

Winter's Children

Jim Mangan



WINTER'S CHILDREN

BY JIM MANGAN

ESSAYS BY PETER LINE AND PETER SUTHERLAND

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This PDF of Winter's Children is only a preview of the entire book. To see the complete version, please contact Joel Caceres, Publicity Associate, at joel@powerhousebooks.com

For much of the world, snowboarding is only what has been seen on TV: a redheaded kid with a goofy nickname winning gold at the Olympics and a girl flying off the side of a scaffolding jump on the Letterman Show. Solid TV entertainment, but these much-hyped moments don't show the entirety of the sport. There is plenty more depth and history when we peel back the layers and have a little look-see at some of snowboarding's more defining moments through the years:

- USSR 1985, a fictional British spy is trying to escape on snowmobile from Soviet troops, when his snowmobile is blown up by an enemy missile. With the ski troops closing in fast, our hero's quick wits devise a plan of escape. He grabs one of the skis from the wrecked snowmobile and uses it as a surfboard on the snow. He then jumps and slashes his way down the mountain to freedom, and thereby puts Her Majesty's Secret Service in the snowboarding history books.
- California 1987, snowboarding to a catchy song, snow shredders in brightly colored tights skip and twirl their way down the slopes to sell a fruity-tasting chewing gum. The death toll from choking on gum while snowboarding rises.
- Idaho 2004, Presidential candidate John Kerry's photo is taken snowboarding without a helmet. Six months later, George W. Bush wins his second term as president of the United States.
- Hollywood 2009, a young Olympic snowboarding hopeful enters a televised dance contest to win...a dance contest. He ollies and corks his way to 8th place to the delight of millions of TV watchers around the world on a little show called *Dancing with the Stars*. Donny Osmond goes on to win.

These are all crucial landmarks in the sport. Without them, snowboarding wouldn't be so awesome. In fact, if James Bond never invented snowboarding in the Russian cascades, perhaps we wouldn't be chewing Juicy Fruit gum, John Kerry would be president and Donny Osmond would still be Donny Osmond. But, even though these are snowboarding's proudest moments to-date, I can't help but think there is more to it. Just maybe...

Peter Line





In 1987 I found a Burton Elite 140 snowboard wrapped in a garbage bag in my parents' bedroom closet. I had to act surprised when I opened it for Christmas a few days later. Snowboarding was new and there was some animosity between snowboarders and skiers. My dad's friend referred to snowboarders as "gays on trays," and would complain about how they ruined the moguls. Since then, the sport has evolved every year and I feel lucky to have lived through it (even the phat pants years in the mid-90s). I've always felt a special connection to snowboarding—its all about creativity, exploring in nature with friends, and expressing yourself.

There's a famous ski town in Colorado called Crested Butte that's known for its super-steep, rocky slopes and the laid-back, big mountain vibe of its community. Crested Butte locals had a tradition for years that on the last day of every season people would ski naked to celebrate the end of winter. I'm pretty sure this tradition has died since the Butte has become flooded with tourists. Ski towns like CB are also known for having T-shirt shops. At age eight I had a shirt that said "No Guts, No Glory, Go For It." It had a silhouette of a skier doing a spread eagle in front of two black diamonds (a double diamond is the most difficult rating for a ski slope). Around this time it seemed like the "Party Naked" T-shirt was also gaining popularity and pretty soon there was a "Ski Naked" shirt. This shirt made me wonder what it really would be like to ski naked. I would sometimes consider the pros and cons in my mind, but never tried it.

As I'm writing this I'm 34. Jim and I have been good friends since we met in 1995 at Fort Lewis College (Durango, Colorado). We both share a love of snowboarding, film, and photography. It's a special thing to have good friends and share a creative exchange with them. The *Winter's Children* shoot was fun and loose. Using the old equipment made me think of the first time I carved in powder and how free it felt. We were high in the mountains in Idaho and it was taking us a long time to actually shoot anything. I got frustrated and climbed up the hill first to try to get everyone to start shooting because it was freezing. I was standing on top of a nice powder field, strapped to an old Sims snowboard, wearing only generic rented snowmobile boots, no pants, and a black winter jacket to keep me warm while I waited to drop in. In the valley below I could see all of Jim's friends who volunteered as his production crew, along with a fleet of snowmobiles, a bonfire, a bunch of Utah snowboard stars running around naked wearing only hippie blankets, my brother Andrew holding a video camera, and Quinn (the best dog in the universe) bounding through the powder. Jim was finally able to wrangle everyone into going up the mountain. It had become a magical combination of "Party Naked" and "Ski Naked" and I think that freedom comes through clearly in the photos.

Peter Sutherland

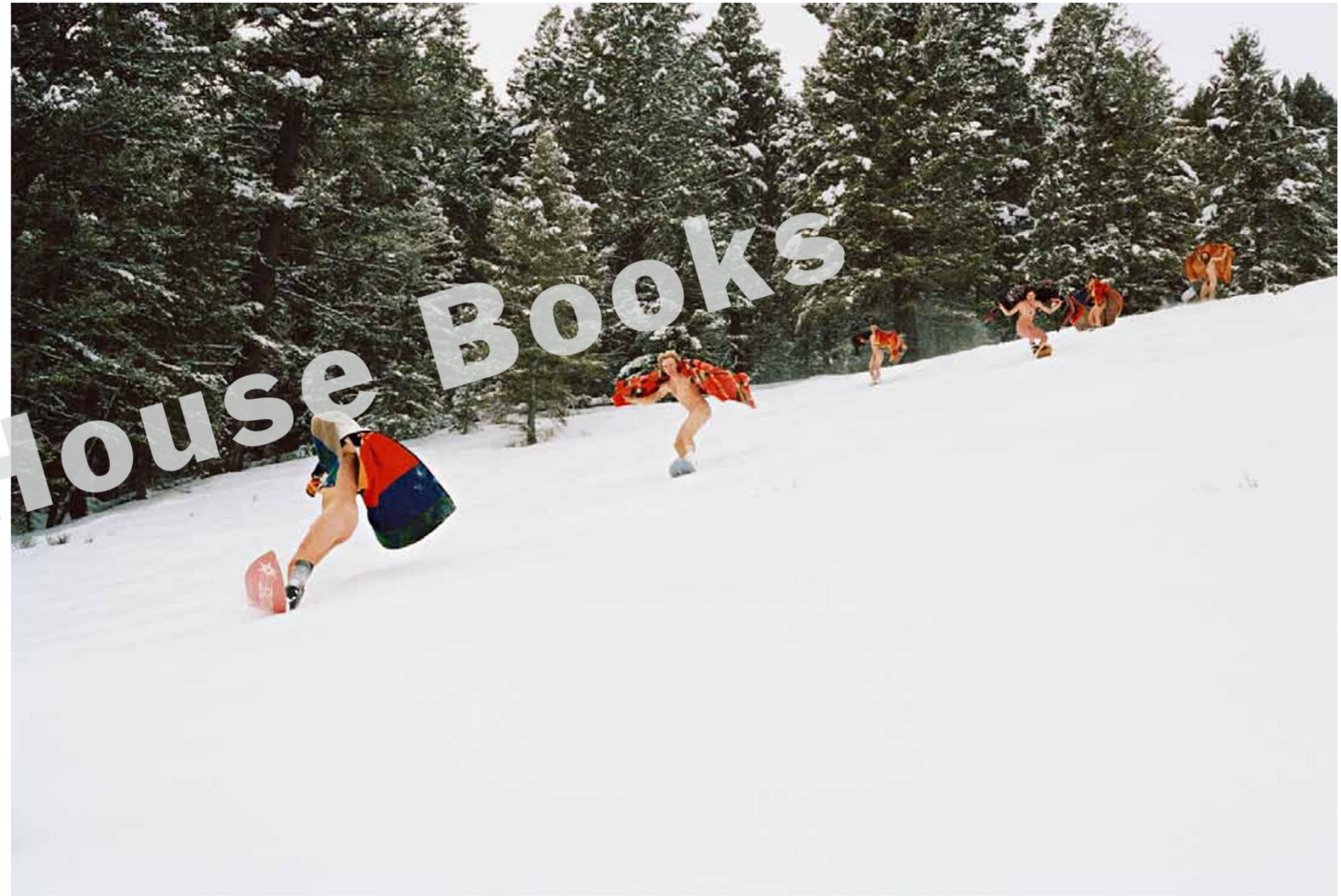




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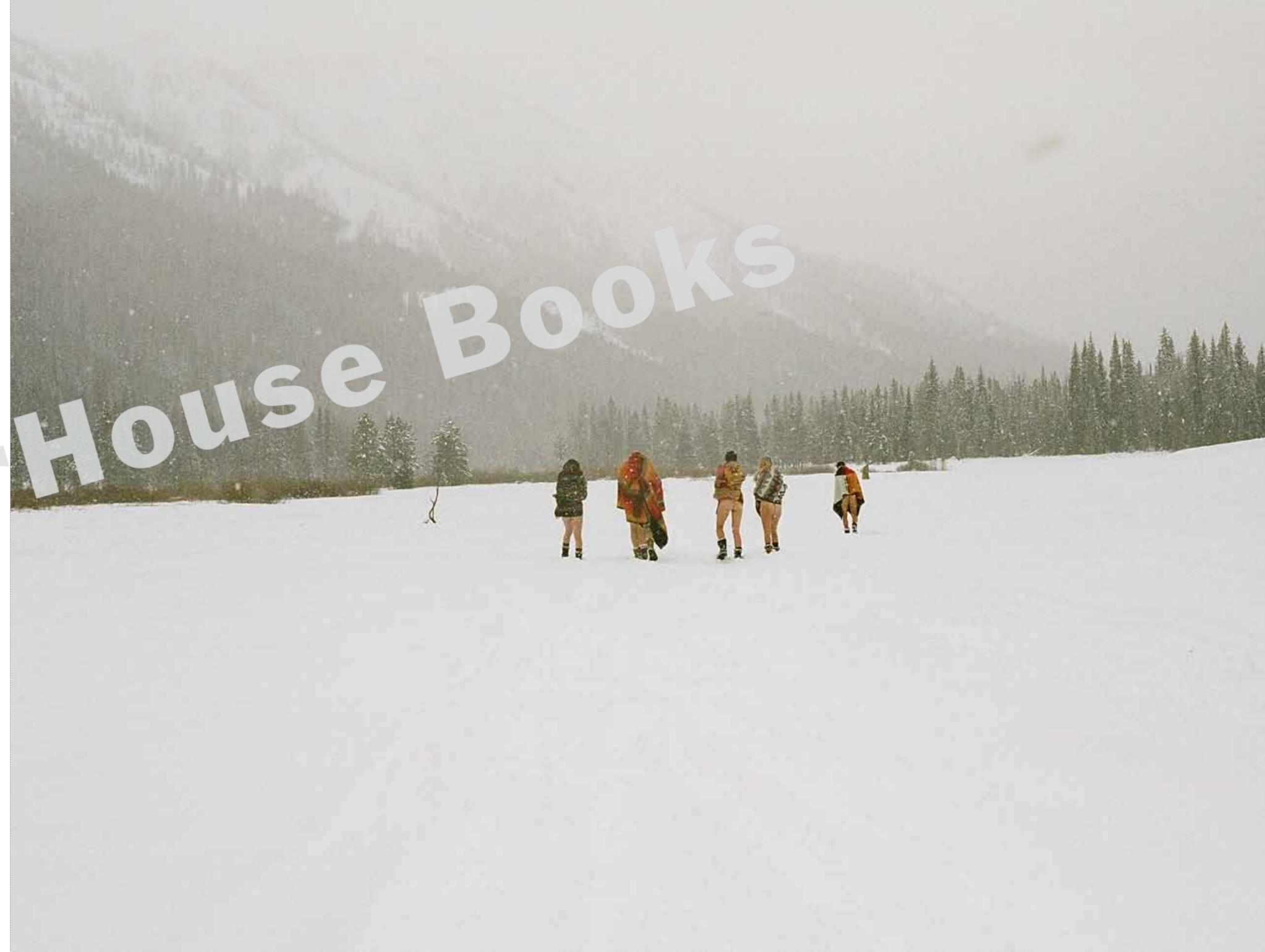


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“When in my life will I ever get to do a naked method over a fire?”

Alex Andrews



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