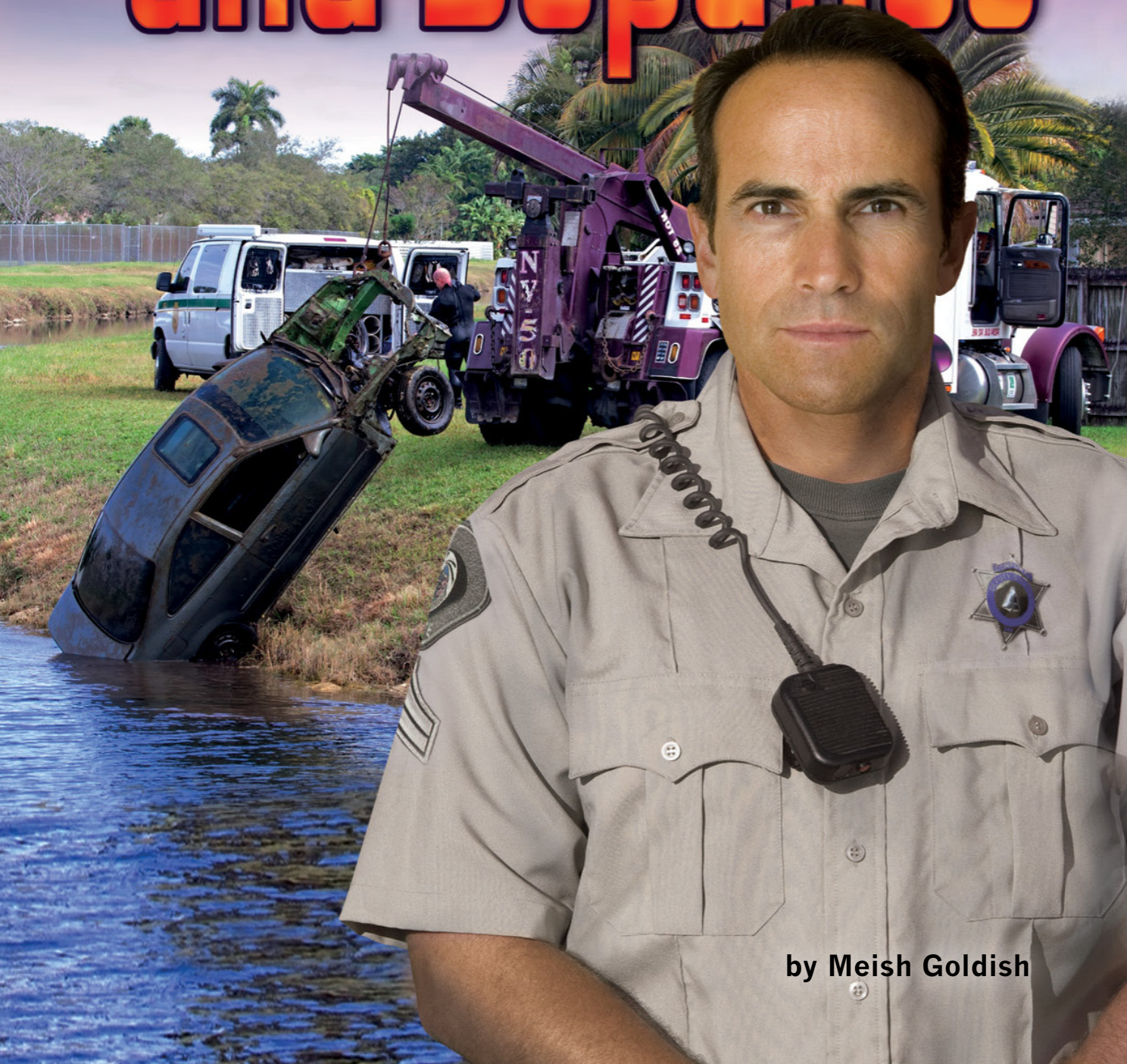




Sheriffs and Deputies



by Meish Goldish

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Trapped in a Fire!

One afternoon in December 2014, Deputy Josh Mays got a call that someone at a house in Baldwin **County**, Georgia, might be in trouble. When the deputy drove to the address, he found the house **engulfed** in fire. Flames crawled up the walls and roof, and thick smoke poured out of the windows. Deputy Mays reported the fire to the **dispatcher** and then checked inside the home. That's when he heard Patsy Smith screaming for help.



The dispatcher had received a 9-1-1 call from Patsy, but the call got cut off before she could say anything. Concerned, the dispatcher **traced** the call to Patsy's address and sent Deputy Mays to check things out.

At first, the smoke was so thick that Deputy Mays couldn't see Patsy. Finally, he spotted her behind a kitchen table. Mays tried three times to reach the **victim**. Each time, the heavy smoke drove him back. Even worse, the roof was starting to cave in. The deputy had to act fast, but what could he do?

Deputy Mays arrived at the scene of the fire in a vehicle like this one.



Facing the Flames

Soon, a second deputy arrived at the house with gas masks. Deputy Mays put a mask on and raced into the smoke-filled kitchen. He grabbed Patsy and quickly pulled her out of the house. The victim was badly burned. However, thanks to the deputy's brave rescue, she survived the terrible blaze.



Gas masks prevent people from breathing in harmful gases during a fire, and protect the eyes from smoke and soot.

After the rescue, Baldwin County Sheriff Bill Massee praised his deputy. "I am extremely proud of Deputy Mays," he said. "I'm not surprised that he would confront a fire to save a life. He is a person who was not going to let someone die."



Deputy Mays (center) and other members of the Baldwin County Sheriff's Department received awards for helping to save Patsy Smith.