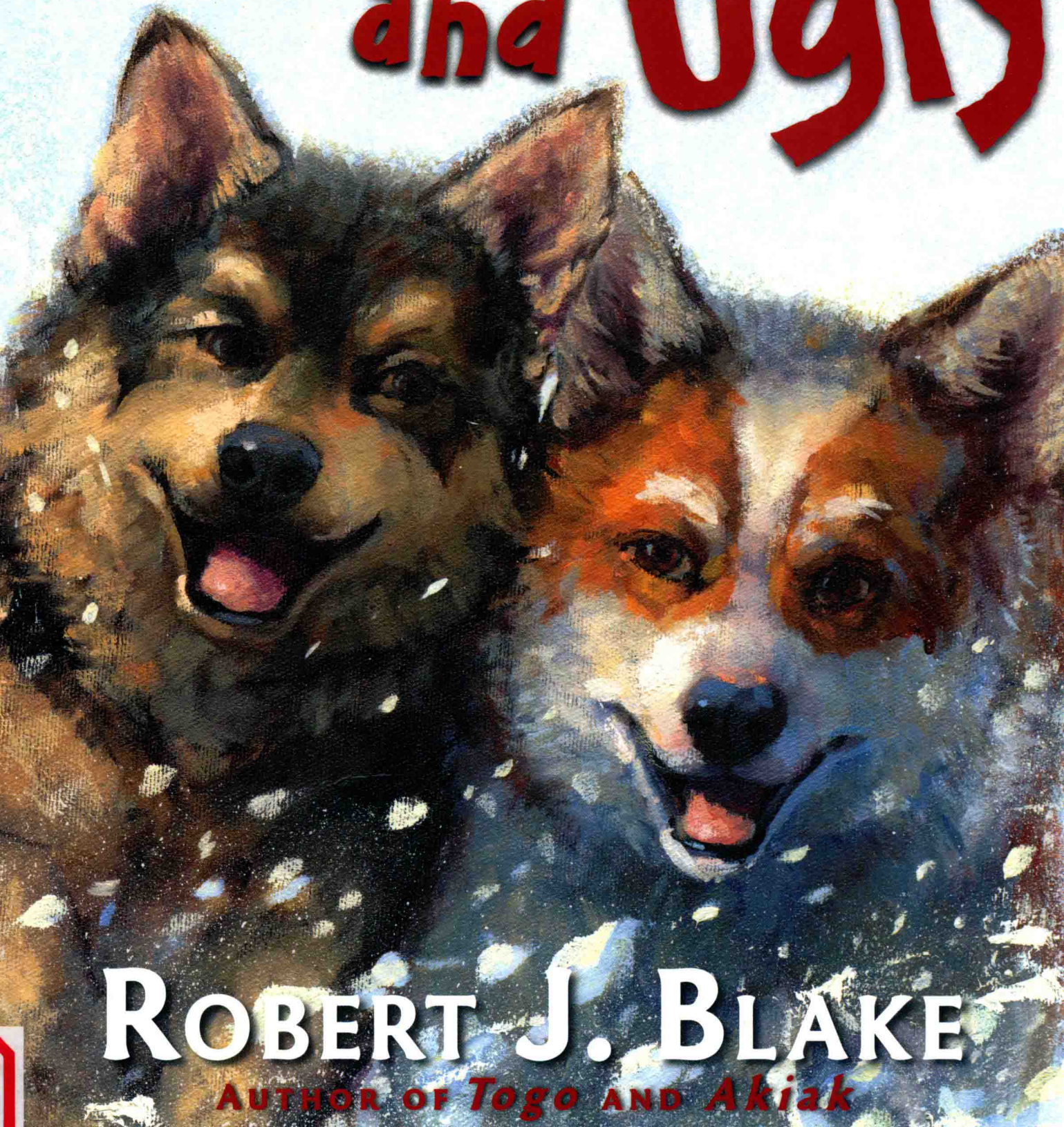


Painter and Ugly



ROBERT J. BLAKE

AUTHOR OF Togo AND Akiak



Painter and Ugly



ROBERT J. BLAKE

Philomel Books
An Imprint of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.

*To my longtime loyal and dedicated friends
Alfred, Gary, Janet, and Lynn.*

☞ *A special dedication—
To Patricia Lee Gauch—
in appreciation of your longstanding loyalty
and belief in your authors and artists.
We are proud to call you friend.* ☞

PHILOMEL BOOKS

A division of Penguin Young Readers Group.

Published by The Penguin Group. Penguin Group (USA) Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014, U.S.A.
Penguin Group (Canada), 90 Eglinton Avenue East, Suite 700, Toronto, Ontario M4P 2Y3, Canada (a division of Pearson Penguin Canada Inc.).
Penguin Books Ltd, 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, England.
Penguin Ireland, 25 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland (a division of Penguin Books Ltd).
Penguin Group (Australia), 250 Camberwell Road, Camberwell, Victoria 3124, Australia (a division of Pearson Australia Group Pty Ltd).
Penguin Books India Pvt Ltd, 11 Community Centre, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi - 110 017, India.
Penguin Group (NZ), 67 Apollo Drive, Rosedale, North Shore 0632, New Zealand (a division of Pearson New Zealand Ltd).
Penguin Books (South Africa) (Pty) Ltd, 24 Sturdee Avenue, Rosebank, Johannesburg 2196, South Africa.
Penguin Books Ltd, Registered Offices: 80 Strand, London WC2R 0RL, England.

Copyright © 2011 by Robert J. Blake. All rights reserved. This book, or parts thereof, may not be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the publisher, Philomel Books, a division of Penguin Young Readers Group, 345 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014. Philomel Books, Reg. U.S. Pat. & Tm. Off. The scanning, uploading and distribution of this book via the Internet or via any other means without the permission of the publisher is illegal and punishable by law. Please purchase only authorized electronic editions, and do not participate in or encourage electronic piracy of copyrighted materials. Your support of the author's rights is appreciated. The publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

Published simultaneously in Canada. Manufactured in China by South China Printing Co. Ltd.

Design by Semadar Megged. Text set in 18-point Paradigm. The artist used oil paint to create the illustrations for this book.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Blake, Robert J. Painter and Ugly / Robert J. Blake. p. cm. Summary: Painter and Ugly, two sled dogs who are inseparable best friends, are put on different teams for the Junior Iditarod, but they manage to find their way back to one another for the big race. 1. Sled dogs—Juvenile fiction. [1. Sled dogs—Fiction. 2. Dogs—Fiction. 3. Iditarod (Race)—Fiction. 4. Sled dog racing—Fiction. 5. Best friends—Fiction. 6. Friendship—Fiction. 7. Alaska—Fiction.] I. Title. PZ10.3.B5815Pai 2011 [E]—dc22

2010005395

ISBN 978-0-399-24323-3

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2



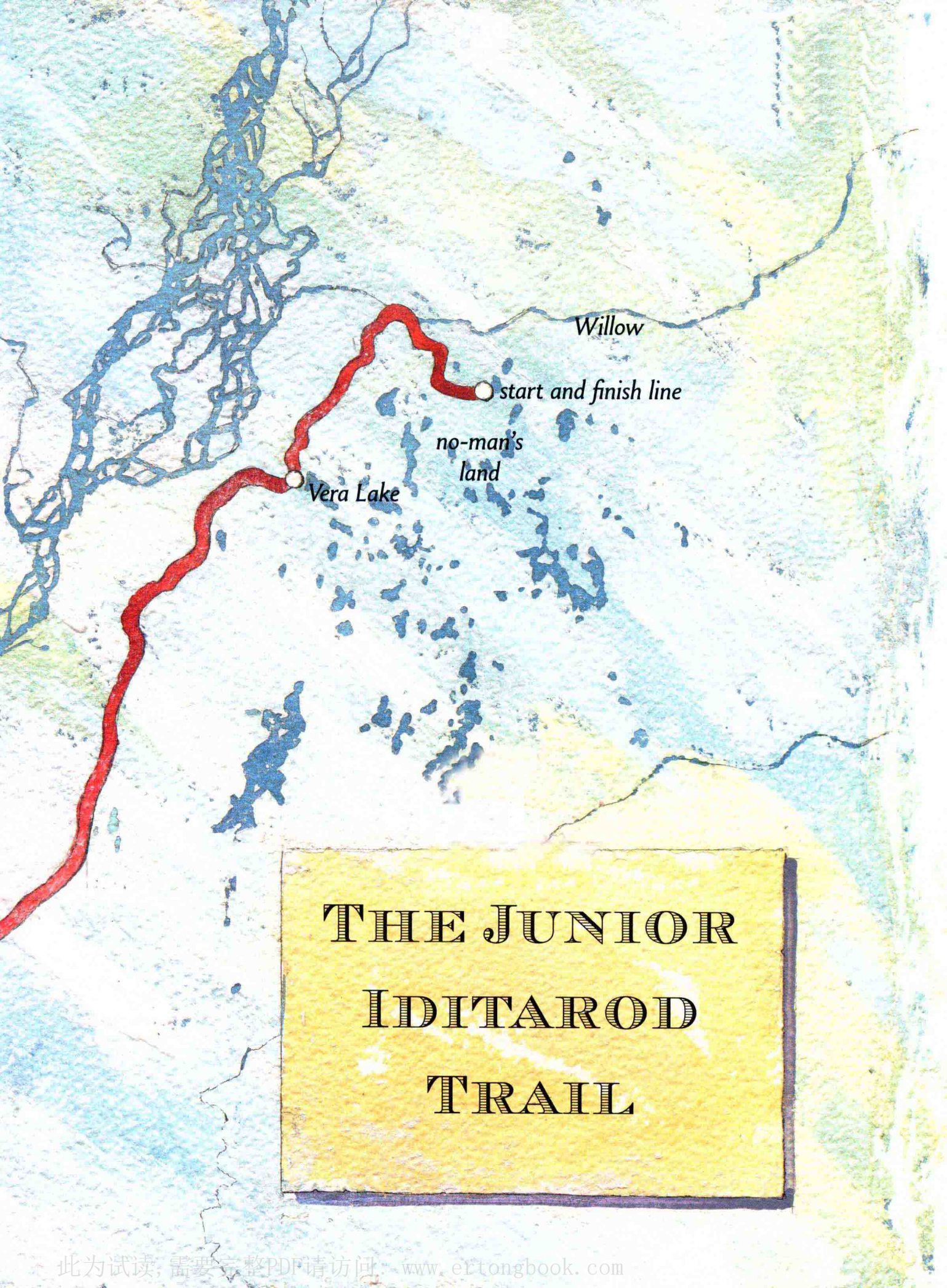
Yentna Station

Yentna River

Eagle Song

Su River Crossing

Susitna River



Willow

start and finish line

no-man's
land

Vera Lake

THE JUNIOR IDITAROD TRAIL



*Painter and Ugly were best friends. Through winter, spring,
summer, and fall, they were always together.*

Nothing could keep them apart.



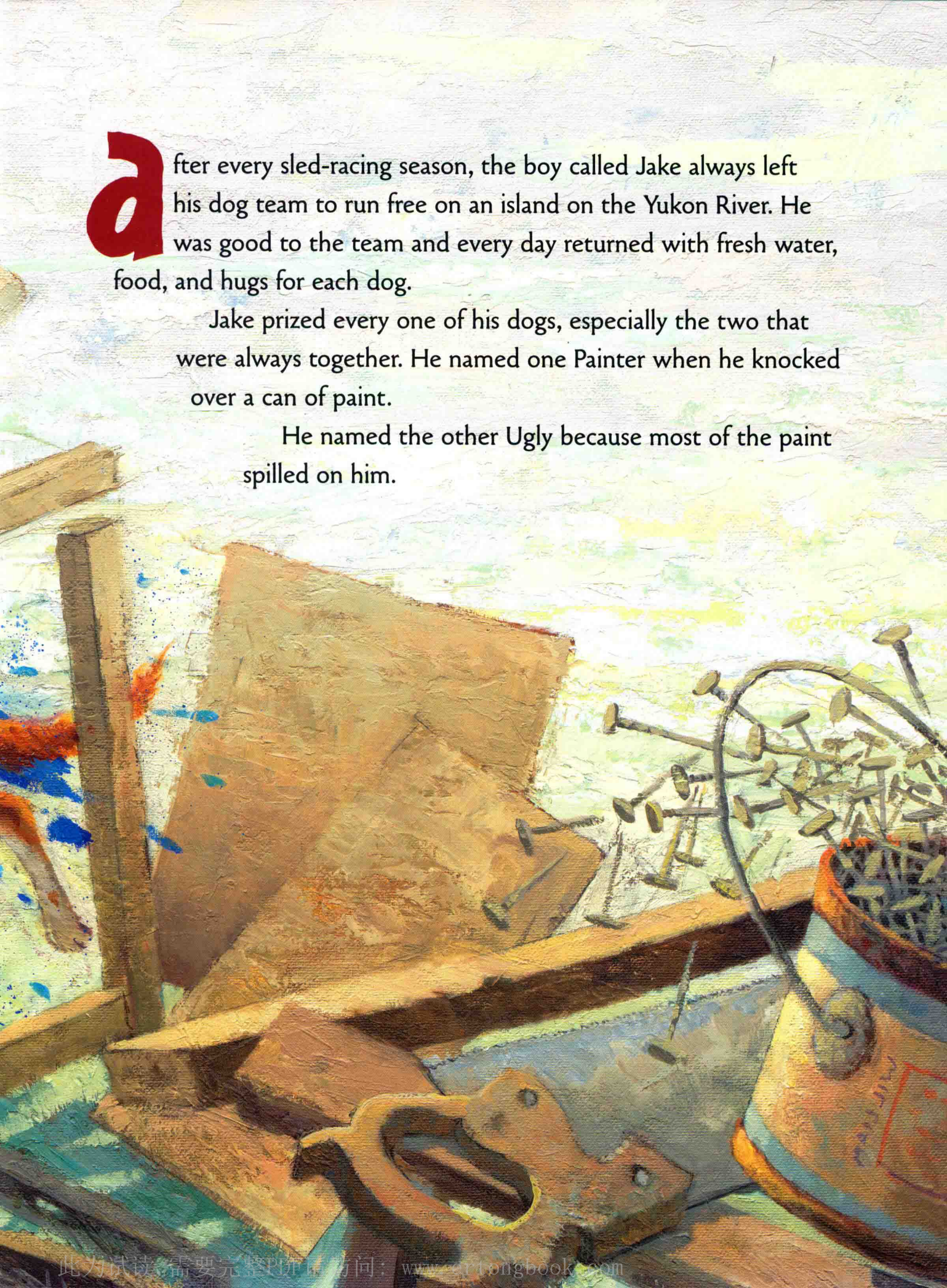


Painter and Ugly

ROBERT J. BLAKE

Philomel Books
An Imprint of Penguin Group (USA) Inc.





after every sled-racing season, the boy called Jake always left his dog team to run free on an island on the Yukon River. He was good to the team and every day returned with fresh water, food, and hugs for each dog.

Jake prized every one of his dogs, especially the two that were always together. He named one Painter when he knocked over a can of paint.

He named the other Ugly because most of the paint spilled on him.

Wherever you saw Painter, there you saw Ugly. If Painter went to fetch a stick, Ugly brought it back with him. If Ugly howled at the moon, Painter sang harmony. And when Jake built Painter's house too far away from Ugly's, the dog pushed it all the way down the hill and set it next to his best friend's.



Through the warm days of summer, right into fall, Painter and Ugly ran together, swam together, and even ate out of each other's dinner bowls together. And if for any reason they were apart, one dog would call out *yip*, the other would answer *yip*, and soon the two friends were running side by side as fast as they could.





But one day, Jake did not come with food, water, or hugs. Instead, there came a man with a voice like a chainsaw who herded the dogs onto a boat. Painter was happy to go on the boat because it meant that the team was going to the mainland. And going to the mainland meant that race training was about to begin. And race training meant that



Painter and Ugly, the fastest of all the local dogs, would soon be leading Jake and the team in the Junior Iditarod race.

Yip! Painter called, and Ugly ran to join him at the front of the boat.

But when the team reached the mainland, there was still no Jake. There were only people shouting and waving papers. Big Tonka cried out when he was hauled off by a woman in a beaver coat. Keeneye growled as he was taken by a hairy man who smelled of bacon.





Painter tried to slip out of his collar when a red-haired boy pulled him away from Ugly.

Ugly jumped from side to side when a black-haired boy rushed him away from his friend.

Each dog was placed into a different dog box on a different truck. Every truck drove each dog to a different home.