

Cynthia Zordich
A Bee in a Matchbox



Nightingale Books

NIGHTINGALE PAPERBACK

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Cynthia Zordich

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Dedication

Dedicated to the love of friendships old and new, likely and unlikely.

A bee in a matchbox.



The big dog heard many
warnings about bees,



so when he saw
the little bee - he
jumped scared and
then he jumped at it.

The little bee saw
the big dog with big
teeth and big paws.
Certainly, the big dog
would eat the little
bee - he had
been warned.





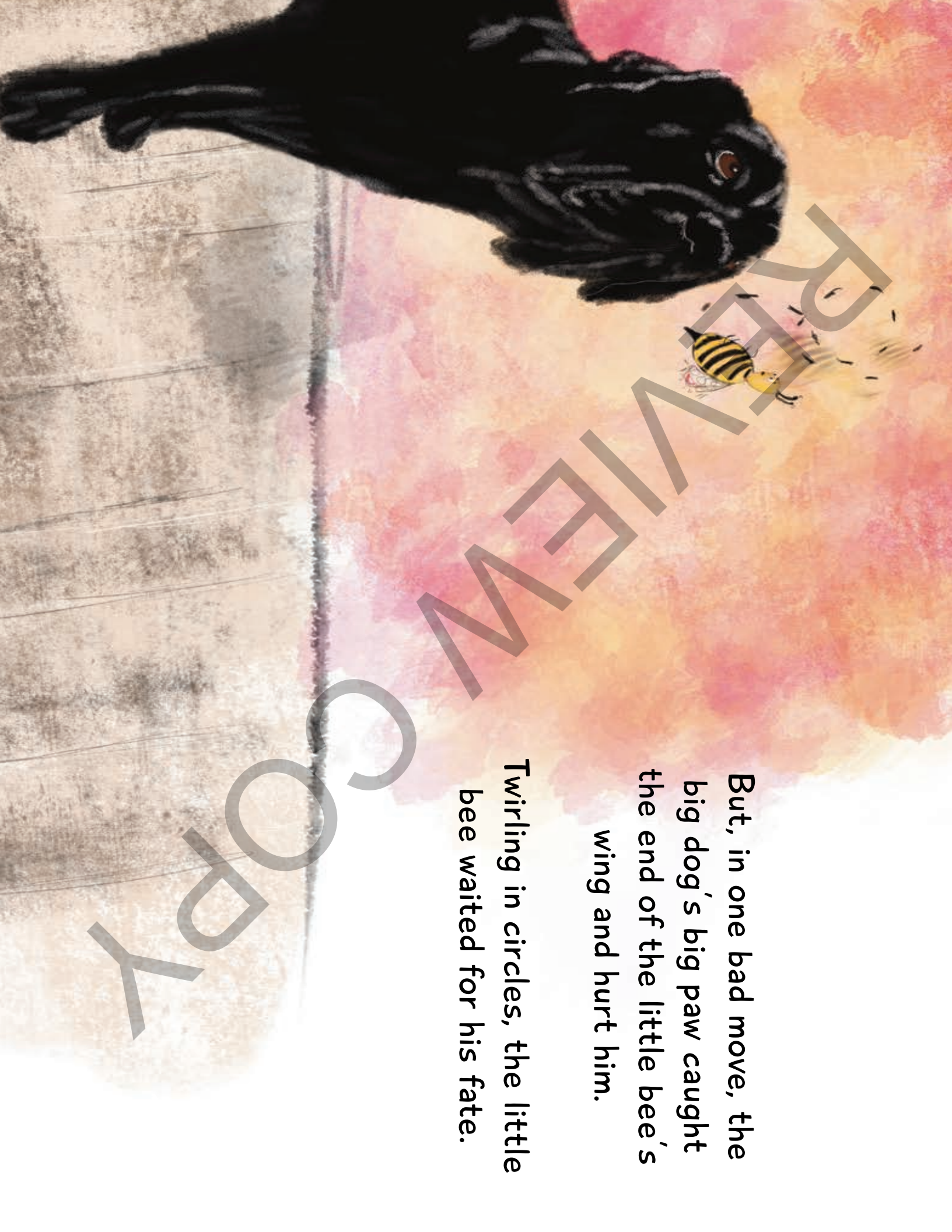
The little bee buzzed all around then flew
right at the big dog to scare him off.

The big dog thought this was FUN and
forgot he was supposed to hate bees and
started to play.

A few times, the little bee could see that the big dog could have ended him, but he didn't.

The little bee realized it was a game. They started to have **FUN** together. The little bee even landed on the big dog's nose and that gave them both a laugh.



A black dog with long, floppy ears is looking down at a small yellow and black striped bee. The bee is hovering in the air, and several small black dots are trailing behind it, suggesting it is moving quickly. The background is a soft, painterly mix of pink, orange, and yellow, resembling a sunset or sunrise. The dog is standing on a light-colored, textured surface that looks like wood or stone.

But, in one bad move, the
big dog's big paw caught
the end of the little bee's
wing and hurt him.

Twirling in circles, the little
bee waited for his fate.

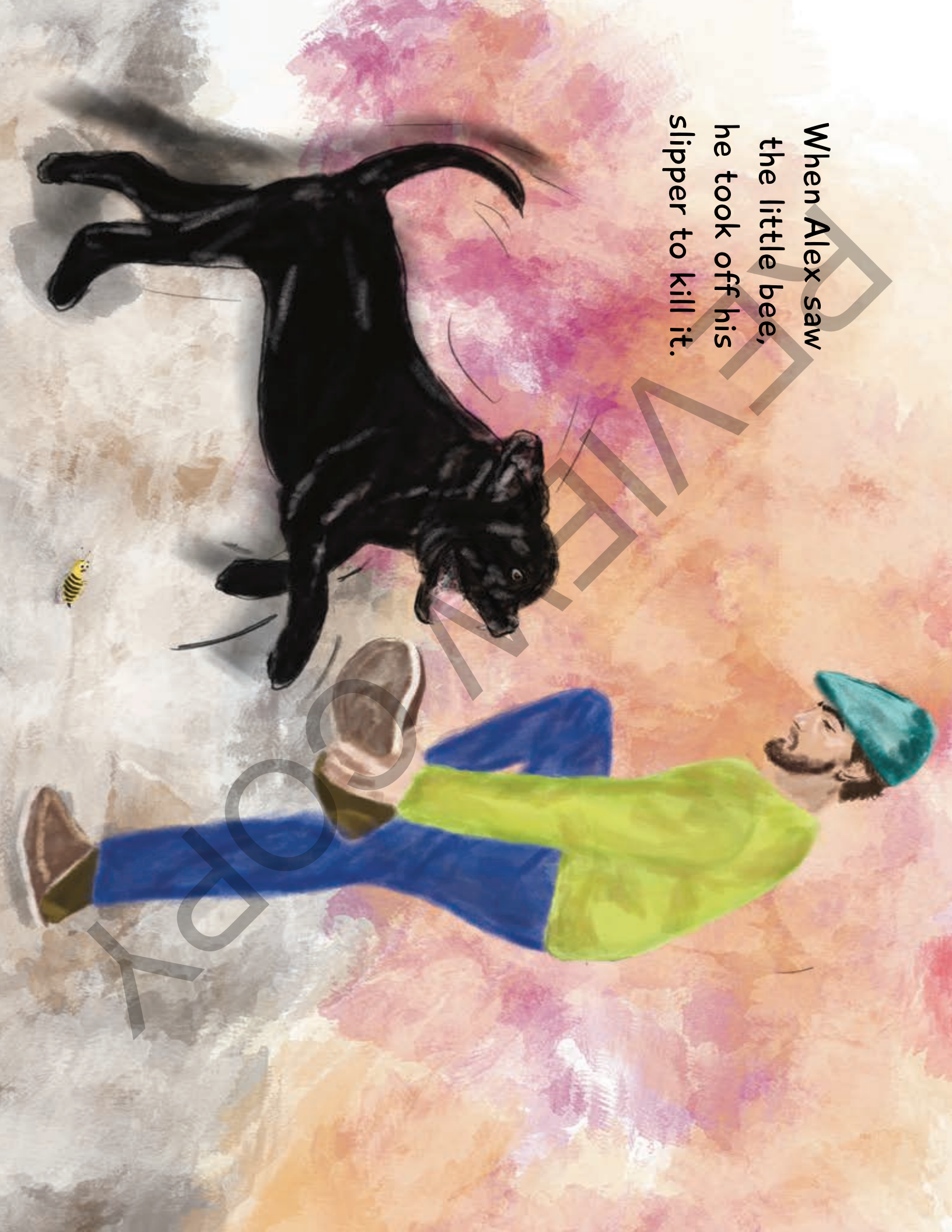
But the big dog felt bad.
He watched the little bee
struggle and got tears in
his eyes.





He ran
to get his
owner, Alex.

When Alex saw
the little bee,
he took off his
slipper to kill it.



"Stay away from bees,"
he said.
"They will sting you!"





The big dog
lunged at the
slipper and ran
away with it.

Alex moved
to step on
the little bee,
but the big
dog came from
nowhere and
knocked him over.



Alex realized
the big dog
was protecting
the little bee
and grabbed a
matchbox off the
table and emptied
the matches.
With the lid, he
scooped up the
little bee and
put him in the
matchbox like a
little bed.



The big dog
sat vigil.





Much later,
two bees flew
into the room.
They kept their
distance from
the big dog. They
knew to stay
away from big
dogs - they will
bite you! The big
dog barked to
them for help,
but this scared
them, and they
flew away to get
the Queen.

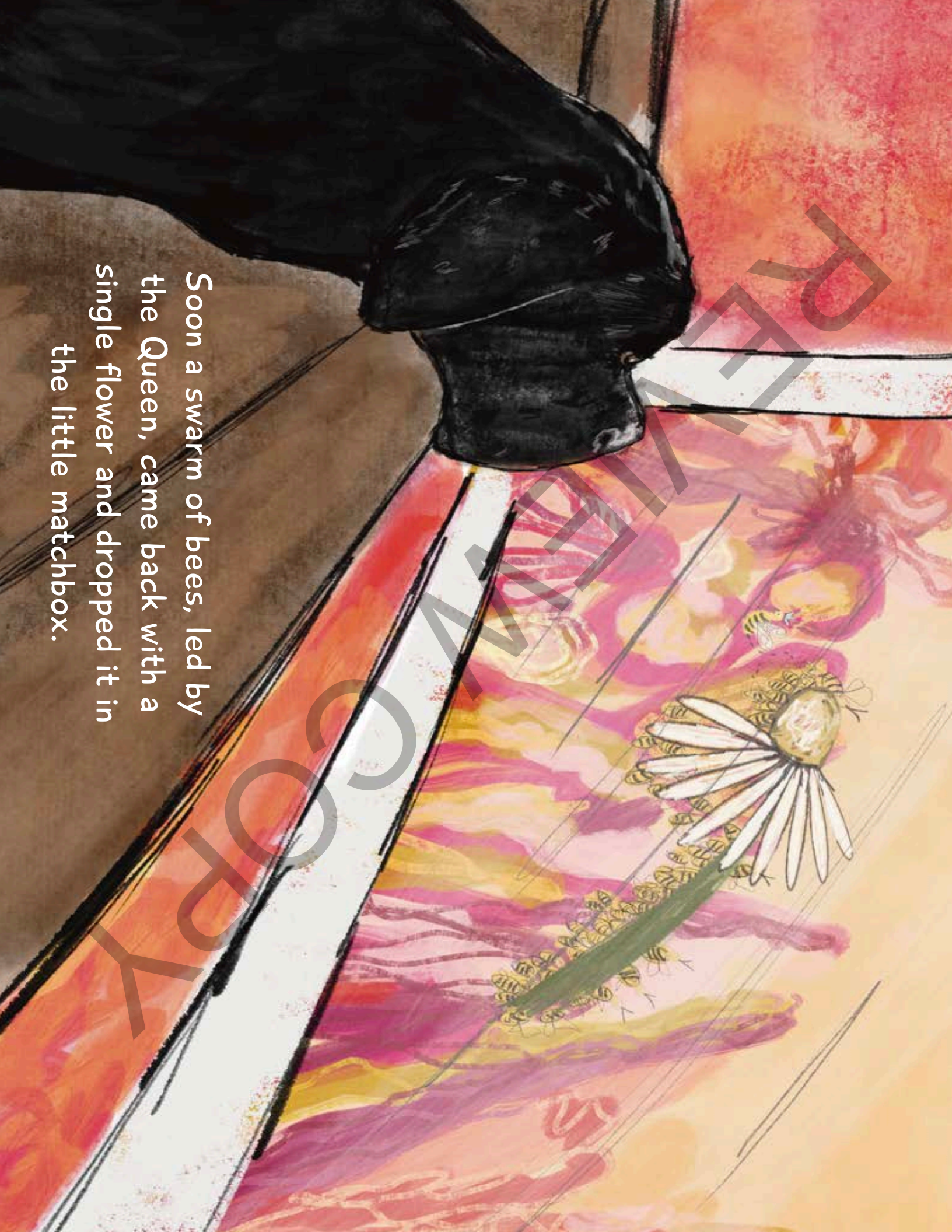
The big dog lay next to the little bee in the matchbox.
He was sad to see his new friend hurting and sad to think
that all this time they could have played together - but
he was taught to be afraid of bees.



The little bee looked
up at the big dog's
sad brown eyes.
All those days he
watched him run
and play and fetch.
He could have been
right there riding his
back - but he was
taught to be afraid
of dogs.



Soon a swarm of bees, led by
the Queen, came back with a
single flower and dropped it in
the little matchbox.



The big dog ran
to his dog bowl to
drink water and
came back to let
some of the water
drip on the flower.



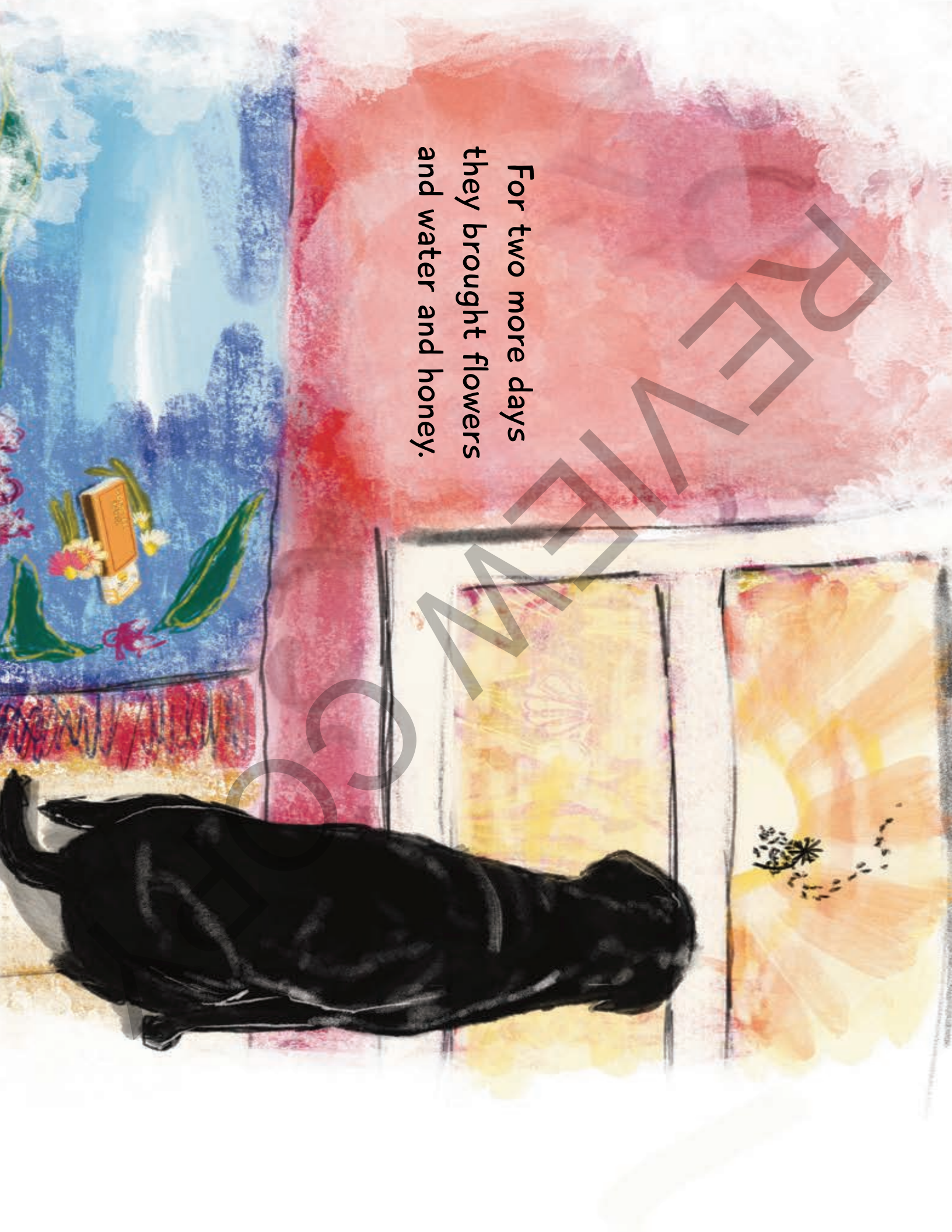
Alex got
a drop
of honey
and let
a ball of it
fall on the
flower petal.



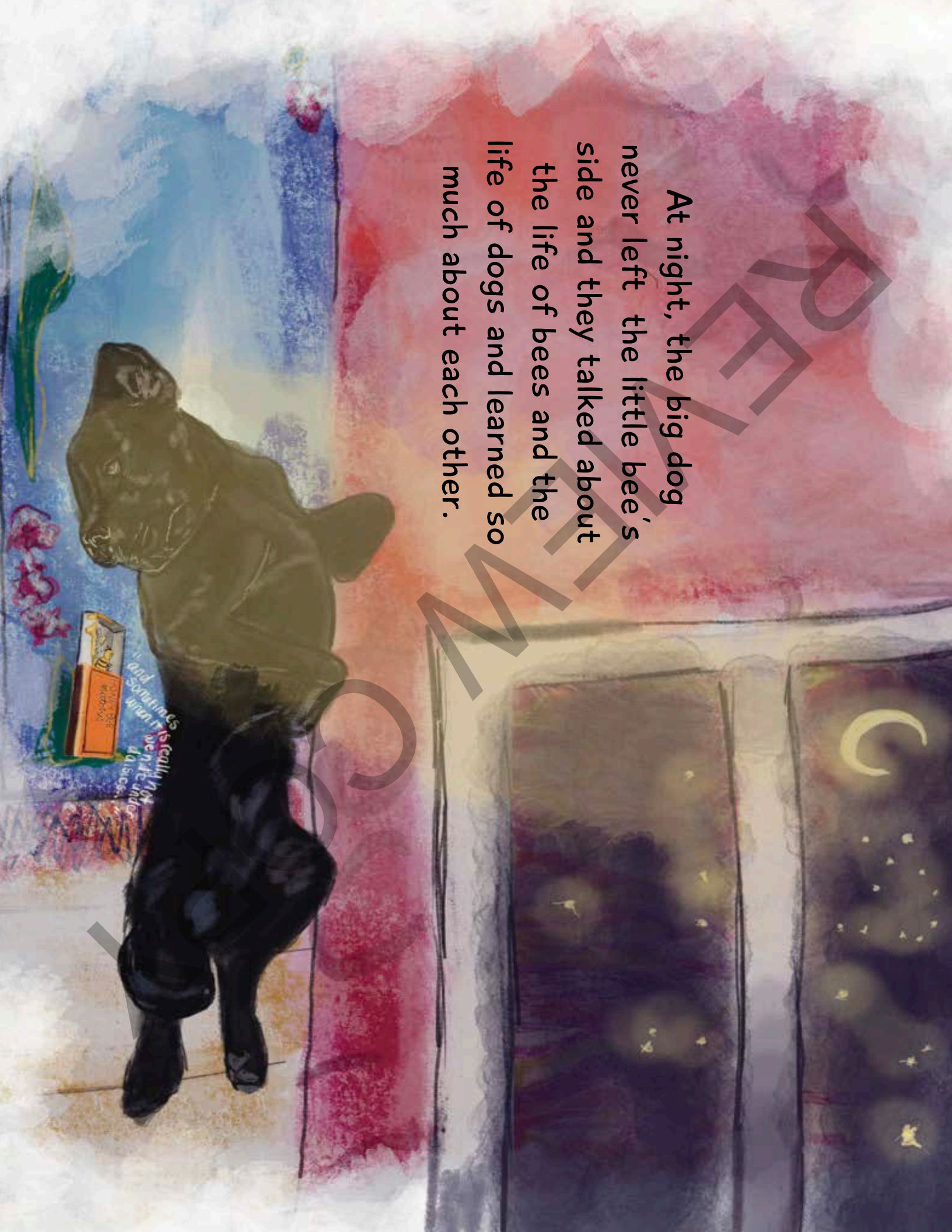
The little bee took a
drink and they
all danced.



For two more days
they brought flowers
and water and honey.



At night, the big dog
never left the little bee's
side and they talked about
the life of bees and the
life of dogs and learned so
much about each other.



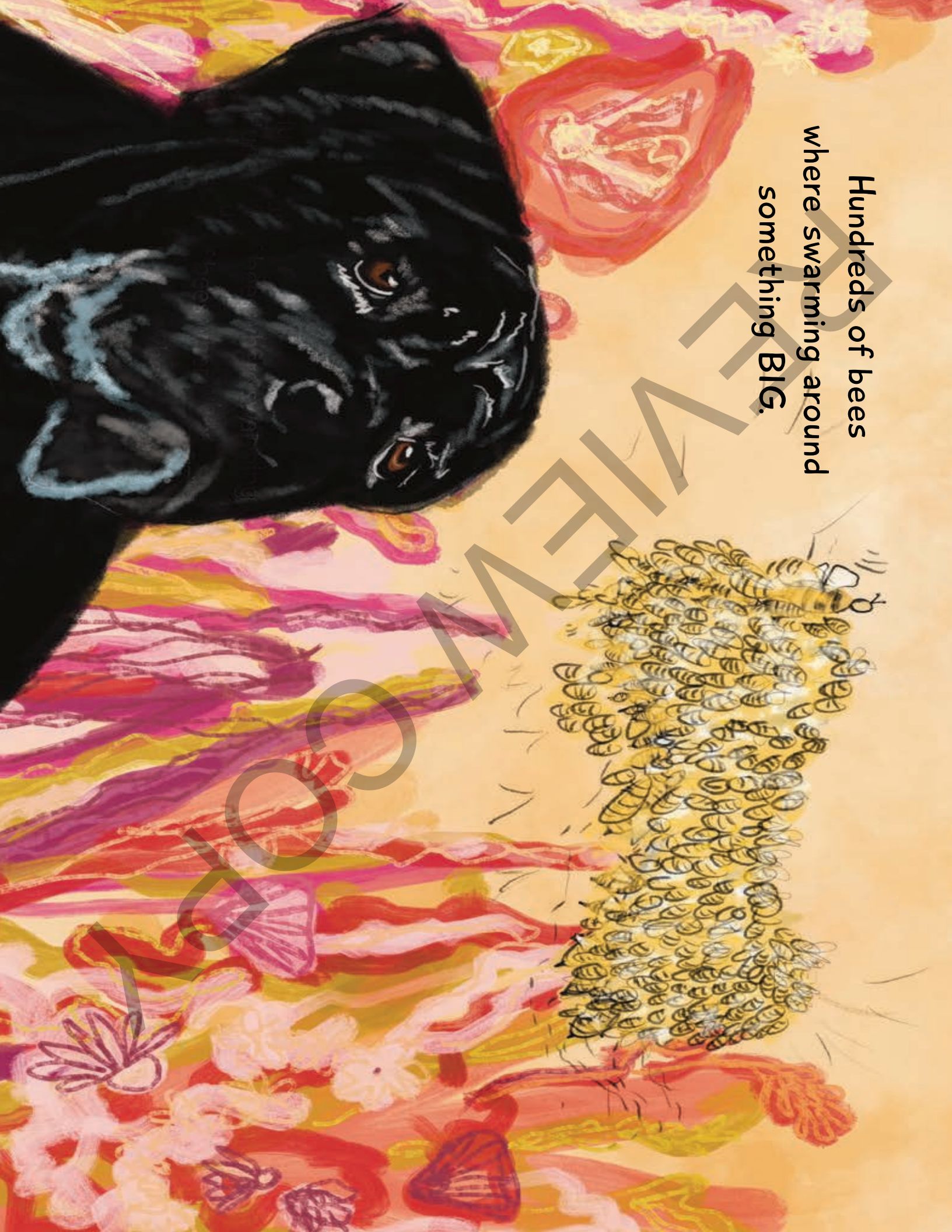
One morning the big dog woke up and the little matchbox was empty. He looked everywhere, but the little bee was gone.



Then he heard
a humming
sound outside.



Hundreds of bees
where swarming around
something BIG.



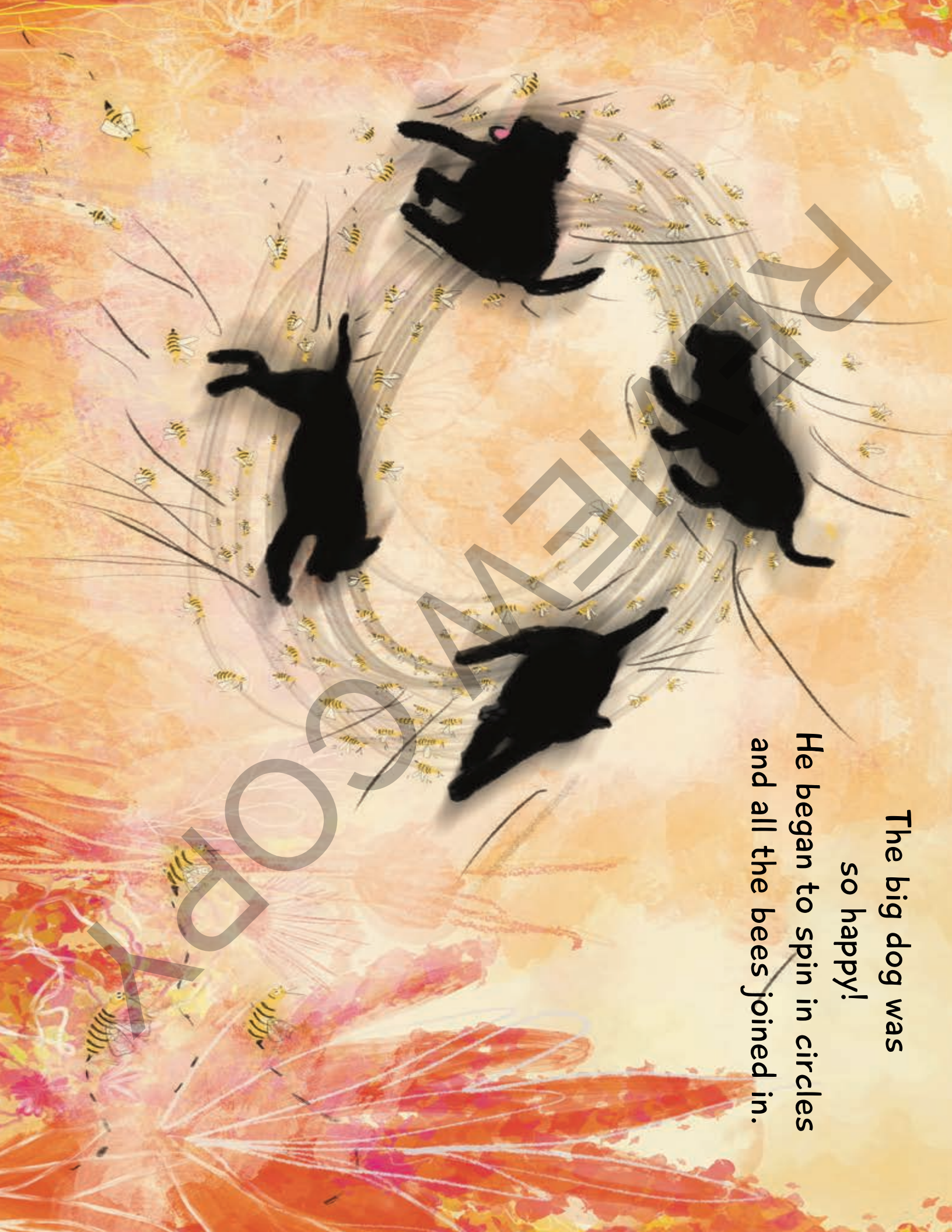
They were pushing
it towards
the doghouse.



The big dog ran up to the swarm and they all flew back. It was the biggest dog bone he ever saw! Suddenly, the little bee flew from behind it and landed right on the big dog's nose. This gave them both a laugh.



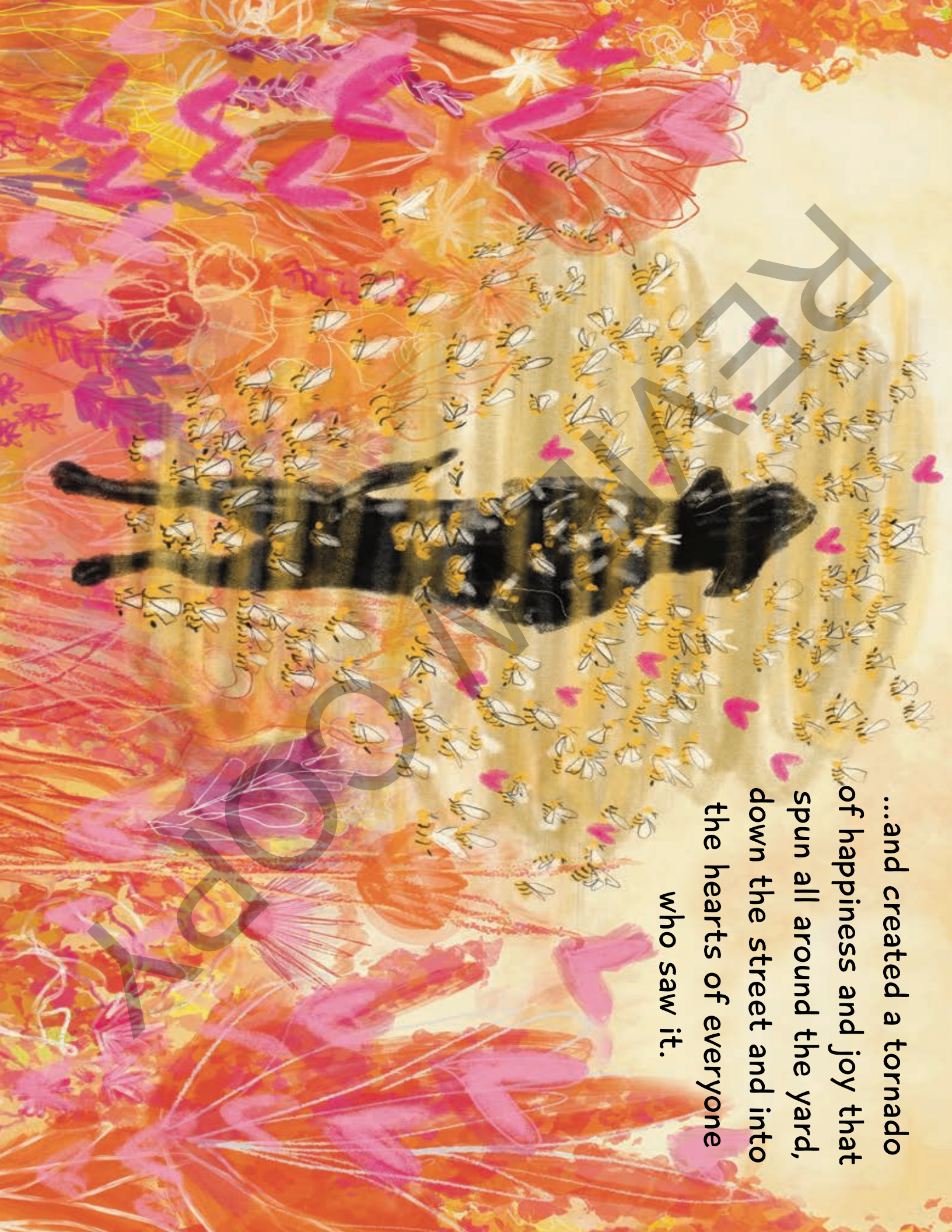
The big dog was
so happy!
He began to spin in circles
and all the bees joined in.





They spun and spun and spun
and spun....

...and created a tornado
of happiness and joy that
spun all around the yard,
down the street and into
the hearts of everyone
who saw it.



The big dog and the little
bee were side by side and
best friends for the rest of
their lives.

The end.



About the Author

Cynthia Zordich is the founder of Thread, Editor of The Playbook and Co-author of *When The Clock Runs Out*.

Cynthia is the wife of former NFL Safety, Michael Zordich and mom to Michael V. (Lyndsay), Alex (Nicolette) and Aidan Marie (Ray).

Chuckie is a good dog with a big heart. He likes to play with Moody and his cousins: Uno, Zuko, Lewis and Clark.

A Bee in A Matchbox was illustrated by Anna DeMalo. Thank you, Anna, for capturing the tenderness of this true story and adding your light, color and imagination. And thank you to my sister, Nun, for finding Anna.