

## A NOTE FROM MAGGIE O'FARRELL

I fell in love with snow at an early age. Several winters in a row, our town was beset by snowstorms. I remember so clearly waking up in the morning and knowing, before we even pulled back the curtains, that snow had fallen: the hushed silence and the pale light was unmistakable. There's nothing like snow. It's transformative, gloriously disruptive, mesmerizingly beautiful, and the closest relative of magic. It makes everything unfamiliar—your street, your backyard, your home. Its presence brings with it the possibility of breaking normal routines and rules.

*Where Snow Angels Go* began life as a series of letters I wrote to my children while I was away on a book tour. I mailed one each day I was gone, with an installment of the story. When I got home, my children wanted to know what happened next, so I decided to expand it into a longer narrative.

I was over the moon that I was paired with illustrator Daniela Jaglenka Terrazzini. She and I first met on a sweltering July day in London; she pushed several sheets of paper over the table toward me, which was nerve-racking, as I was wondering what on earth I would do if I didn't like them. But I loved them the instant I saw them. She had captured Sylvie and her angel so precisely and compassionately. Daniela and I had many discussions about angels: What did they look like? What did they wear? How tall were they? What was their hair like? I went to Rome and found my ideal angels there, on the Ponte Sant'Angelo.

This is the first time I've ever collaborated on a book; writing novels for grown-ups is a fairly solitary occupation. One of the elements I found most interesting was carving out places where Daniela could take the reins of the narrative. I really wanted there to be a symbiosis between words and pictures, that the baton of the story should pass seamlessly between them, and that there might be things for children to spot in the illustrations that aren't necessarily present in the text.

*Where Snow Angels Go* is about courage, strength, and resilience in the face of life's challenges. It's about how we all need to find an angel to watch over us, and perhaps be an angel for others, if we get the chance.



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