

REVIEW COPY

Cynthia Zordich
A Bee in a Matchbox



Nightingale Books

NIGHTINGALE PAPERBACK

© Copyright 2023
Cynthia Zordich

The right of Cynthia Zordich to be identified as author of this work has been asserted by her in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All Rights Reserved

No reproduction, copy or transmission of this publication may be made without written permission.

No paragraph of this publication may be reproduced, copied or transmitted save with the written permission of the publisher, or in accordance with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1956 (as amended).

Any person who commits any unauthorised act in relation to this publication may be liable to criminal prosecution and civil claims for damages.

A CIP catalogue record for this title is available from the British Library.

ISBN 978-1-83875-797-7

Nightingale Books is an imprint of
Pegasus Elliot MacKenzie Publishers Ltd.
www.pegasuspublishers.com

First Published in 2023

Nightingale Books
Sheraton House Castle Park
Cambridge England

Printed & Bound in Great Britain

REVIEW

Dedication

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

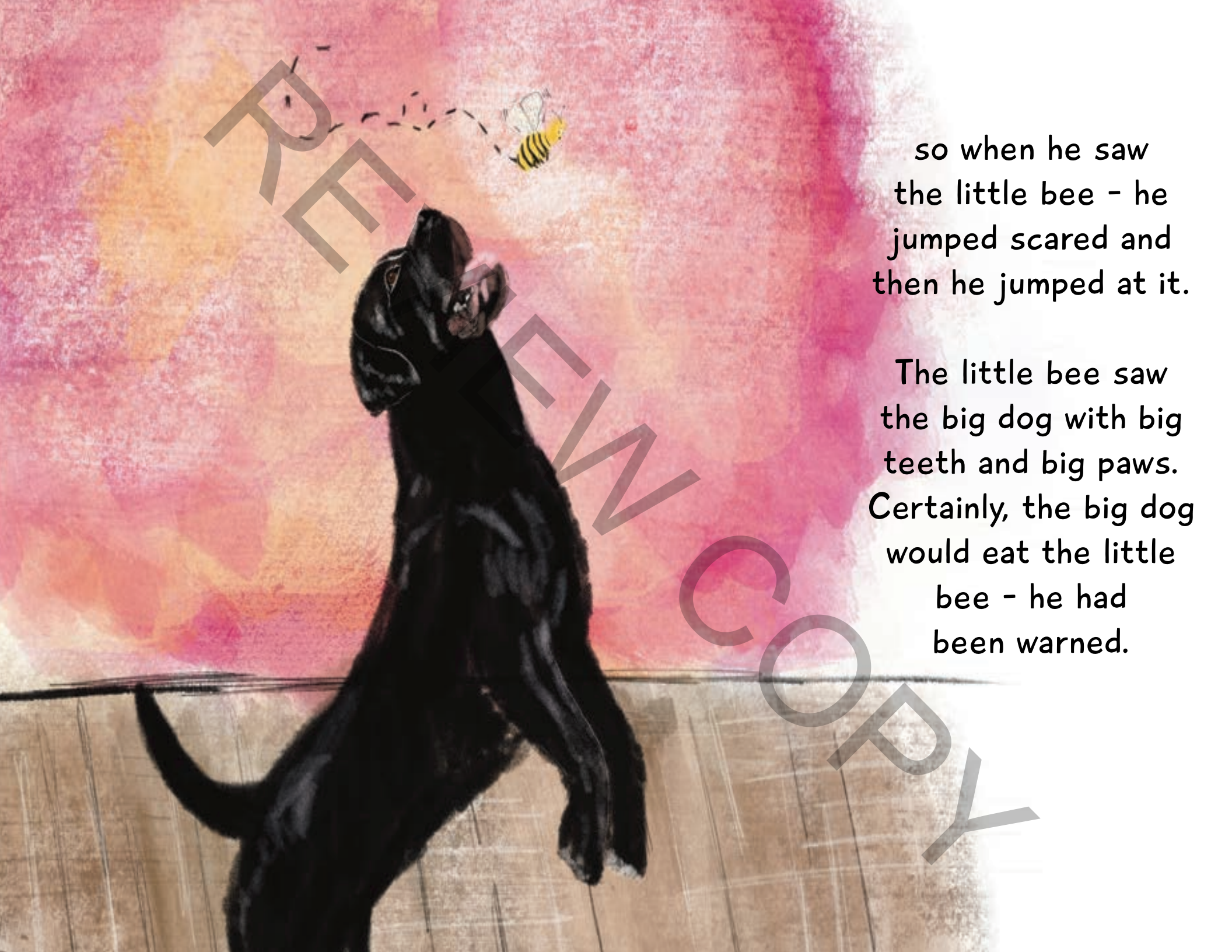
COPY

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.

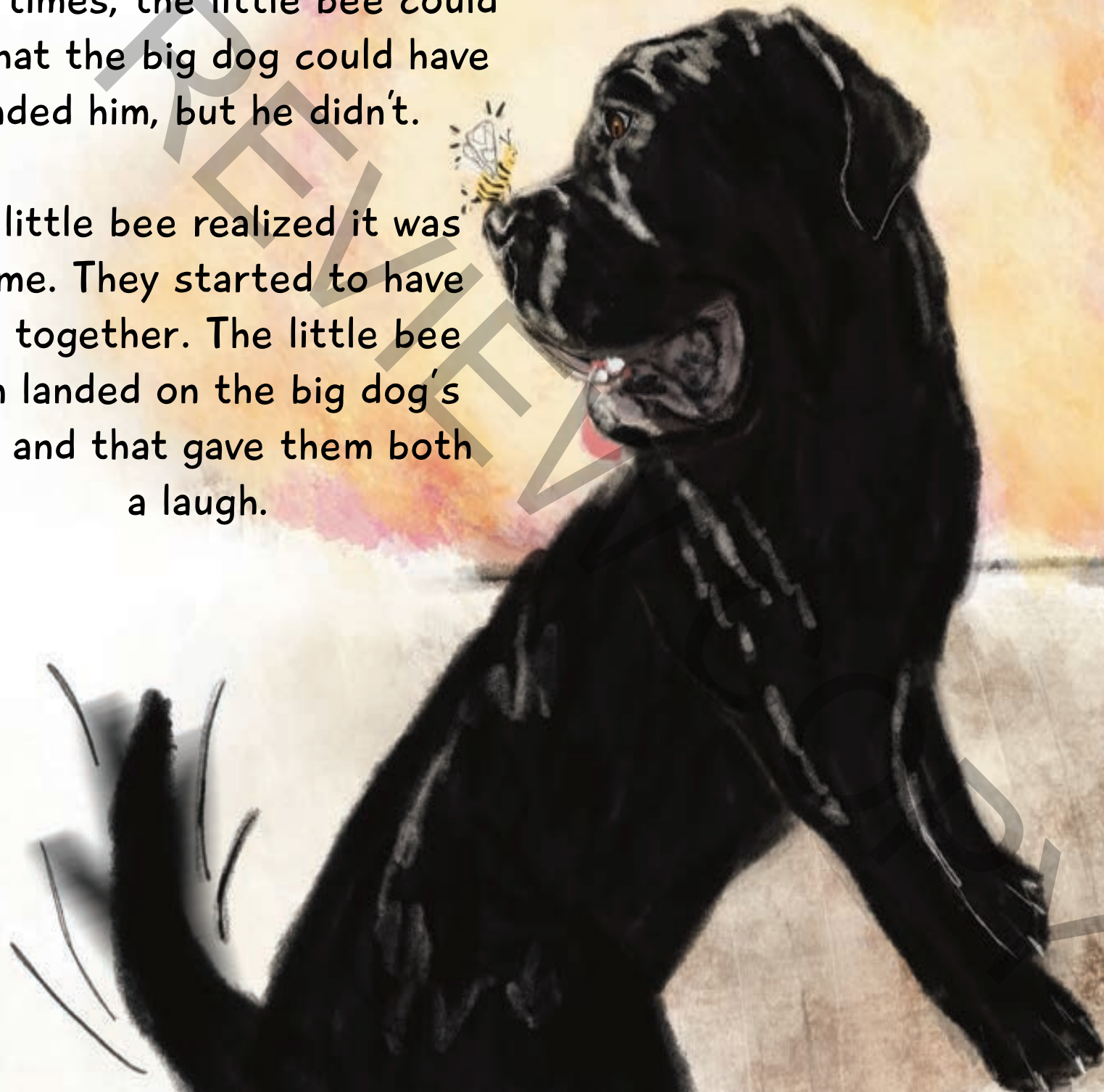


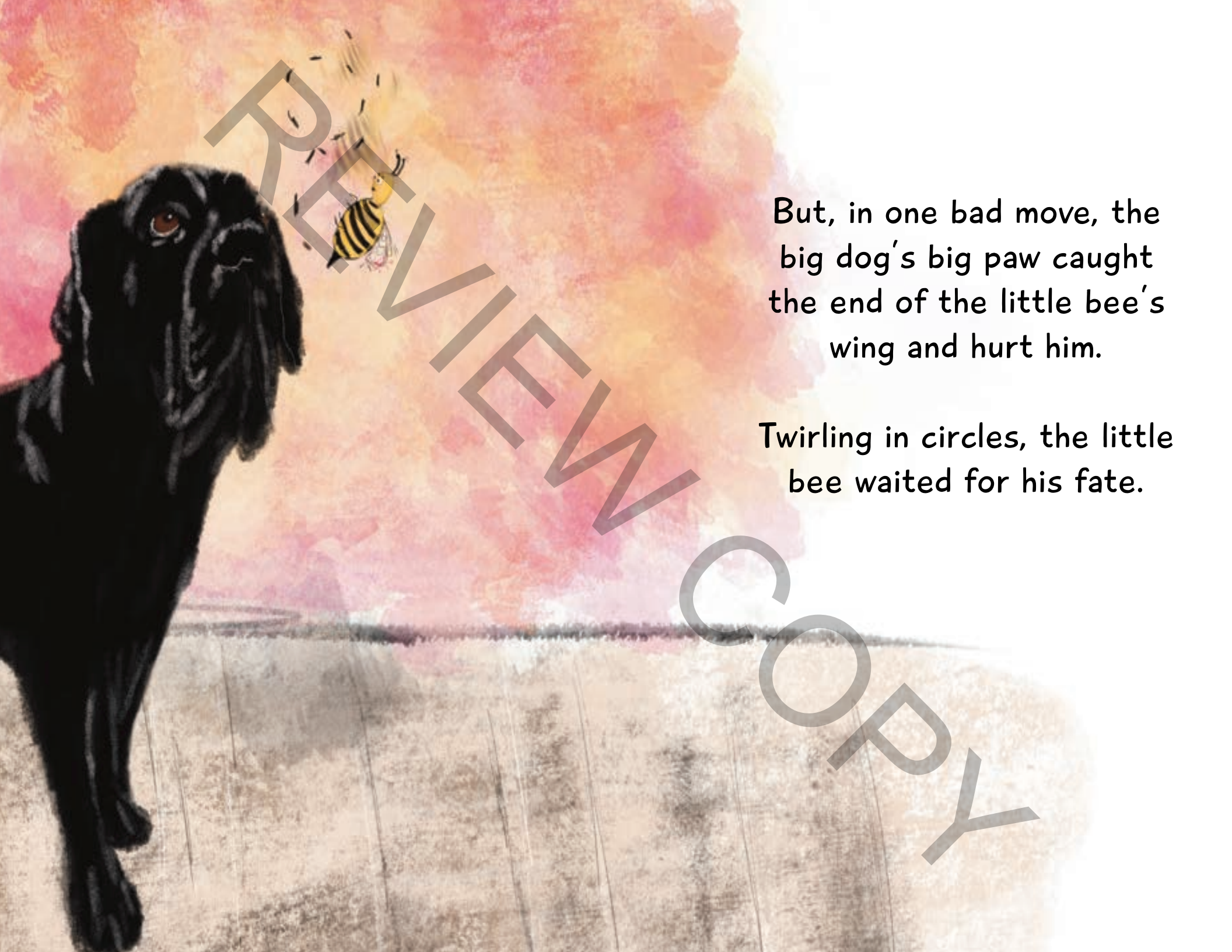
The little bee buzzed all around then flew right at the big dog to scare him off.

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.





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.



A watercolor-style illustration of a man with a beard, wearing a blue cap, a green long-sleeved shirt, and blue pants. He is standing on the left, looking down and pointing towards a black dog on the right. The dog is standing on a grey, rocky surface and looking up at the man. The background is a large, circular, textured area with a color gradient from yellow to pink and red. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "REVIEW COPY" is overlaid diagonally across the center of the image.

"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.

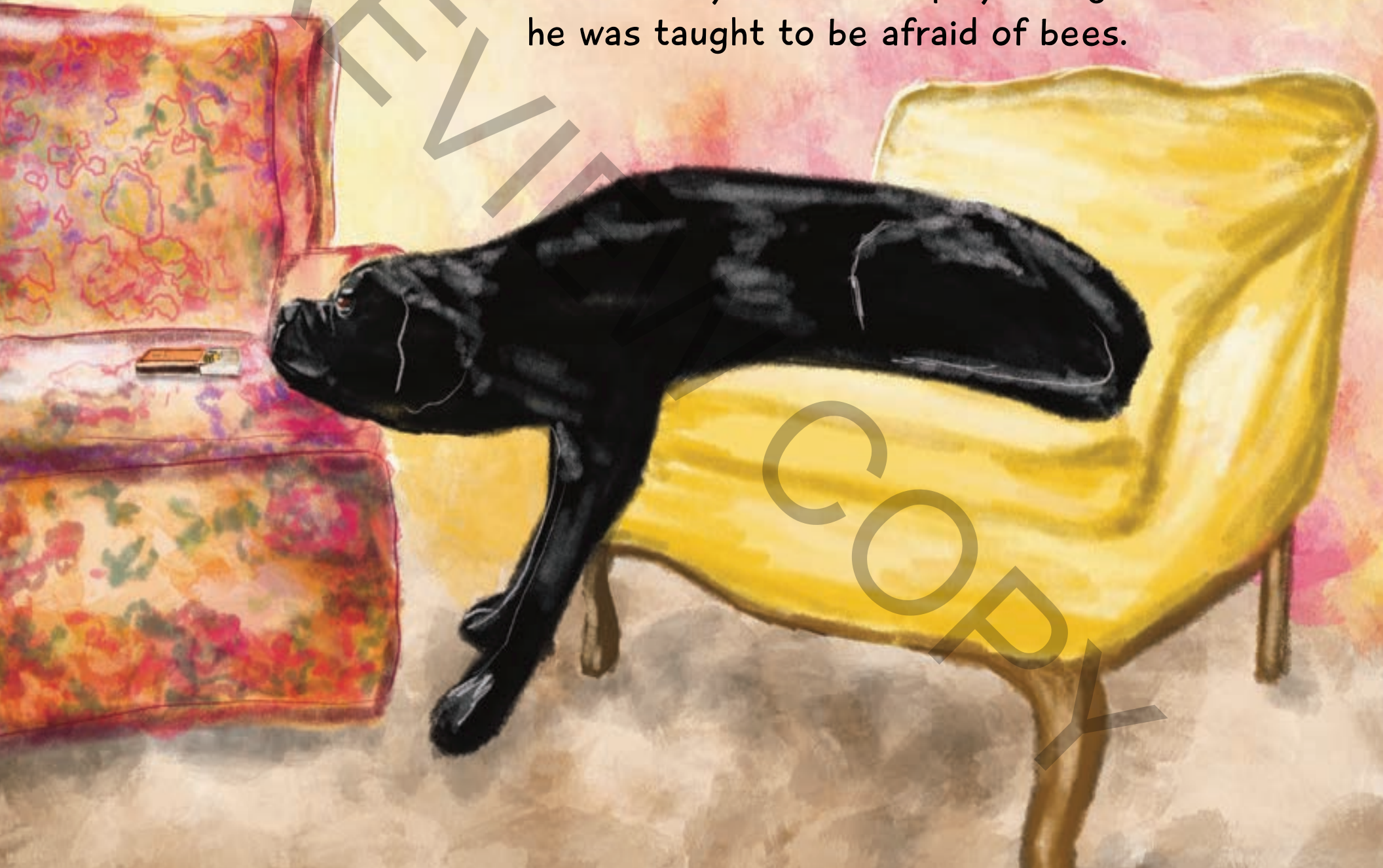
The big dog
sat vigil.





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.



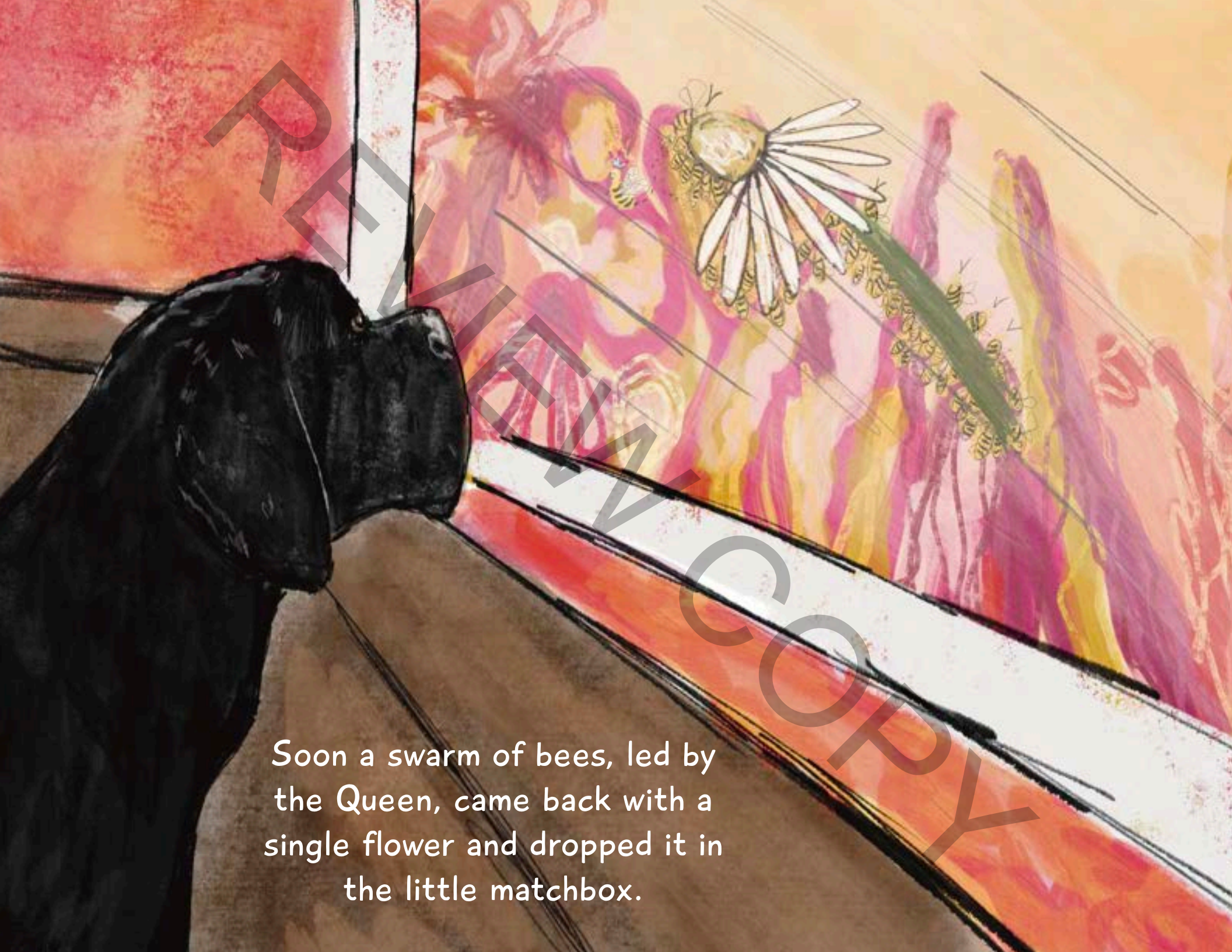
REVIEW

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.



HONEY BEE
Matches





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.

COPY

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.





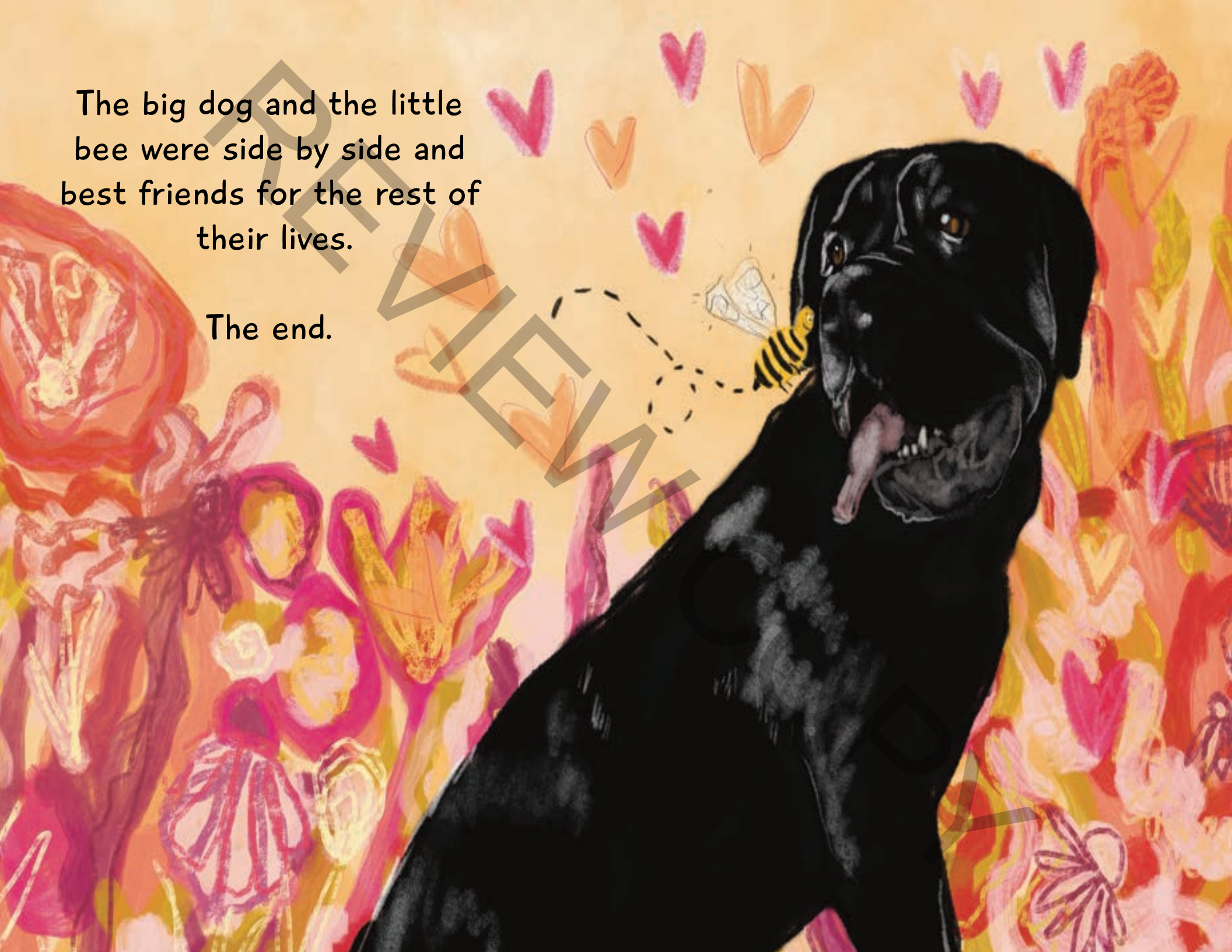
They spun and spun and spun
and spun....

A black dog stands in the center of a vibrant field of pink and orange flowers. The scene is filled with a large number of bees and butterflies, creating a sense of a 'tornado' of nature. The background is a soft, warm yellow. The overall mood is joyful and celebratory.

...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.