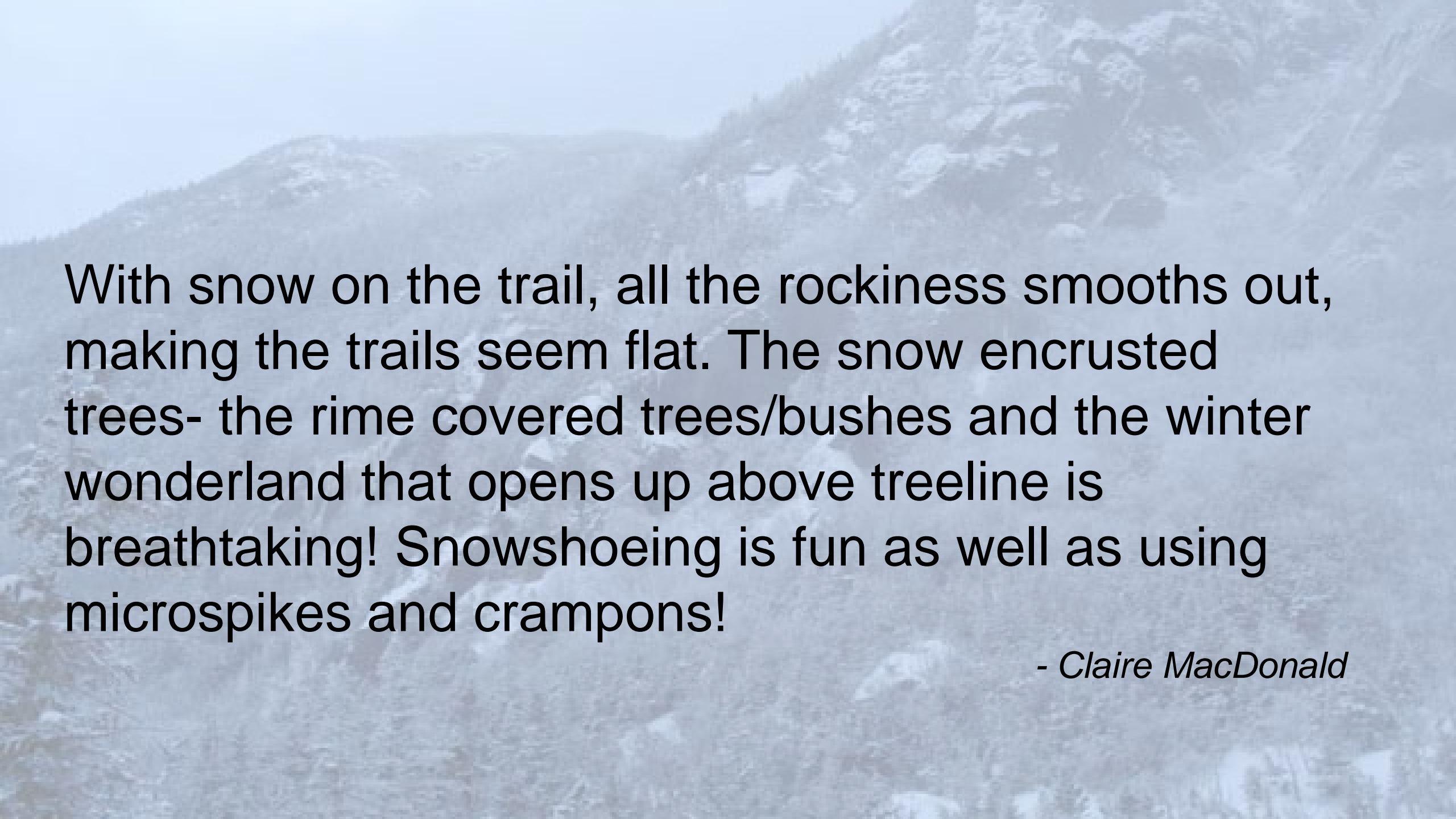
Winter hiking is when the mountains are most beautiful and peaceful, the trails (usually) easier to negotiate, the bugs absent, and your companions most companionable.

- *Paul Miller*

A misty, blue-tinted mountain landscape. The scene shows a path leading up a rocky slope, with dense evergreen trees on the left and a large, dark, rocky outcrop in the center. The background features rolling hills under a hazy sky. The overall atmosphere is serene and quiet.

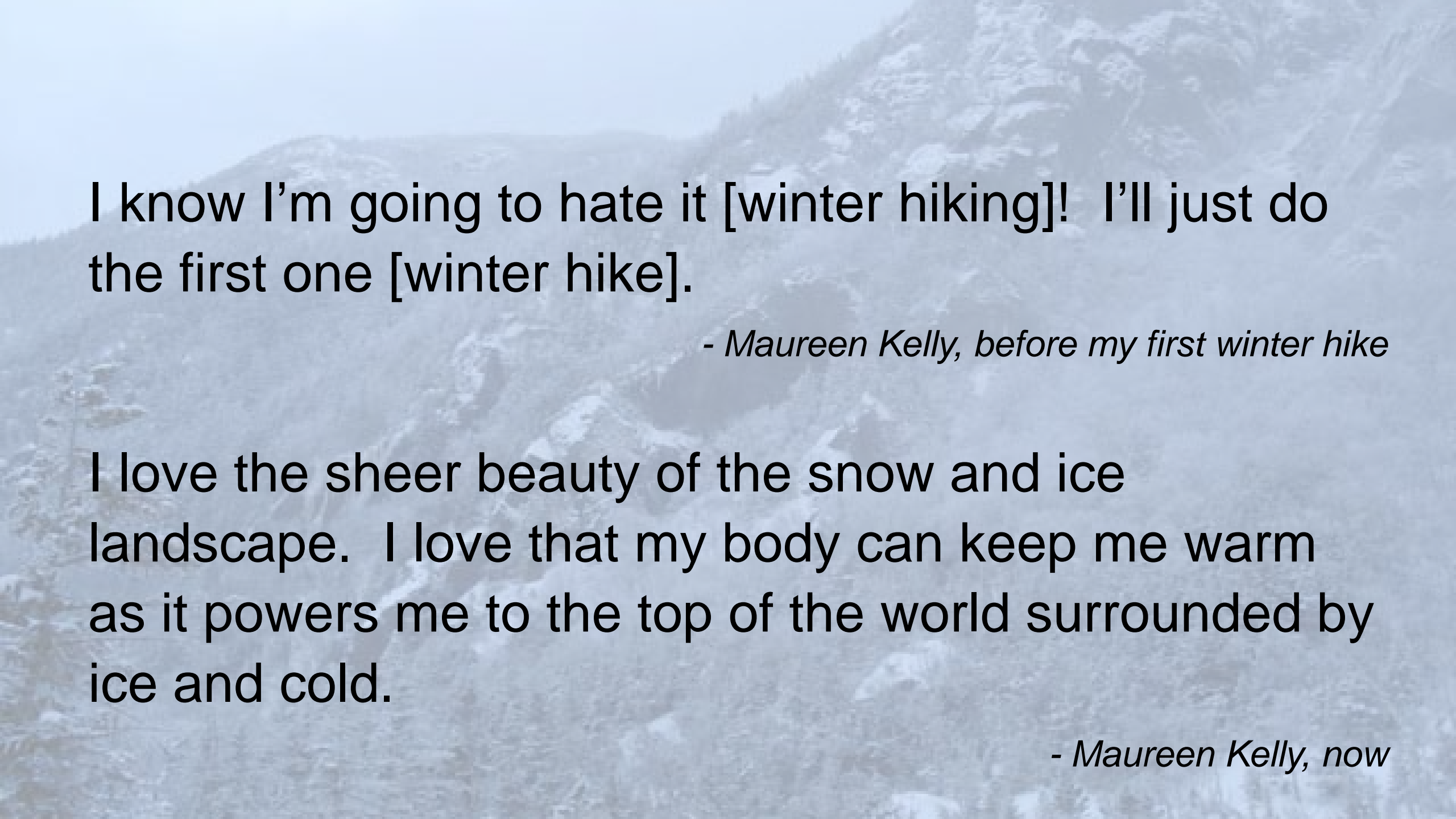
Food for the soul. Mantra of crushed snow with each step, crisp clean air with each breath and crystal clear views brings pure peace and serenity.

- Kevin Mulligan

A blue-tinted photograph of a snowy mountain trail. The trail is covered in snow and leads up a rocky slope. There are evergreen trees on either side, some of which are covered in snow. The background shows more snow-covered mountains under a clear sky.

With snow on the trail, all the rockiness smooths out, making the trails seem flat. The snow encrusted trees- the rime covered trees/bushes and the winter wonderland that opens up above treeline is breathtaking! Snowshoeing is fun as well as using microspikes and crampons!

- *Claire MacDonald*



I know I'm going to hate it [winter hiking]! I'll just do the first one [winter hike].

- Maureen Kelly, before my first winter hike

I love the sheer beauty of the snow and ice landscape. I love that my body can keep me warm as it powers me to the top of the world surrounded by ice and cold.

- Maureen Kelly, now



Well I would say crisp air, snow in the pine trees, micro spikes, crampons, snowshoes, and snow angels. No Bugs.

Wooo Hooo

A leader, back in January 2008 on Welch Dicky, watched while I put on my crampons for the first time, and said to me "you just have to believe they work" and they did.

- *Luther Wallis*

A desolate, rocky mountain landscape with sparse vegetation and a clear sky. The terrain is rugged and appears to be a high-altitude or alpine environment. The overall tone is muted and atmospheric.

Such desolate beauty, a wonder of
ice and reflected light.

- *Paul Brookes*