Skagen in February

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When winter is at its most severe and the icy wind stings your cheeks, it's a relief to find shelter in the small winding streets in Skagen's Østerby. Depending on the direction of the wind, you can always find a route from Carlo's house on Rimmervej to Fyrbakken that provides shelter from the wind. On the slopes of Fyrbakken itself there's no respite from the wind, but on the other hand you get the best view in Skagen of the grey lighthouse, Grenen, Østerby and the harbour. The walk is so good that it's best tackled every day both morning and evening. It's great to get your fill of fresh, salty sea air.

If you get up very early, you can see the departing fishing vessels from the empty slopes of Fyrbakken where the lyme grass and the sand are cloaked in hoar frost, or even better covered in snow - although this seems to be increasingly rare these days. You can retrace your footsteps from the previous day and hope that they'll remain untouched the following day. Skagen is so lovely and peaceful when it's returned to the locals, and the guests are as seldom as the rare species of migrating birds.

In the evening, it's the lights in the darkness and the calmness after a busy day that hit you when standing on the hill listening to the life of the town. The sun doesn't have the power to burn through the clouds, and the short days become a long succession of grey skies. Every now and then, however, the light breaks through the blanket of cloud and generates a beauty that overwhelms everything else. Seeing Skagen in its naked winter suit is truly a winter delight.