

A MAGICAL WINTER ADVENTURE

Annie Tou



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Written & illustrated by

Annie Tou

Hugs to my Mummy, Daddy and Godmother

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Chapter One

Have you ever wondered what it's like to go on an adventure? A magical adventure?

Deep in the dark forest, Billy was sitting on his chair reading a book next to the cosy, warm fireplace. His sister Jane sat beside him reading a book too. Billy sat up and felt in his pocket. He started to panic.

"It's gone!" he yelled, frantically flapping his arms.

His sister jumped as he shouted.

"What's gone?" asked Jane politely.

"My stone!" shouted Billy.

"Where's it gone?" asked Jane quietly and tentatively.

"That's what I'm trying to work out!" screamed Billy. Both children searched the cottage, under the tables and chairs, inside wardrobes and on top of book shelves. They searched every single corner of the

house. Billy and Jane realised the magical stone was lost and they feared it was gone forever.



Billy's dad was once an explorer and he had found the magical stone in the forest. It had only been several weeks since Billy and Jane's parents had gone away and their father had left behind the magical

stone for Billy. Suddenly, they heard the pitter patter of footsteps. Billy and Jane ran out of the cottage to see what the noise was.

It started to snow heavily. The snow was whirling around so fast the children couldn't see each other or where they were going. The wind pushed and pulled the children further and further into the forest and they were thrown about like leaves blowing in a blizzard. Finally, they crashed into a blanket of snow but they discovered to their dismay that the snow was like quick sand.

"We are sinking!" Billy screamed as both children started to sink waist high into the snow. He tried to climb out but the more he tried, the more he sank into the snow again. Billy managed to catch a long branch. He clung on tight and slowly clambered along the branch to safety. He saw Jane's hand and pulled her out. They rested on the roots of the tree for a moment to catch their breath. "It's not snowing so heavily now," Billy gasped and quickly drew in another lungful of air.

The winter sun looked out through the blue hazy sky but an eerie silence had descended in the forest. A pitter patter of footsteps echoed in the distance and a shadow appeared on the uneven ground, disappearing as quickly as it had come.

“What w..was th...that?” Jane stammered.

“What was what?” asked Billy.

“That shadow,” whispered Jane.

“It’s probably just your imagination,” said Billy, but Jane wasn’t sure.

“Let’s follow the sound,” said Jane. “Someone might be able to help us find our way home.”

“OK,” sighed Billy. The children crawled carefully across the snow to avoid sinking in it again.

Chapter Two



Billy didn’t look where he was crawling. He slipped and dived head first into a ditch and dragged poor Jane in after him. Billy and Jane fell deeper and deeper down the hole, their eyes darting around wondering when they were going to hit the ground. They felt they were falling forever. Finally, they landed on

fluffy feathery snow as though they had been thrown onto a giant pillow filled with pretty delicate snowflakes.

Billy and Jane looked around in amazement. Everything was either made of snow or covered in it. A button popped off Billy’s coat and landed on the glistening soft snow. Billy picked it up and stuffed it

in his pocket. Suddenly, an army of snowmen charged towards them and the one at the front yelled, "Trespassers!!!"

"He must be the leader," Billy said under his breath. Billy noticed a stone on the snowman's chest. He nudged Jane. "He's wearing my magical stone" he whispered angrily. Jane gasped.

"Excuse me, Mr Frosty Marshmallow," Billy said cheekily. Jane's tummy began to rumble although she was also feeling terrified. To stop herself feeling scared, she immediately pictured herself having a nice cup of hot chocolate, with cream and marshmallows sitting by the fire. She held tightly onto these happy comforting thoughts. Yummy, lots of fluffy white marshmallows for me to eat, she thought as the snowmen inched closer to her and her brother.

"That stone on your chest belongs to me," shouted Billy. He pointed to one of the stones which was on the snowman's round body. There were three perfectly smooth stones that the snowman had used for his buttons. Billy's magical stone had a hand-painted drawing of a flower on it. "I can prove that stone belongs to me. If you turn the stone with the flower over you will see my name inscribed on it. You will see the name, Billy Hill." The snowman plucked the stone off his

squishy body and turned it over slowly. Lo and behold the back of the stone had an inscription.

"Oh, you are right, it does indeed say Billy Hill." He handed the stone over to Billy and said, "I believe this belongs to you. I am sorry I took your stone Billy Hill. My name is Mr Coldy, not Mr Frosty Marshmallow," The snowman looked rather offended.

"Sorry, Mr Coldy," Billy said in response and he lowered his head down, embarrassed by what he had called the snowman. He stuck his hand in to his pocket and dropped the stone safely inside only to find that there was something else in there that was round and smooth. Billy took his hand out of his pocket to reveal a button that looked familiar. Jane looked at it and exclaimed,

"Isn't that the button that fell off your coat earlier?"

"Oh yes," said Billy. He looked over at Mr Coldy who was looking at them curiously. "Mr Coldy, I think these belong to you." Billy proceeded to pull off two other buttons from his coat and he handed Mr Coldy three great green shiny buttons. Mr Coldy fixed the new buttons neatly onto his body and he beamed with joy. He took the

stones that he had plucked off and placed them into the children's hands. The stones magically turned into snow candies and the children gasped in astonishment.



Chapter Three

"Let's party!" yelled Billy. That night the children had lots of fun eating candies, snow pies and drinking ice juice. Billy and Jane, Mr Coldy and all the other snowmen had an enormous snowball fight. Billy threw a giant snowball at Mr Coldy and he pelted one straight back at Billy which covered him head to toe in snow. Strangely, the snowmen absorbed all of the snowballs as if they were sponges and they simply grew bigger and bigger. Jane and Billy found themselves standing amongst snow giants so they decided it was time to do something else before things got out of hand. They started making a ridiculous looking snowman with the plentiful snow around them. "It looks funny," Billy and Jane said at the same time and they laughed. Mr Coldy appeared and looked at the snowman.

"Is that supposed to be me?" he asked. Nobody answered him.

"Just one more thing," Billy said. He ran and picked a button off from Mr Coldy's tummy and stuck it onto the snowman that he and Jane had made. "Now that looks more like you". They all laughed and Mr Coldy looked horrified and annoyed. He squashed the

ridiculous snowman with his big snowy foot and took back his button. The children began to giggle again and then burst into side splitting laughter. Poor Mr Coldy's foot had suddenly tripled in size because it had absorbed more snow.

"Ridiculous!!!" yelled Mr Coldy.



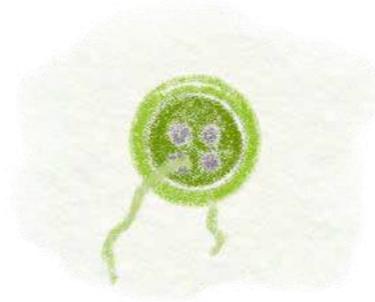
Chapter Four

Snow Village was the place where the snowmen went after they had melted. These were the snowmen made by the children of the world, except Mr Coldy, who was made with magic, the magic of the winter sun. The sky was painted with a beautiful bright blue and the snowmen liked to raise a smile to the sky with an enormously great grin. There were mountains in the distance covered in snow and they glistened in the sun that peaked out of the clouds. At night time, the stars sparkled brightening the night sky. Sometimes, the snowmen would try to reach for a star and occasionally catch one. Whenever this happened all the snowmen celebrated no matter how late it was.

Every day the snowmen had lists of jobs to do like digging up snow to find if there were any ice diamonds. They would also pick off icicles from houses made of snow and turn them into jewellery for the snowwomen, or make sculptures of snow plants.

Snow Village was more than just a village. It was a magical world that nestled underground beneath our human world. Despite Snow

Village being such a wonderful place, everything was quite white, except for Mr Coldy's green buttons.



Billy wanted to show off to all the snow people the powers of his magical stone. He offered a once-in-a-blue-moon opportunity for the people in Snow Village to fly with him. This became particularly popular amongst the snow children who seemed to love the thrill and excitement of flying. They kept coming back for more rides.

Jane borrowed the stone from Billy to create a rainbow of colourful flowers. Everyone came to admire her rainbow garden and all its wonders.



At night Billy and Jane saw a bright star twinkling in the sky. They flew up high, higher and higher, using the stone's powers and caught the star. Billy waved the star in the air in great excitement and slowly all heads were turned to him and his sister. All the snow people cheered and celebrated. That night was a particularly special night for Billy and Jane. They had caught a star to keep forever.

Chapter Five

After having a great time, Billy and Jane decided to go home because they had been away for so many days. Mr Coldy felt a tingle in his frosty heart and was sad to see them leave.

“Can I visit you any time? Mr Coldy asked.

“Only in winter I’m afraid,” Billy said and quickly added, “because where we come from, we have four seasons and you may not like our summers. It can get quite hot.” Just before they were going to leave, Mr Coldy gave them a big squishy hug.

“Can you let go now?” mumbled Billy with snow trapped in his mouth.

“Of course,” answered Mr Coldy and dropped the children onto the fuzzy white snow. The snowman started to cry and large hail stones the size of golf balls hit the ground.

“It’s OK,” Jane said gently. “We’ll see you again soon.”

Mr Coldy stopped crying and said a tearful goodbye to them. Billy took his stone out of his pocket and placed it on his left hand. He

turned it three hundred and sixty degrees once clockwise and then one hundred and eighty degrees anti-clockwise. He began to fly and drifted under the opening of the deep hollow ditch from where they had fallen. He took Jane by the hand and they zoomed into the air. “Bye snow friends!” Billy shouted.

“Thank you for making our visit so exciting,” yelled Jane and her voice echoed loudly inside the underground hole.

Billy and Jane flew home, the wind blowing against their rosy cheeks and they felt the air whizzing under them. Finally, they opened the door of their cottage and stared around the hallway dazed because everything seemed so different even though nothing had changed at all. Jane’s eyes filled with tears as she remembered all the fun times the family had had together. “I miss mummy and daddy and all our snow friends,” said Jane.

Billy added “me too”.

Suddenly, her nose picked up a whiff of something chocolatey in the air. She said to Billy,

“I smell something, can you smell it too?”

Billy answered “Yes, let’s follow it.” The children followed the scent into the living room and saw two faces smiling at them. “Mummy, daddy!” screamed Billy and Jane. They threw themselves into their parent’s arms. Billy and Jane yelled,

“We have had the most magical adventure ever.”

Their mummy and daddy replied, “We have too Billy and Jane.”

Filled with joy and laughter, the family spent many cold winter evenings together, sharing stories of their amazing adventures next to the fireplace, drinking cups of hot chocolate and eating marshmallows.



THE END

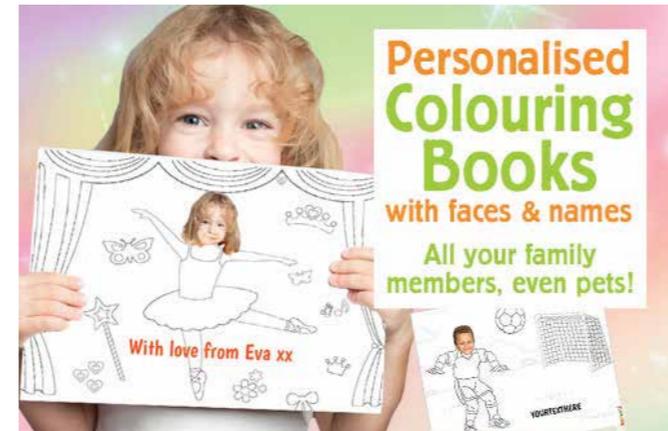
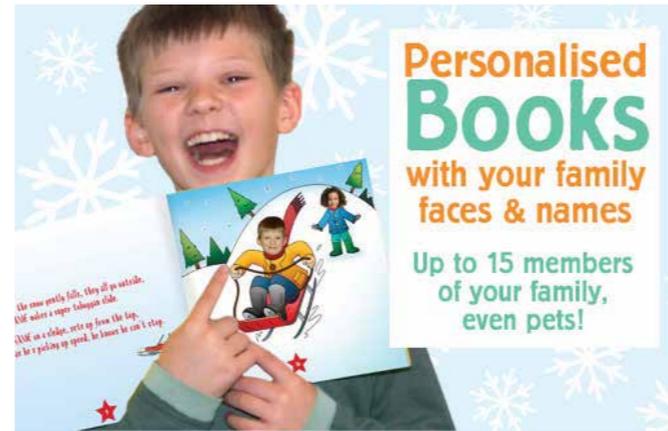
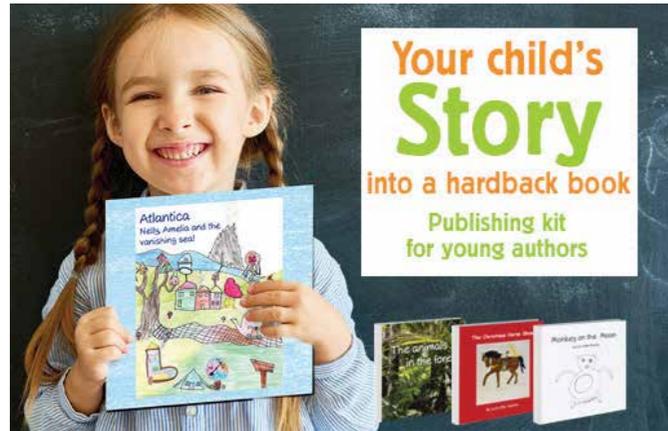
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Billy and Jane have to save the day before Billy's magical stone falls into the wrong hands. They go on all sorts of adventures and meet some interesting characters. Will Billy and Jane succeed in their mission? Join them on their most magical winter adventure.