

The Heroes of  
Winterville



Paul McElwee



PAUL McELWEE

Have you ever looked through a hole in a tree? There's a particular tree in a particular wood; a large oak tree, and if you look inside the tree at just the right time and in just the right light, it can transport you to a mystical realm.

The name of this place is the Season Islands; there are four great lands where the same season happens all year round, all named after the season they represent. There's Springton where plants begin to grow, animals wake from their winter slumber and Easter is the major holiday. Summer City is a bustling place where it's always sunny and warm, with the best beach. Autumn Falls is a misty wood where leaves fall daily, things start to get colder and Halloween is always around the corner. The fourth of these lands is where we set our tale.

## WINTERVILLE

Deep in the Frosty Forest, with its large trees caked in snow, is the town of Winterville. No matter the time of year, it's always winter here, coating the town and surrounding area in a permanent blanket of white which never melts. Ice cottages, rather cosy despite their name, line the streets lit by big, black lamps, which all lead to Saturnalia Square. At the centre of Winterville is Saturnalia Square. It is a large cobbled area with ice blocks, surrounded by shops and cafes where it's possible to sit and have an iced tea at any time of the day. In the centre of the square, glinting in the sunlight which never melts the snow, is a large crystal snowflake which dominates the area. To the north of the village sits the lake, always frozen over so it isn't unusual to find it full of skaters

PAUL McELWEE

from dawn till dusk. It's one of the favourite pastimes for the snowflakes of Winterville.

The people of Winterville aren't people; they're snowflakes. You'll learn, or probably will learn in school, that snowflakes come from the sky but that's just not true.

The hero of this particular story is Chris Crystal. If you've ever seen a picture of what a snowflake usually looks like, it's Chris; five-pointed like a star only with arms, legs and a face. Pretty unremarkable for a snowflake. As usual on a Saturday, Chris was coming out of his cottage on a snowy morning. It is the middle of December and still dark so the lamps were lit in the streets. Chris works at the Snow Blower, so he had to be at work bright and early to ensure children got snow in time.

'Morning Chris!'

Chris looked across the street to see his friend Pete Pellet. Unlike Chris, Pete was a different type of snowflake. Long and thin, Pete looked more like



a pole than a snowflake. He works at the Snow Blower along with Chris and is his best friend. If you've ever wondered where snow comes from, here's the answer. Every year when



## WINTERVILLE

it gets close to Christmas, snowflakes from Winterville get transported through a magical building called the Snow Blower which takes them all over the parts of the world where snow is found to make sure that children of Earth have a white Christmas. The Snow Blower looks like a massive golden trumpet and it shoots out a beautiful rainbow, sending the snowflakes on their way to Earth in a cascade of colour.

‘Morning Pete!’ Chris called back, waving his hand, he crossed the road to walk with Pete.

‘Another day at work, Pete. Oh, how I love this time of year, helping to bring joy to all the children of Earth! Giving the children the chance to wake up on Christmas morning with their toys and seeing a layer of snow outside. How magical!’