


# Frozen Alive

by Kim Feltes

How cold is really cold? What do you think the term "deathly cold" means? That's a question that a young boy has to answer in the story you are about to hear. And . . . as incredible as this story might be, remember it is absolutely true.

It was an icy December morning in 1987. Nine-year-old Justin Bunker climbed from his bed and glanced out at the snow-blanketed Connecticut countryside. He dressed, ate a quick breakfast, then made his way across the snow to a friend's house.

The two boys borrowed a sled from a neighbor. Then they headed to the playground of a nearby school. It had a great hill for sledding.

There was a shortcut into the playground. The chain link fence around an outdoor swimming pool had an opening in it. The boys climbed through. They were just making their way around the iced-over pool, but it was just too tempting. Justin and his friend skated out onto the thick ice in their boots. The two began horsing around. That's when it happened.

Without warning, the ice gave way under Justin's feet. He let out a yell as he shot down into the freezing cold water. His friend watched helplessly. He stared down into the dark hole through which Justin had fallen. Justin appeared to be on the bottom, face-up and not moving.

In a state of panic, the boy raced to

Justin's mother, who called the fire department. Within six minutes, firefighters and paramedics arrived at the scene. Two of them immediately jumped into the frozen pool. Their heavy clothing and the darkness of the icy water made it hard to move rapidly. Several minutes passed before they reached the apparently lifeless body.

Finally, Justin was dragged from the pool. But there was no hope. He had been completely underwater for over twenty minutes. His eyes were frozen shut. His lungs and stomach were partly filled with ice-cold water. His body was stiff.

Justin was dead.

Well—he was almost dead.

Paramedics worked on him as they rushed him off in an ambulance. When he reached the hospital, he was unconscious and unable to breathe on his own. But he did have a faint pulse.

Doctors wrapped him in an electric heating pad. An oxygen mask was strapped over his face. For eight hours he lay in a hospital bed, unmoving, seemingly lifeless.

It seemed like Justin's life was slowing coming to an end. When suddenly he sat