


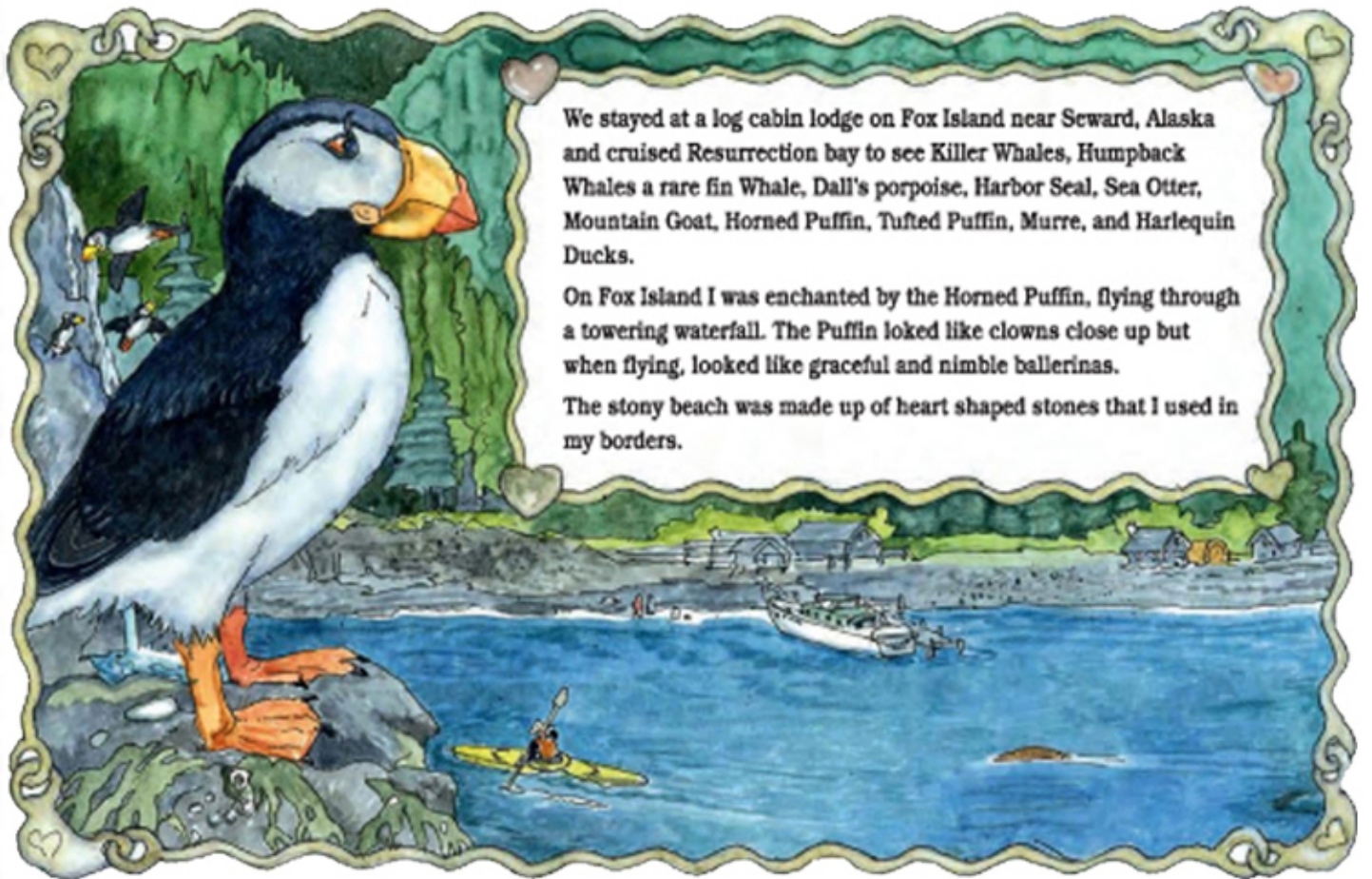
JAN BRETT

COZY IN LOVE



It was so much fun to visit The Musk Ox Farm in Palmer, Alaska, checking in on my favorite young 'un "Teal". Some of the bulls were practicing their charging and bumping skills. One of them, all by himself, couldn't take his eyes off a frolicking female in the next pasture. "Was he in love?" Hmmm, was this the start of another musk ox story? My imagination began to whirl.

by Jan Brett



We stayed at a log cabin lodge on Fox Island near Seward, Alaska and cruised Resurrection Bay to see Killer Whales, Humpback Whales, a rare fin Whale, Dall's porpoise, Harbor Seal, Sea Otter, Mountain Goat, Horned Puffin, Tufted Puffin, Murre, and Harlequin Ducks.

On Fox Island I was enchanted by the Horned Puffin, flying through a towering waterfall. The Puffin looked like clowns close up but when flying, looked like graceful and nimble ballerinas.

The stony beach was made up of heart shaped stones that I used in my borders.



Cozy, Lofti, Bella the Beluga whale and Horned Puffin friends to color.

JAN RILEY



My favorite fable is by Aesop, a Roman storyteller from long ago, called "the Crow and the Pitcher".

A thirsty crow saw a pitcher half full of water, but can not reach it. Crow has an idea... slowly he drops pebbles into the pitcher. When the pebbles displace the water, the water rises to a higher level and the crow can drink his fill.

In my book, Cozy sees Bella the Beluga trapped by ice in an inlet. He uses his strength to topple big boulders into the inlet from above to raise the water level so she can swim to freedom.

Beluga whales are sea mammals and really can get trapped by ice. Sometimes the Beluga break the ice above so they can breathe.



at the Musk Ox Farm, Palmer, Alaska

photo courtesy of Rick Ayala

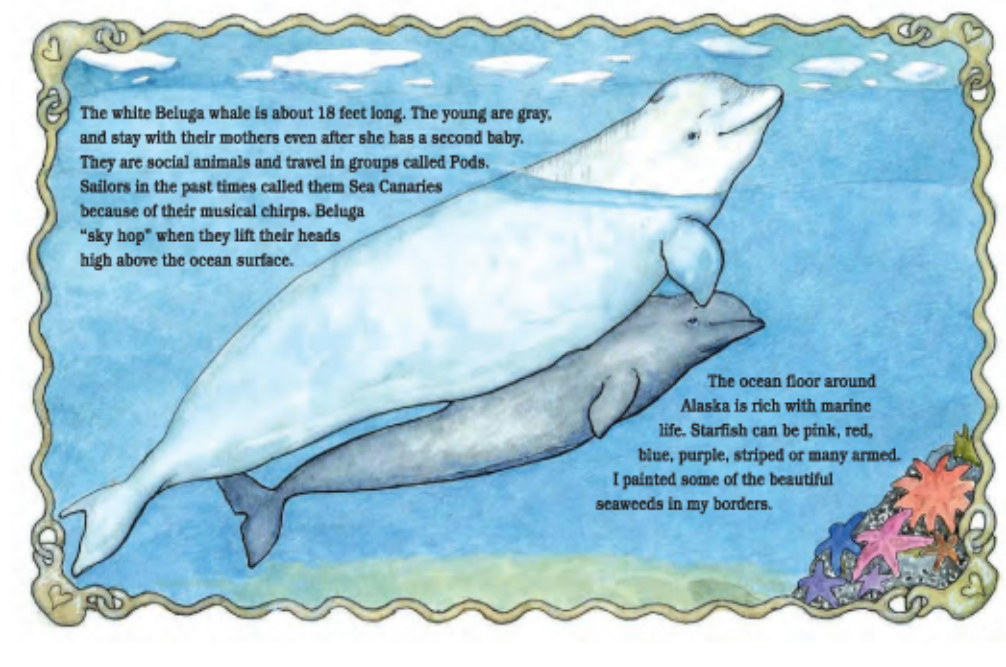
My hat is knitted from Musk Ox wool called Giviut (kive-úte), one of the warmest fibers in the world.

On cold New England days I put chunks of the silky fleece in my mittens and boots.



Cozy and Lofti's story is set at the snout of a glacier. There are 664 named glaciers in Alaska. This glacier carries large boulders down to the sea.

Usually the male's powerful boss (where the horns meet) is crashed against his rival's boss. But Cozy's natural skills are used to save his friend, Bella.



The white Beluga whale is about 18 feet long. The young are gray, and stay with their mothers even after she has a second baby. They are social animals and travel in groups called Pods. Sailors in the past times called them Sea Canaries because of their musical chirps. Beluga "sky hop" when they lift their heads high above the ocean surface.

The ocean floor around Alaska is rich with marine life. Starfish can be pink, red, blue, purple, striped or many armed. I painted some of the beautiful seaweeds in my borders.