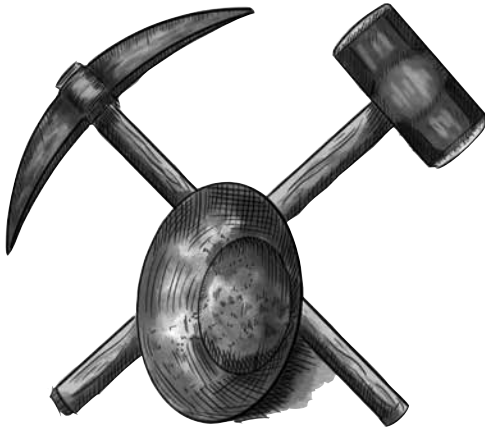


The Hopes and Dreams Series
Chinese-Americans

For Gold and Blood

A story based on history



Second Edition

Tana Reiff

Illustrations by Tyler Stiene

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The cover and illustrations are by Tyler Stiene. The book was set and designed by Tana Reiff, consulting with A.A. Burrows, using the Adobe *Century Schoolbook* typeface for the text. This is a digital adaptation of one of the most popular faces of the twentieth century. Century's distinctive roman and italic fonts and its clear, dark strokes and serifs were designed, as the name suggests, to make schoolbooks easy to read. The display font used on the cover and titles is a 21st-century digital invention titled Telugu. It is designed to work on all digital platforms and with Indic scripts. Telugu is named for the Telugu people in southern India and their widely spoken language. This is a simple, strong, and interesting sans serif display font.

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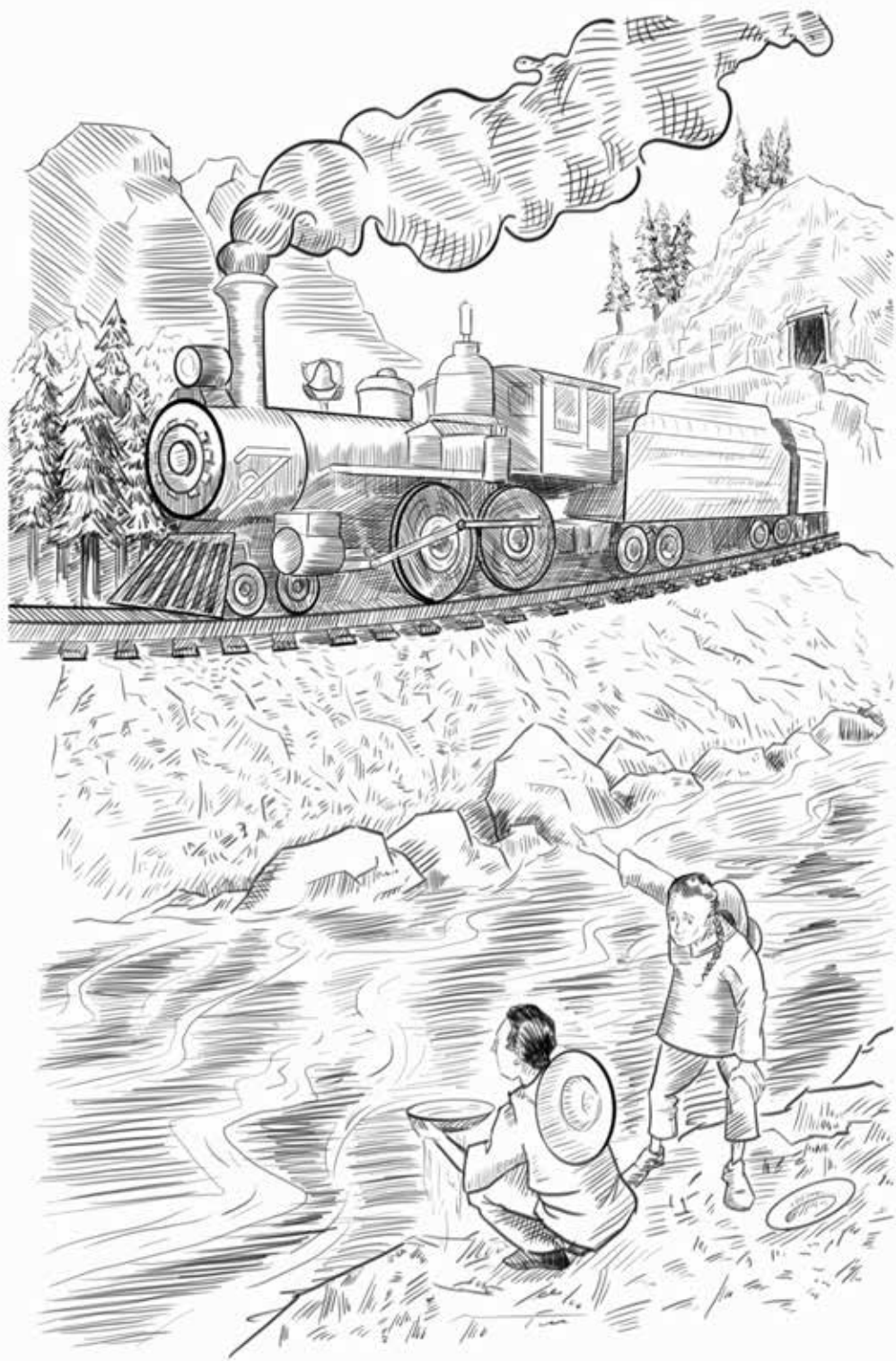
The Hopes and Dreams Series

by Tana Reiff

The Magic Paper (Mexican-Americans)
For Gold and Blood (Chinese-Americans)
Nobody Knows (African-Americans)
Little Italy (Italian-Americans)
More to come.

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1 Leaving Home

Guangdong Province, China, 1851

“They call it
Gold Mountain!”
Soo Lee said
to his brother Ping.
“It’s a place
across the ocean.
I think its name
is California.
People with nothing
get rich fast!
They find gold
in the hills
and in the streams!”

“Look at us!”
Soo continued.
“Since the war,
we have had
no real home.
Our family is poor.
All of us
cannot keep living
in this houseboat.

Let's go
to Gold Mountain!"

"How can you
talk like this?"
Ping asked his brother.
"China is the center
of the Earth.
Our family is here.
Anyway, we could not leave
even if we wanted to.
The country
will not let us go."

"There are ways
to get out,"
said Soo.
"We can pay
the men at the port.
They will get us
onto a ship
and out of the country."

Ping Lee
was not sure
he liked Soo's plan.
But he liked the idea
of finding gold.

Going to California
could help
the whole family.
He and Soo
could send money home.
In a few years
they could come
back to China.

Soo kept talking.
He had not felt this happy
since before the war.

At last Ping said,
“You are right.
We should go.
We are young and strong.
We are the only ones
who can help our family.”

The Lee family
was very large.
The brothers told them
about their plan.
Everyone wanted
to raise money
for the trip.
It would help everyone.

Ma Ma Lee
wanted to give her boys
her jade stone.
It was
the one special thing
she owned.
It would
keep them safe,
far from home.
But she sold it
and gave her boys
the money
instead of the stone.

Uncle Wang
sold his only cow.
Someday, he would try
to buy another one.

In a few months,
the family
had enough money
for Soo and Ping
to go to California.

The brothers
went to Hong Kong.

They paid a man
to get them
onto a ship.
Deep in the ship's hold,
they sat on brown mats
with hundreds
of other people.

Two months later,
the ship reached America.
A Chinese man
met the ship
in California.
He gave each man
a pick, a shovel, and a pan.
They could pay
for these tools
when they found gold.
The Chinese man
showed the young men
how to use the tools.
Then he showed them
how to go
to the gold fields.



2 Finding Gold

Soo and Ping
went to work
for a gold-mining company.
The American men
showed them
how to find gold.
Soo and Ping
learned fast.
They picked for gold
up and down the hills.
They used flat pans
to find gold
in streams.

Sure enough,
they found gold.
Some were nuggets
as big as a finger.
Most of the gold
was like dust.
The company
let the workers
keep half of any gold
that they found.

The Chinese workers
did not look or act
like the Americans.
The Chinese men
wore blue coats
and big, wide hats.
Their shoes
had heavy wood bottoms.
Each man wore
a long tail
of black hair
down his back.
Each carried
a long pole
with a bag
tied to the end.
Inside the bag
were clothes, food,
and a mat.

They ate
with two sticks
instead of a fork.
Every night,
they slept
on their mats,
away from the main camp.

The Americans laughed
at the Chinese men.
“You look like clowns
with yellow skin!”
they called out.

Soo and Ping
did not understand
every word of this talk.
But they knew
that the men
were making fun of them.

“Don’t listen to them,”
Soo said to Ping.
“We are finding
little bits of gold.
We will be rich,
all of us!”

“This is too good
to be true!”
said Ping.
“I cannot believe
we are finding real gold!”

“I told you so,
little brother!”
said Soo.
“Soon the whole family
can come to California.
After we pay
for our tools.”

“No, no!”
said Ping.
“I am homesick.
I want to send money
to our family
and then go back
to China.
That was our plan!”

“We will see
what happens,”
said Soo.
“Maybe we will
be lucky and
strike it rich.
But for now,
we must live
in this country.
And we must learn English.”

“You are right,”
said Ping.
“Each day
we must learn
some new English words.”

A few weeks later,
Ping made a big strike.
It was late
in the day.
“Look here!”
he called to Soo.
“Have you ever seen
such a large piece of gold?”

Soo held
the shiny nugget.
It was as big
as his hand.
It was almost pure gold.

The news spread
like wildfire.
Everyone in the camp
wanted to take a look
at the very large nugget.

“That’s a big strike,”
said the camp boss.

“You get half,
we get half,”
Soo said in English.

“Not on a nugget that big!”
laughed the boss.
“Now, you and your brother
get out of here!
Leave this camp!
Now!”

Ping turned to Soo.
“There is no use
in fighting,”
he said in Chinese.

“We must leave.”

Soo was angry.
They had a deal—
50-50.

The boss was not
being fair.
Ping should get
half of the gold
that he had found.

The sun
was setting
over the mountain.
Soo and Ping
tied their bags
to their poles.
By the light
of the moon
they left the camp,
like a flash
in the pan.

Glossary

Definitions and examples of certain words and terms used in the story

Chapter 1 — Leaving Home page 1

at last — Finally; after time has passed.

At last, Ping said ...

raise (to raise) — To collect money for a specific purpose or cause.

Everyone wanted to raise money.

instead of — In the place of or as a substitute for.

(She) gave her boys the money instead of the stone.

hold — The inside lower part of a ship, usually the place for goods.

... deep in the ship's hold.

pick — A sharp-pointed tool for breaking things.

He gave each man a pick ...

shovel — A tool like a spoon for digging and moving dirt, stones, and other material.

He gave each man a pick, a shovel, and a pan.

pan — A large round plate. Dirt and stones are placed in the pan and shaken to see if there are pieces of gold among the dirt and stones.

He gave each man a pick, a shovel, and a pan.

Chapter 2 — Finding Gold page 6

nuggets — Pieces of gold.

Some were nuggets as big as a finger.

dust — Very small pieces.

Most of the gold was like dust.

pole — A long, thin piece of wood or metal.

Each carried a long pole.

camp — The place where the workers lived in very simple buildings.

They slept ... away from the main camp.

clowns — Circus people in silly colorful clothes; they do silly things. *You look like clowns.*

making fun of (to make fun of) — To laugh at, tease, or make jokes about someone.

The men were making fun of them.

homesick — Wanting to be at home when one is far away from home.

I am homesick.

(to) strike it rich — To suddenly find something very valuable and become rich.

Maybe we will be lucky and strike it rich.

shiny — Bright, reflective, colorful.

Soo held the shiny nugget.

pure — Completely; nothing else in it.

It was almost pure gold.

spread (to spread) — To move and cover quickly from place to place.

The news spread like wildfire.

wildfire — A forest or brush fire that moves very fast.

The news spread like wildfire.

no use — No good result or hope for a good solution.

There is no use in fighting.

flash in the pan — An event or situation that happens or occurs very quickly.

... they left the camp like a flash in the pan.

Chapter 3 — Moving On page 13

gang — A group of people, usually men.

The boss let them join the gang.

panned (to pan) — To use a pan to find gold.

Dirt and stones are put in the pan and shaken.

They panned all day long.

drive (us) out (to drive out) — To force people to leave a place.

... the camp boss will not drive us out.

running out (to run out) — To become less and less.

The gold is running out.