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I Can Read!™

BEGINNING
1
READING

CHARLIE

the Ranch Dog

STUCK IN THE MUD



based on the CHARLIE THE RANCH DOG books
by REE DRUMMOND, The Pioneer Woman,
and DIANE deGROAT

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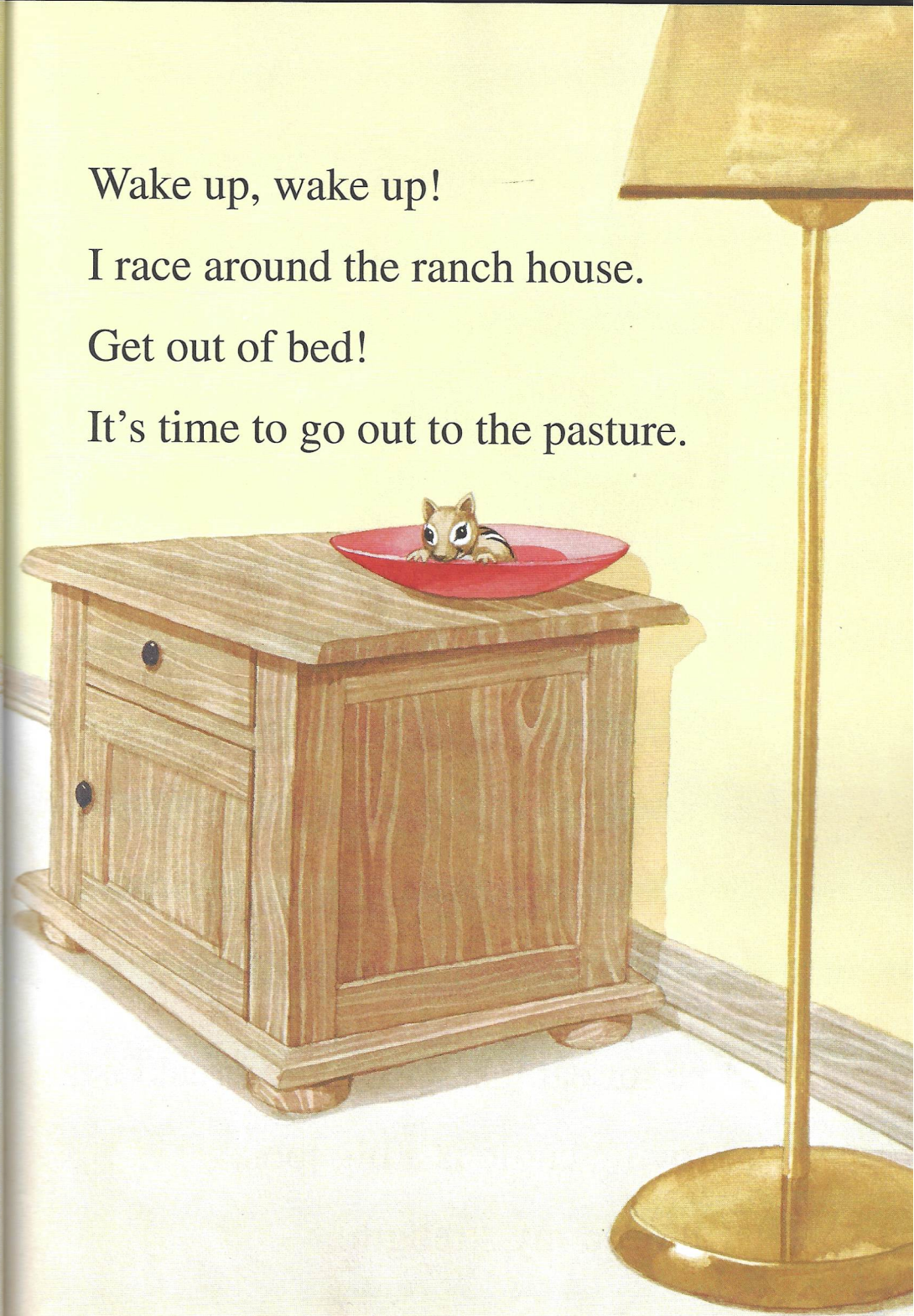
4

Wake up, wake up!

I race around the ranch house.

Get out of bed!

It's time to go out to the pasture.



5

Sniff, sniff.

I smell the cows far away
across the green grass.



Did you know
not every dog can be a cattle dog?

In the middle of a herd of cattle,
some dogs get a little crazy.

They chase.

They bark.

They run in circles.

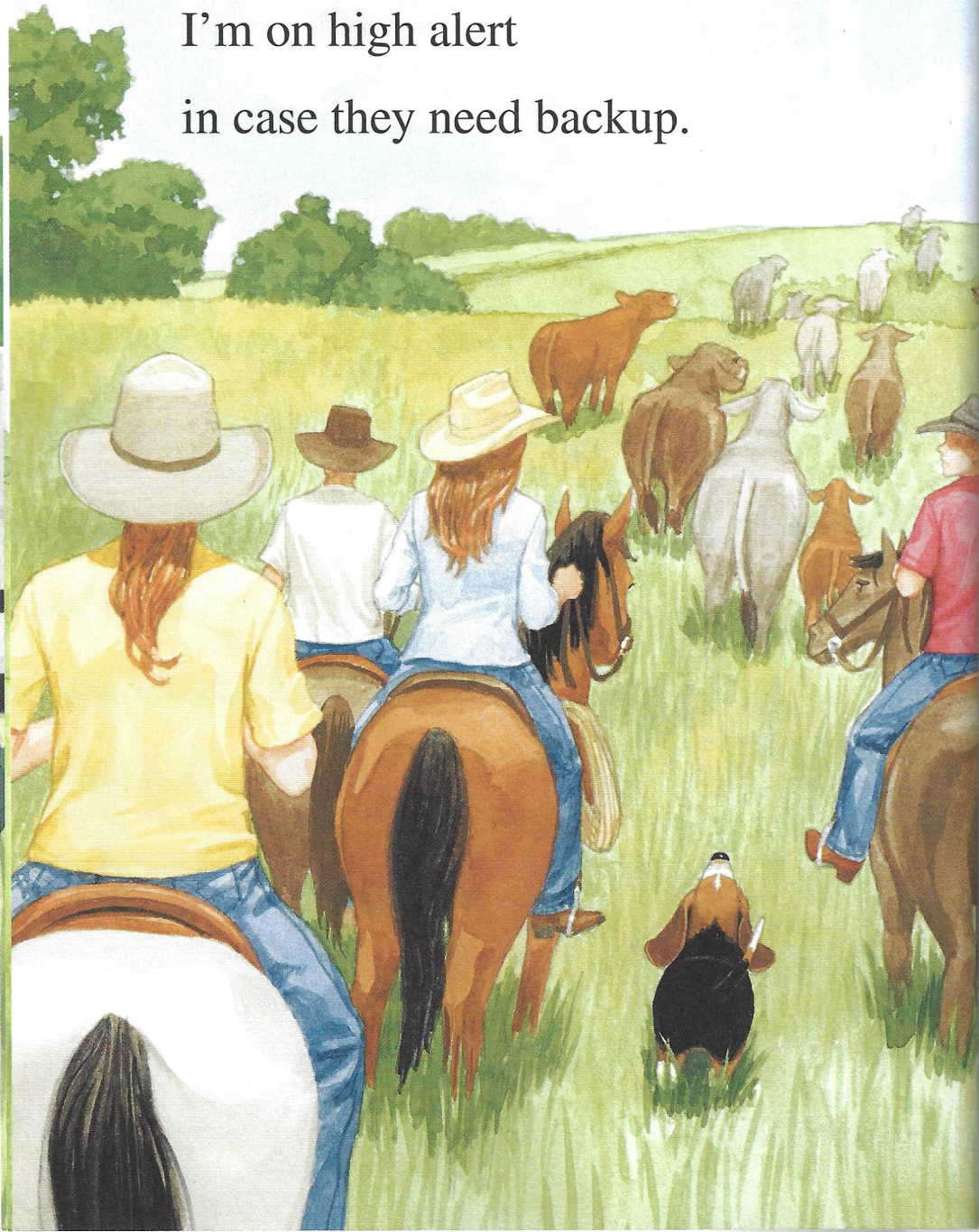
Not me.

No way.

I stay calm, cool, and collected.



Mama and the other cowgirls
and cowboys ride behind the herd.
I'm on high alert
in case they need backup.

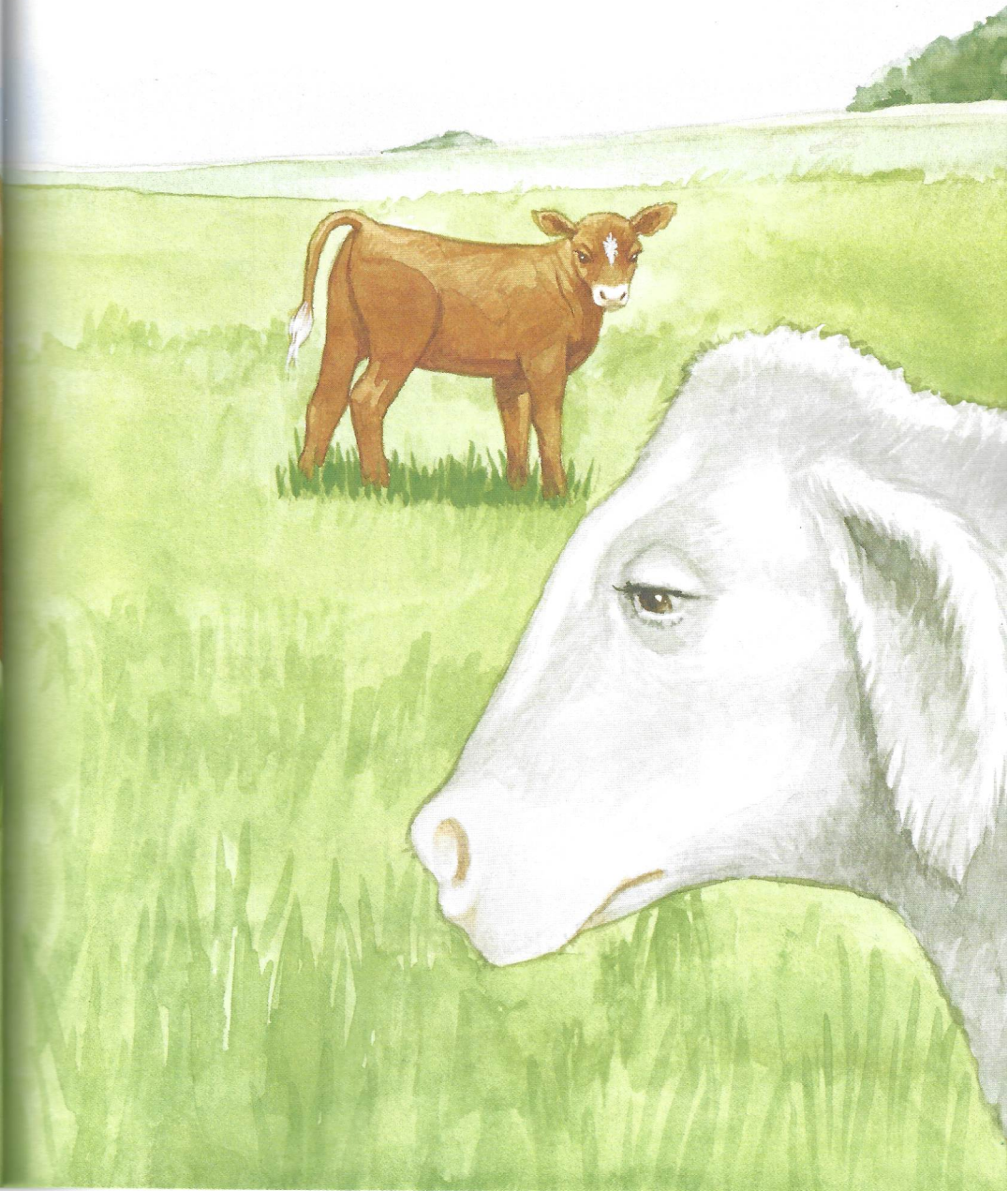


I spot a small calf.
Her name is Abigail.
Look out!
She starts to stray.



I speed up just enough
to put a little pressure on Abigail.
See?
She heads right back to the herd.

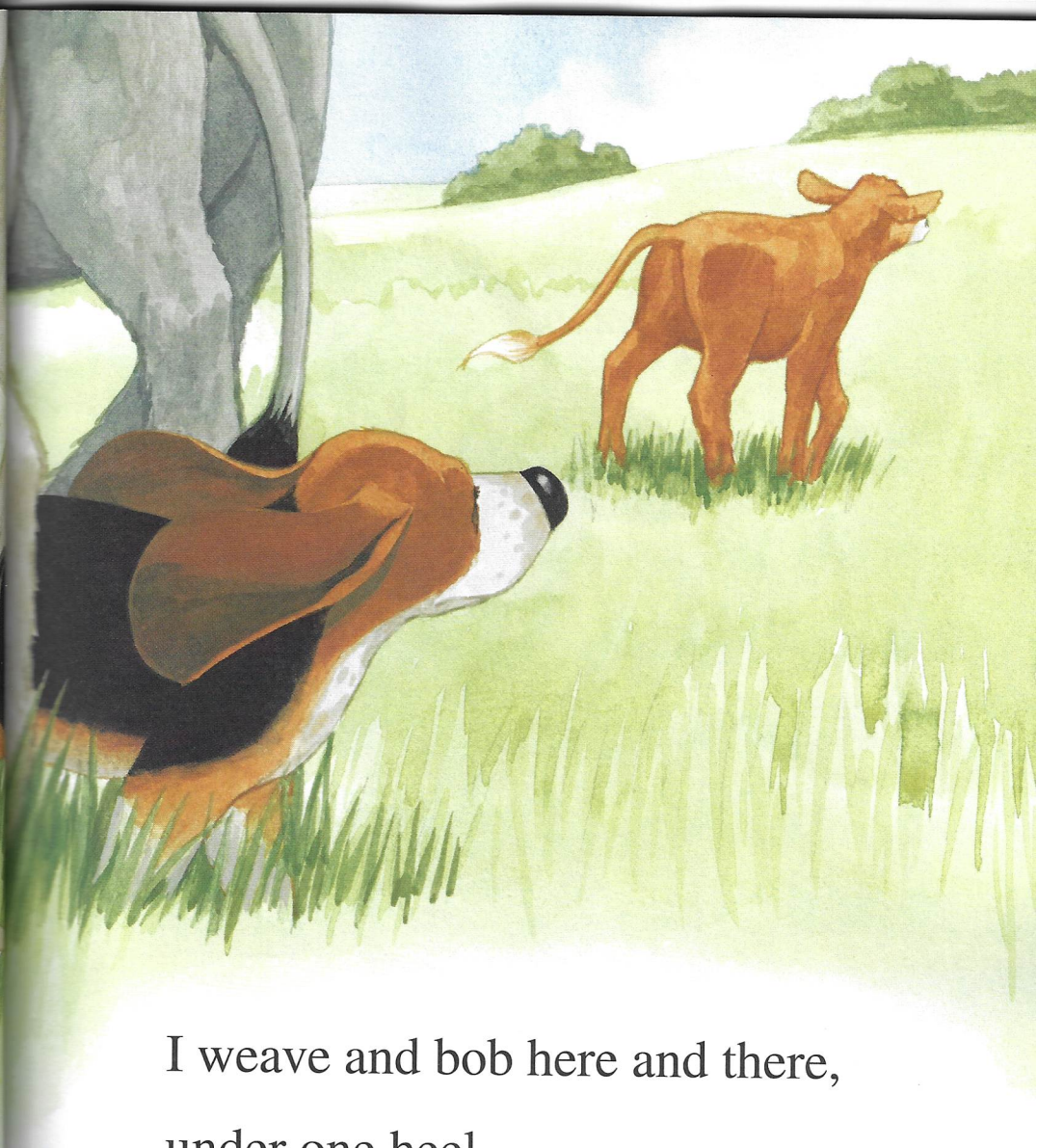
Huh?
Hey!
Get back here!





Okay, that's it.
Chase time!

16



I weave and bob here and there,
under one heel,
then the other.
I am the greatest cattle dog
this ranch has ever seen!

17



Abigail runs faster and faster.

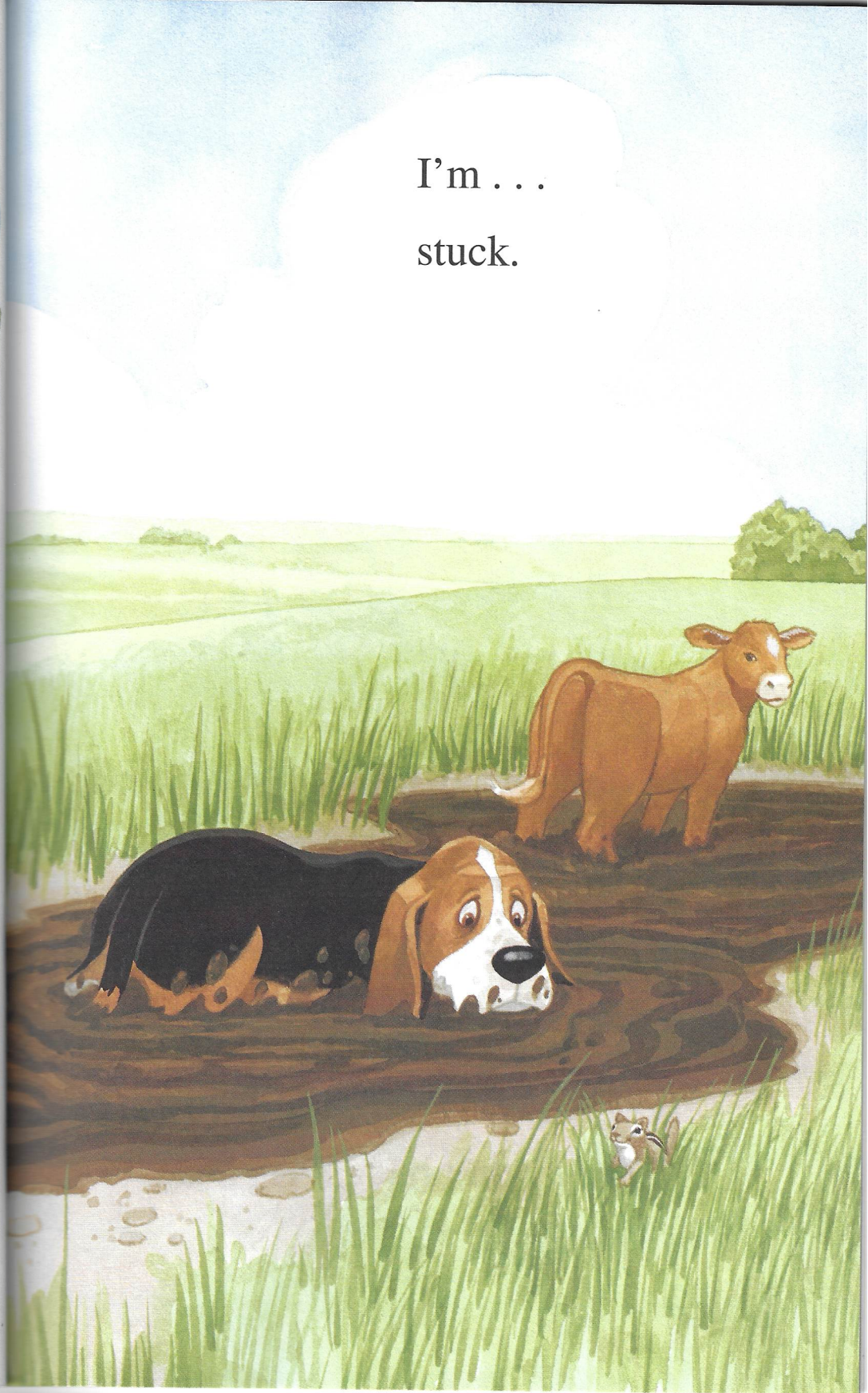
I'll catch her.

I'm fast.

I'm clever.

I'm focused.

I'm . . .
stuck.





The mud is thick and gooey.
“Lift!” I tell my legs.
They weigh a hundred pounds.
They won’t budge!



Don’t worry, Abigail!
I’ll get us out of this mess.

A cattle dog never panics.
This is no big deal.
We'll be just fine.



22

My long, floppy ears feel sticky.
Mud is everywhere!
I shake my head to get it off.
Ouch! My eyes!
It stings!

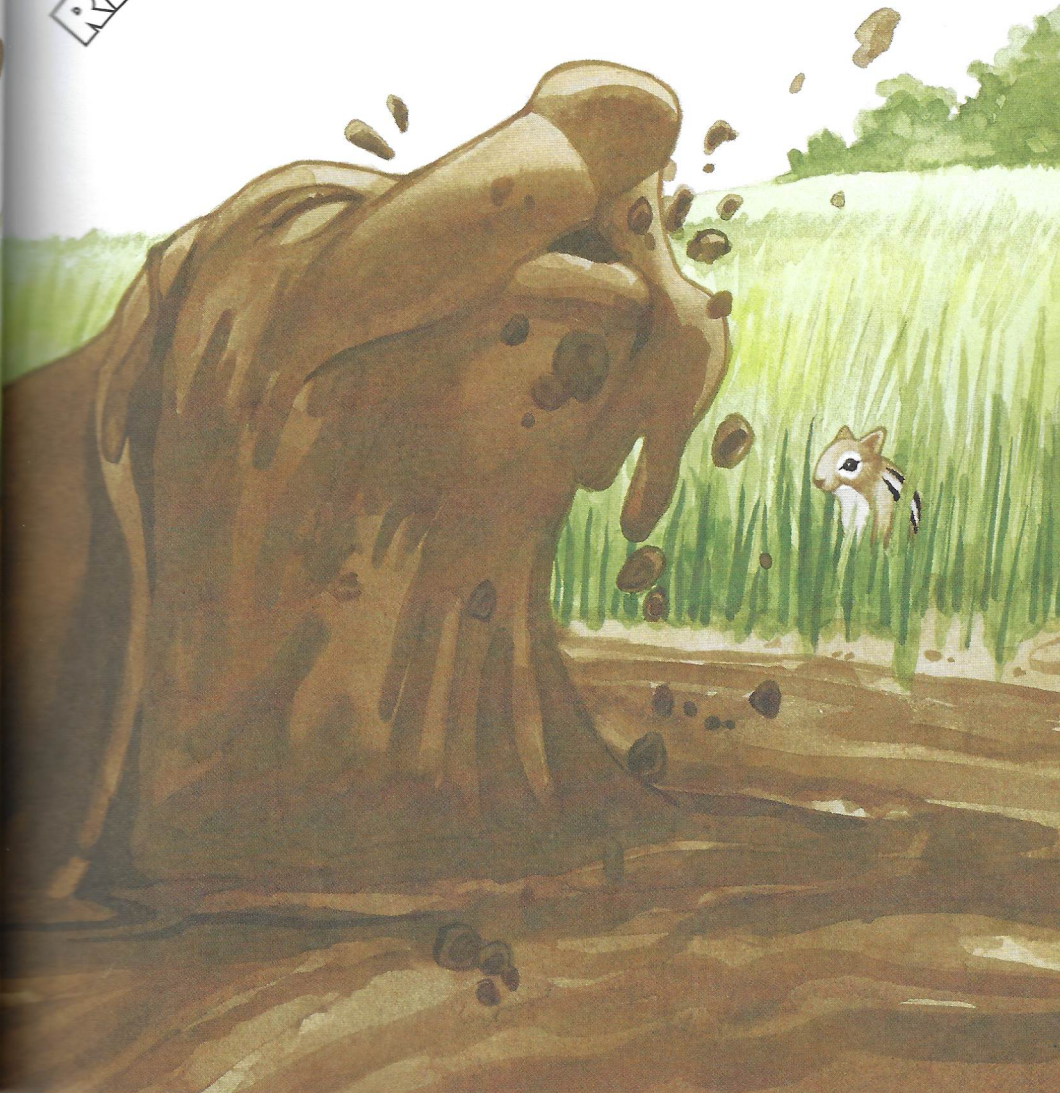


23

I smell Abigail nearby.
I try to lean a little closer.
Plop!
I fall face first.

Sniff, sniff.
All I smell is a nose full of mud!

RRRRRRROOOOOWWOOOOOOH!



Where am I?

Someone scratches behind my ears.

I hear Mama's voice.

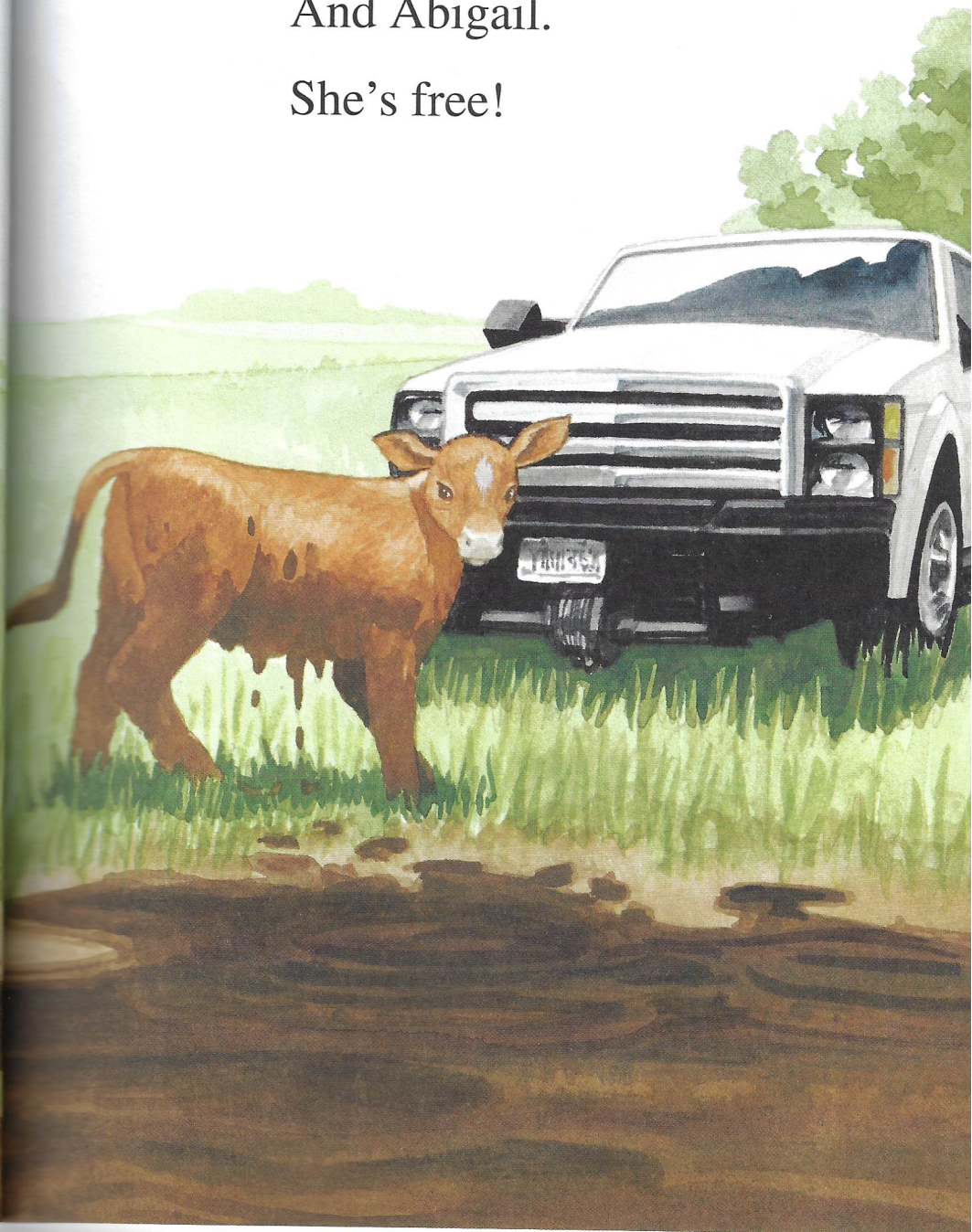


She cleans my eyes.

I see Mama!

And Abigail.

She's free!





My howl!

It must have done the trick.

28



Even when I can't move,
can't see,

and can't even smell,

I never lose my cool.

There's no cattle dog like me.

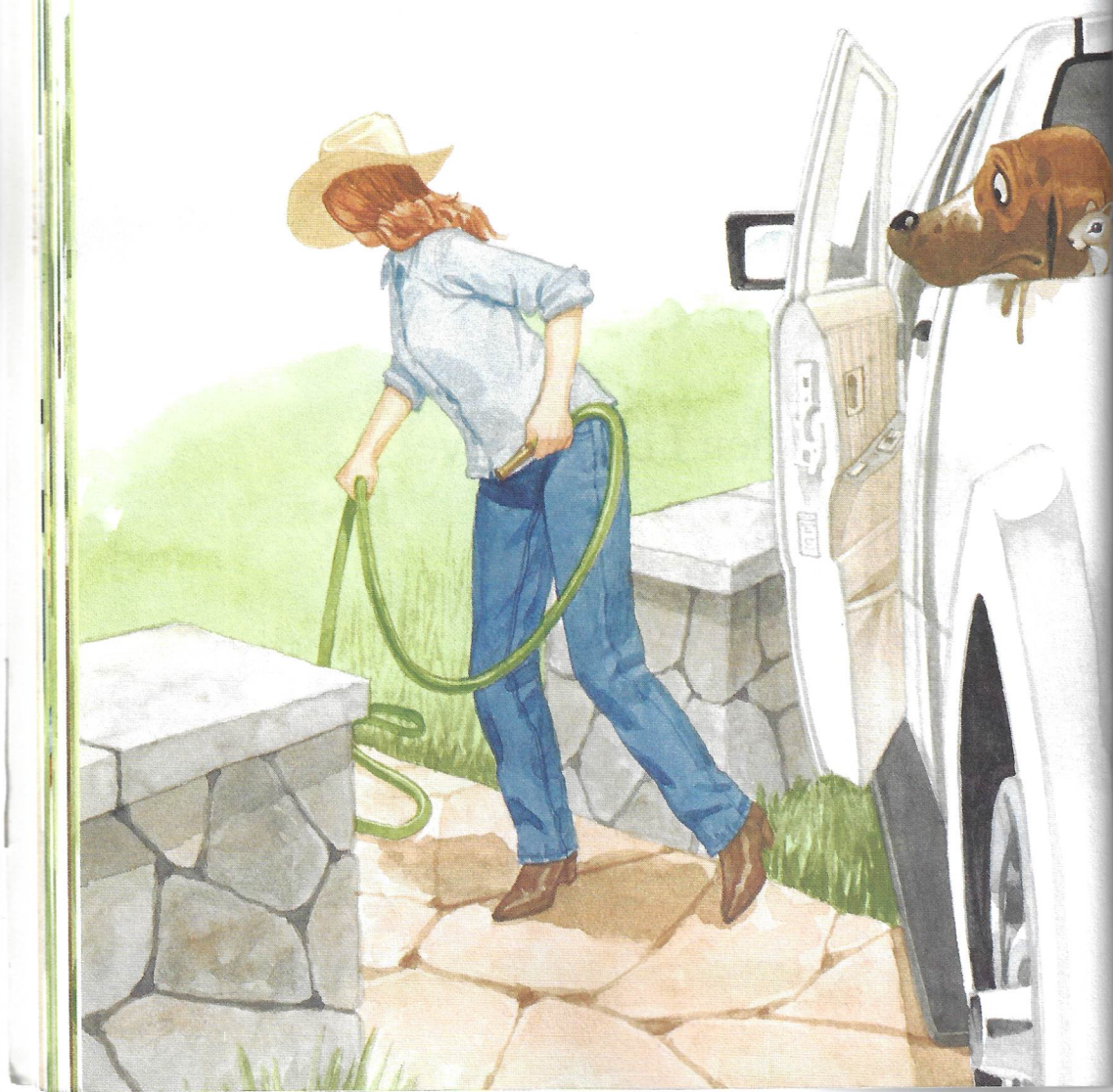
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Oh, wonderful, warm, dry ranch house.

Mama hops out of the truck.

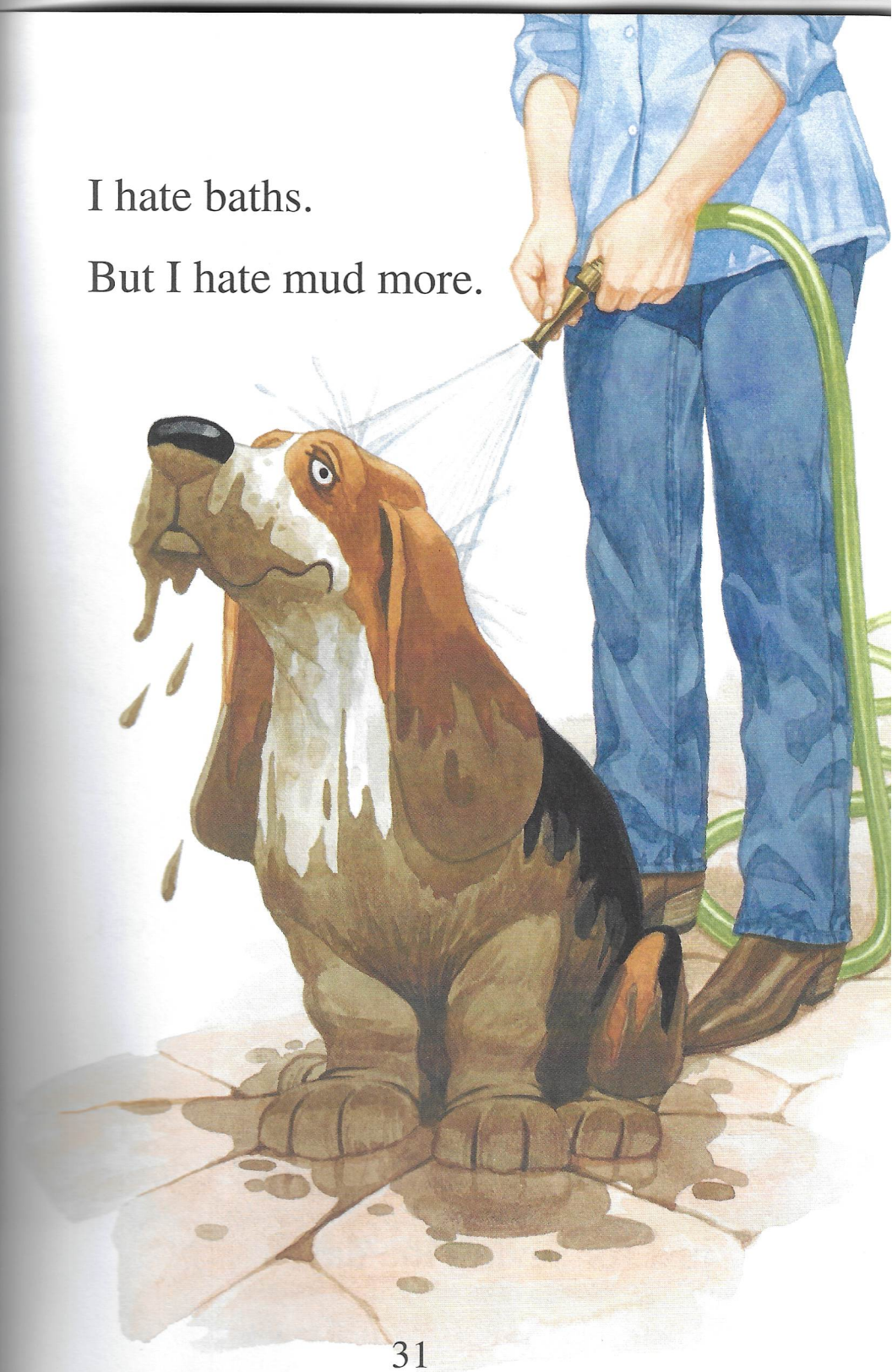
No!

Not the hose!



I hate baths.

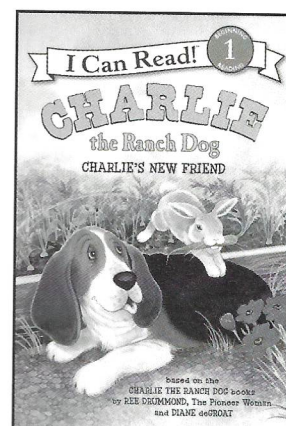
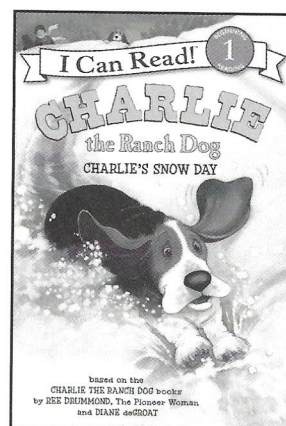
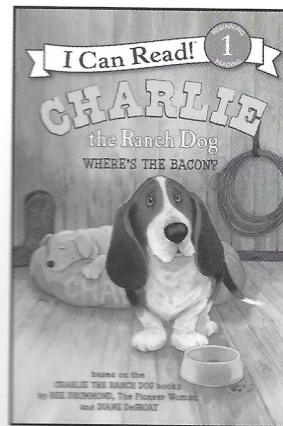
But I hate mud more.





Mama wraps me in a fluffy towel.
 I roll on my back.
 I'll take a belly rub, please.
 And an extra strip of juicy bacon
 just for saving the day.

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 books for you to love:



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