

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The classic boy-and-dog story of a champion Irish setter and a boy, who grew up roaming the wilderness together, is now exclusively in paperback from Holiday House!**

New York, NY—July, 2011—The paperback of the classic novel heralded for depicting loyalty and companionship between a boy and his dog, ***BIG RED***, is now available exclusively from author Jim Kjelgaard’s original book publisher (Holiday House/August 1, 2011/\$8.95).

Seventeen-year-old Danny Pickett lives with his trapper-and-hunter pappy in the harsh wilderness on the outskirts of Wintapi estate, owned by Mr. Haggin. From the moment Danny sets eyes on the beautiful red Irish setter owned by the wealthy landowner, he feels a special connection: “never before had he seen any dog that revealed at first glance all the qualities a dog should have.” Likewise, the red dog instantly becomes devoted to the young, poor, but able and honest boy.

Not only is Mr. Haggin kind, he is also a wise man, and he is impressed enough by Danny to offer him a job to help raise Red. Soon neither boy nor dog can stand to be apart, and together they face the many dangers offered by the harsh wilderness, including a fierce snowstorm, accidents, and predatory creatures—in particular a massive renegade bear, Old Majesty, that wounds Pappy—setting the stage for the final, grave battle between the savage bear, the boy, and his beloved dog. . . .

The memorable black-and-white line illustrations by Bob Kuhn add to the enduring timeliness of this classic novel. As *Library Journal* said in its 1945 starred review: “It’s love at first sight, and so it will be for all who read the story”; and it continues to be more than sixty-five years later. Loved by many generations of readers throughout the years, this story is perfect for sons and their fathers to read and share.

**BIG RED** was first published in hardcover in 1945 by Holiday House (for \$2.00!) to instant acclaim. The book received innumerable stellar reviews, including a starred review from *Library Journal* (“sure-fire combination of boy and dog”) to *The New York Times* (“a tale which paints the stern life of the Wintapi wilderness in strong, clear strokes”) to *Publishers Weekly* (“an exceptionally fine dog story”) to *The New York Herald Tribune* (“an excellent outdoor story”).

With more than one million copies sold in all editions (and never out of print!), generations have grown up with the unforgettable story of **BIG RED**. Now available exclusively through Holiday House in hardcover *and* paperback, a new generation of readers will again be entranced by this treasured book.

**Jim Kjelgaard** (1910–1959) was born in New York City but spent most of his childhood in the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania. His first story was published in a hunting and fishing magazine when he was a senior in high school, and he soon sold many more. In 1941, Holiday House published Kjelgaard’s first novel, *Forest Patrol*, based on his adventures with his brother in the Wisconsin forest. In his short lifetime, Kjelgaard wrote many novels (all twenty-three published by Holiday House) and short stories; but the most beloved of all is *Big Red*, which was made into a major motion picture, starring Walter Pidgeon, in 1962 by Walt Disney Studios.

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***Big Red***

Written by Jim Kjelgaard

Illustrated in black and white by Bob Kuhn

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Ages 9 up • Juvenile Fiction • 256 pages • \$8.95

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