

# LADY NEEDED SPACE



Story By  
Audrey Weatherstone

Illustrations by  
Natalia Logvanova

## Praise for *Lady Needed Space*

“*Lady Needed Space* by Audrey Weatherstone is a heartwarming story about a special dog on a journey to find her confidence in a challenging world. As Lady navigates her emotional journey, we witness the transformative power of friendship and support from her dedicated caretaker and a newfound companion. This touching tale reminds us that sometimes we all need space, help to discover our bravery, and support to be our true selves.”

—Amy Learn VMD, DACVB  
(Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists),  
owner of the Animal Behavior Wellness Center in Richmond,  
[www.behaviorbuzzzzzz.com](http://www.behaviorbuzzzzzz.com)

“This beautifully written and heartfelt story brings the importance of empathy and friendship to life in a way both children and adults can appreciate. Through the lens of a dog who needs space, the book encourages understanding, patience, and kindness, while celebrating the joy of making connections with others. A truly wonderful resource that touched my heart.”

—Gabrielle Johnson BS, CDBC  
(Certified Dog Behavior Consultant)

“Audrey Weatherstone’s tender and reassuring picture book is a genuine reminder that we all need acceptance to thrive. We can never have enough books about belonging.”

—Judy Pedersen, author of  
*When Night Time Comes Near*

“There are so many layers of valuable lessons in this beautiful story. Children will learn, along with Audrey Weatherstone’s lovable characters, not only how to navigate their own big emotions, but how validating those same feelings for a friend can make all the difference in the world. Lady will tug at your heartstrings!”

—Emily Peace Harrison, author of the  
award-winning picture book *I’d Rather Be Me*

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In loving memory of Lady





It was a cold, rainy night when Lily spotted a little dog with big ears on the side of Nine Mile Road.



“Hop in, pup. I’ll help you,” Lily said. The little dog was wet, cold, hungry . . . and scared.



Lily took the furry critter to the animal shelter, where they decided to call her Nine Mile Lady. Nine Mile Lady watched people come and go day after day, waiting for her chance to be adopted. The shelter was bright and loud, and she was anxious.





Finally, one day, a girl named April came to the animal shelter. April felt excited! She had always dreamed about having a dog of her own.

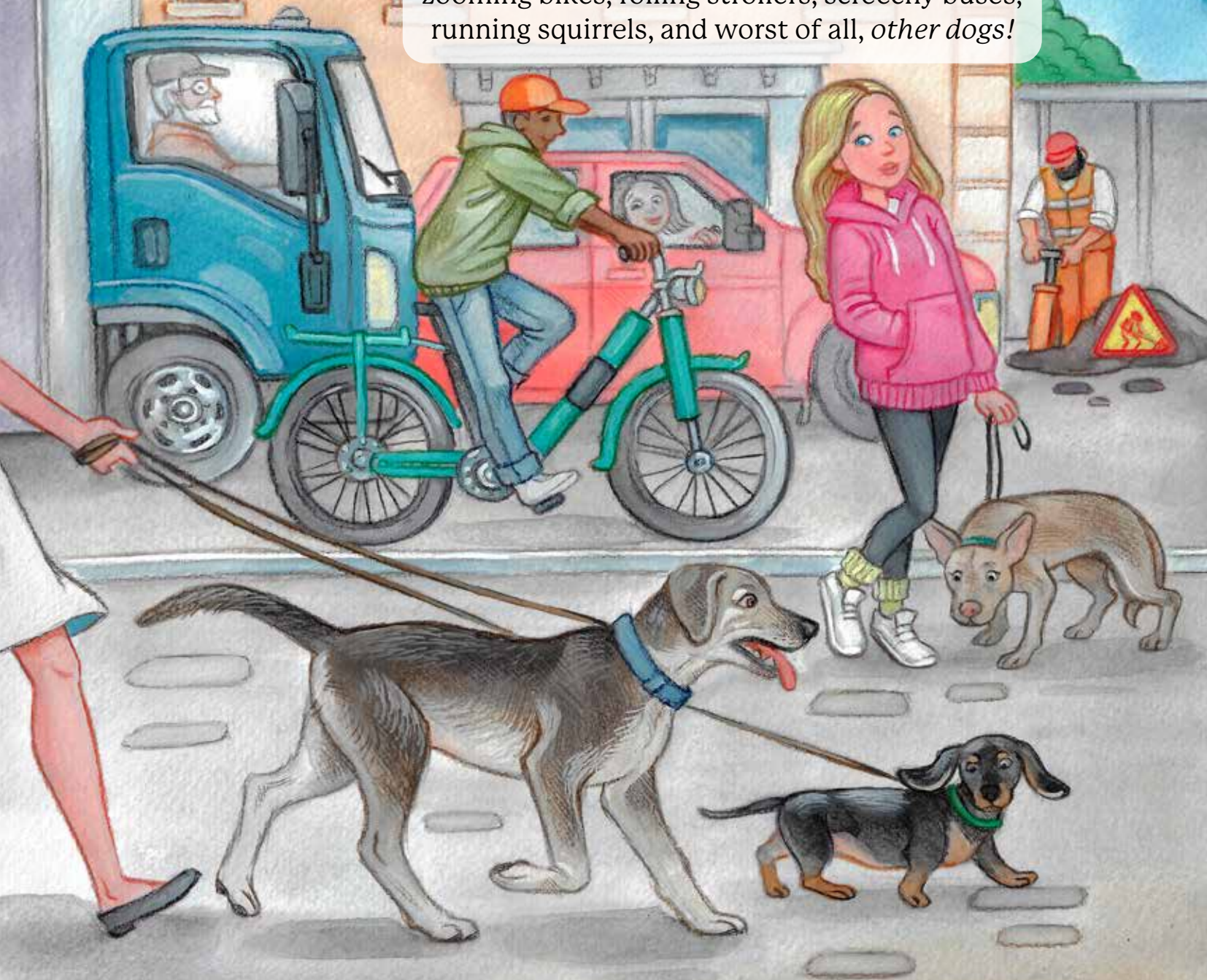


The moment April and Nine Mile Lady locked eyes,  
they knew they would be best friends.

April brought the little dog home and decided to call her “Lady.” Lady quickly learned she had nothing to be afraid of in her new home. Here, she felt safe and comfortable. But outside was a different story . . .

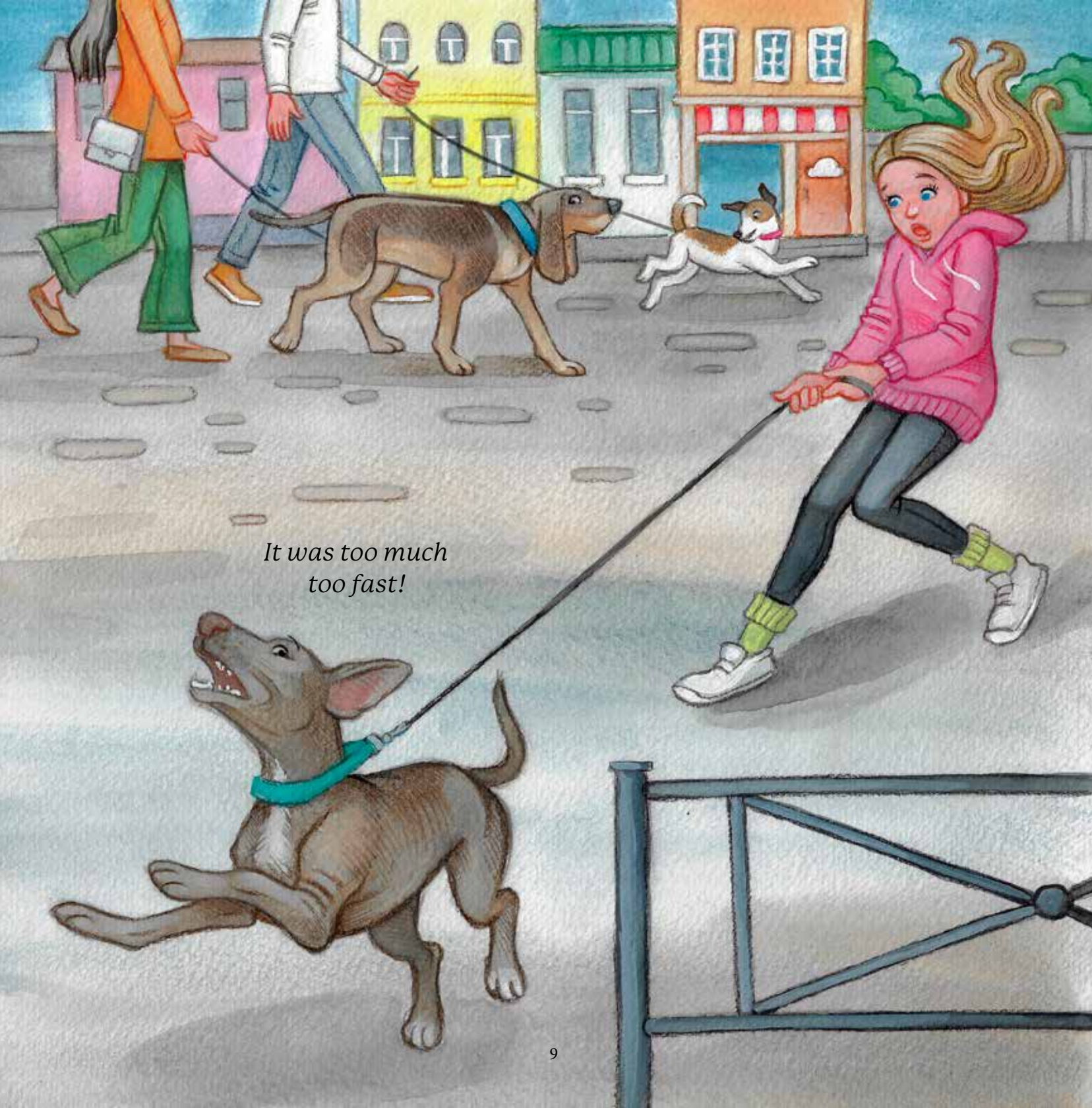


Outside there were beeping cars, talking people, zooming bikes, rolling strollers, screechy buses, running squirrels, and worst of all, *other dogs!*



Lady had never been somewhere like this before, and she had no idea what to do. She felt overwhelmed.

Lady felt uncomfortable when new people reached out to pet her and scared when other dogs ran up to her to say hi. Sometimes, these feelings made Lady bark or growl, and she would pull April away from the scary people and their dogs.



*It was too much  
too fast!*

Lady didn't mean it, but her strong emotions usually ended up making other people and dogs feel scared too.

This left her feeling misunderstood. What if her emotions were stopping her from making friends?





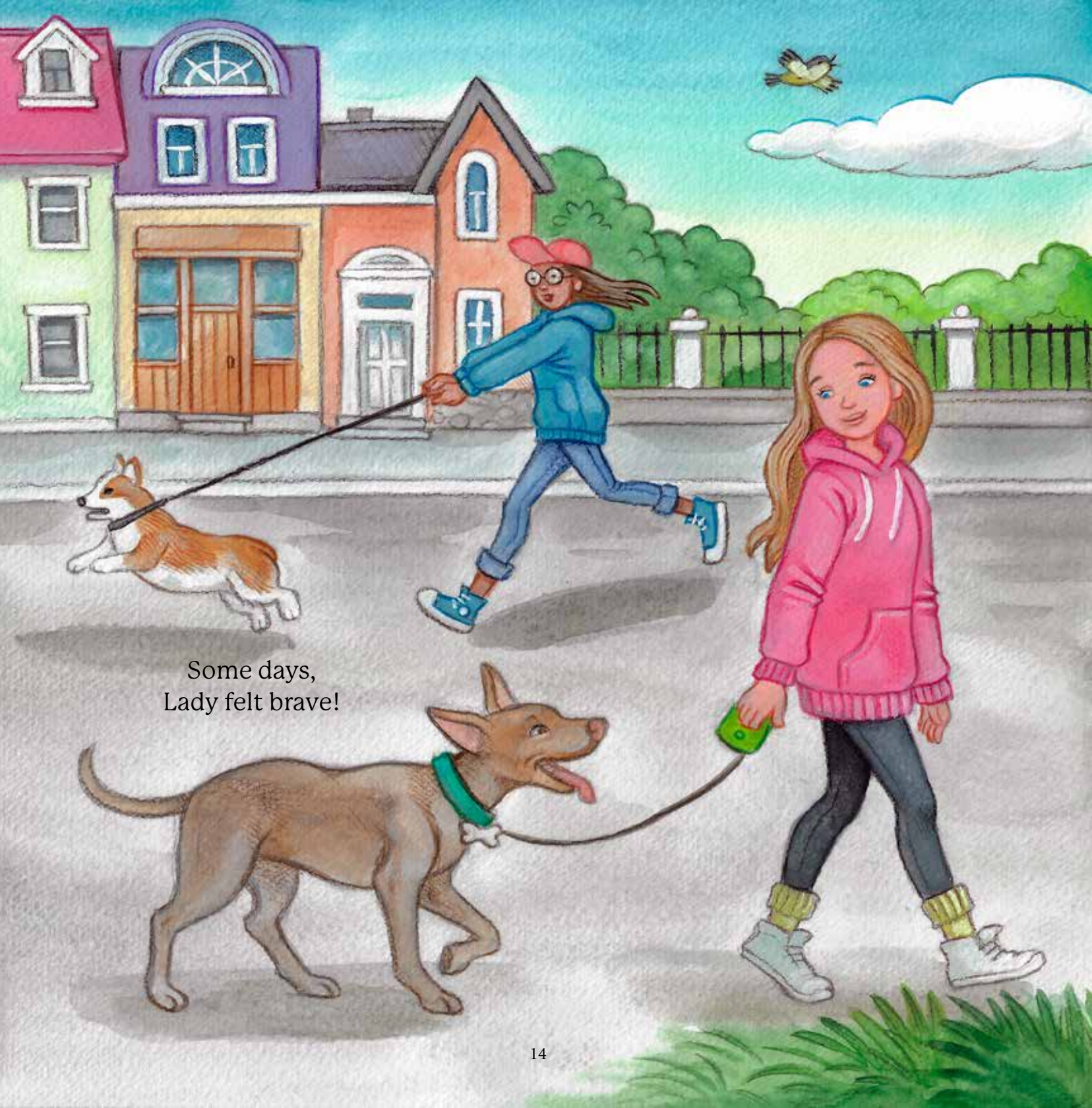
“You’re *not* a bad dog!” April said. “You just need space. It’s okay to take your time. When I meet new people, I get nervous too.”



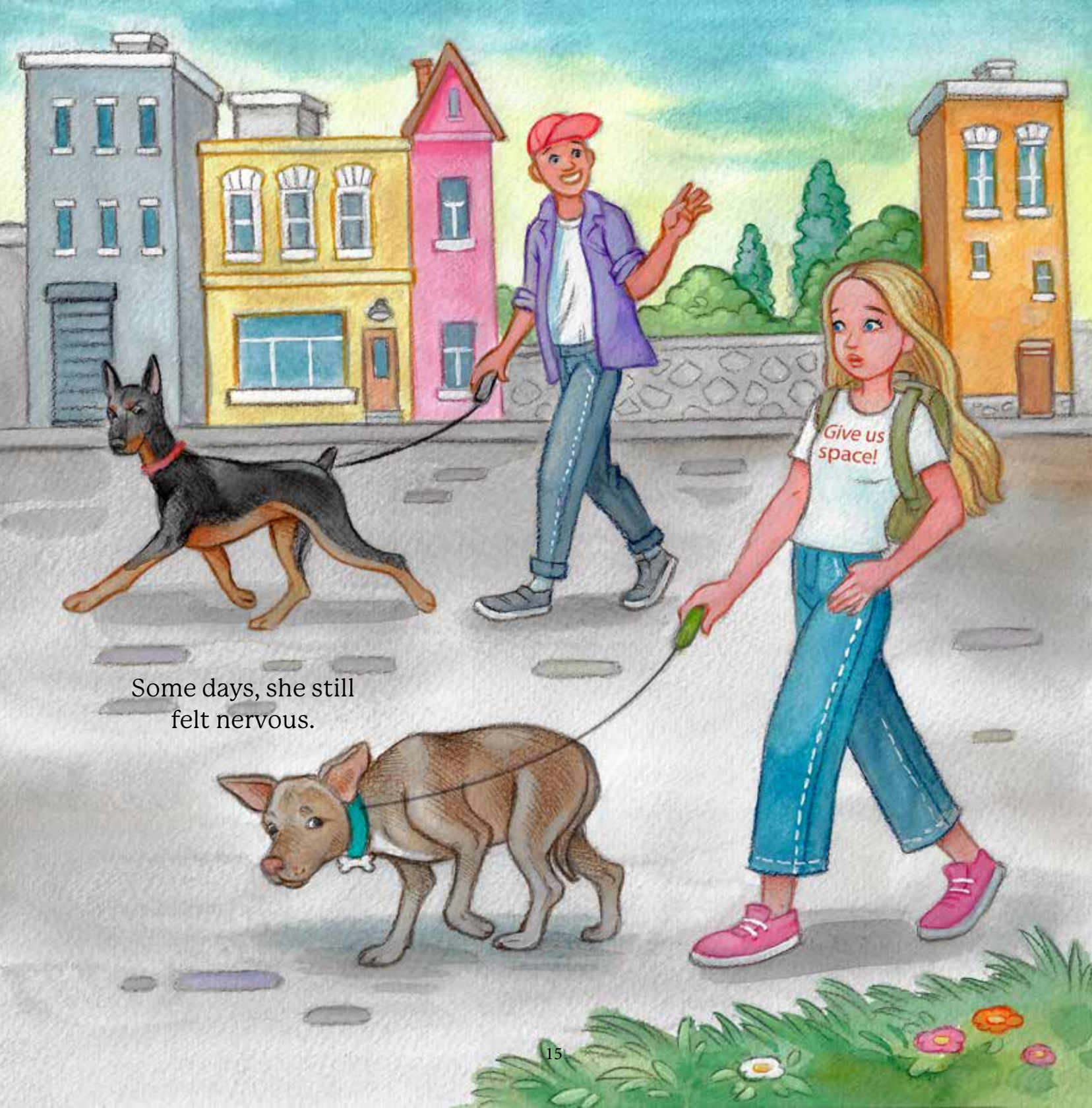


April wanted to help Lady with her big emotions, so she brought Lady's favorite treats wherever they went. Lady learned new tricks and games to play, which made being outside more fun.


When she was having fun, she felt safe.



Some days,  
Lady felt brave!



Some days, she still  
felt nervous.

A vibrant, painterly illustration of a dog jumping joyfully in a lush green field filled with various colorful flowers. The dog is brown and white, wearing a green collar with a bone-shaped tag. A small bird with grey and brown feathers is flying in the upper right corner. The scene is bright and cheerful, with a variety of flower colors including red, pink, orange, yellow, white, blue, and purple.

And some days, she  
just needed space.





One day at the park, Lady spotted a dog far enough away that she felt safe. She wagged her tail to let April know she felt ready to get closer.

April and Lady practiced all their favorite tricks and games as they slowly walked closer.

“Can we say hi?” April called.



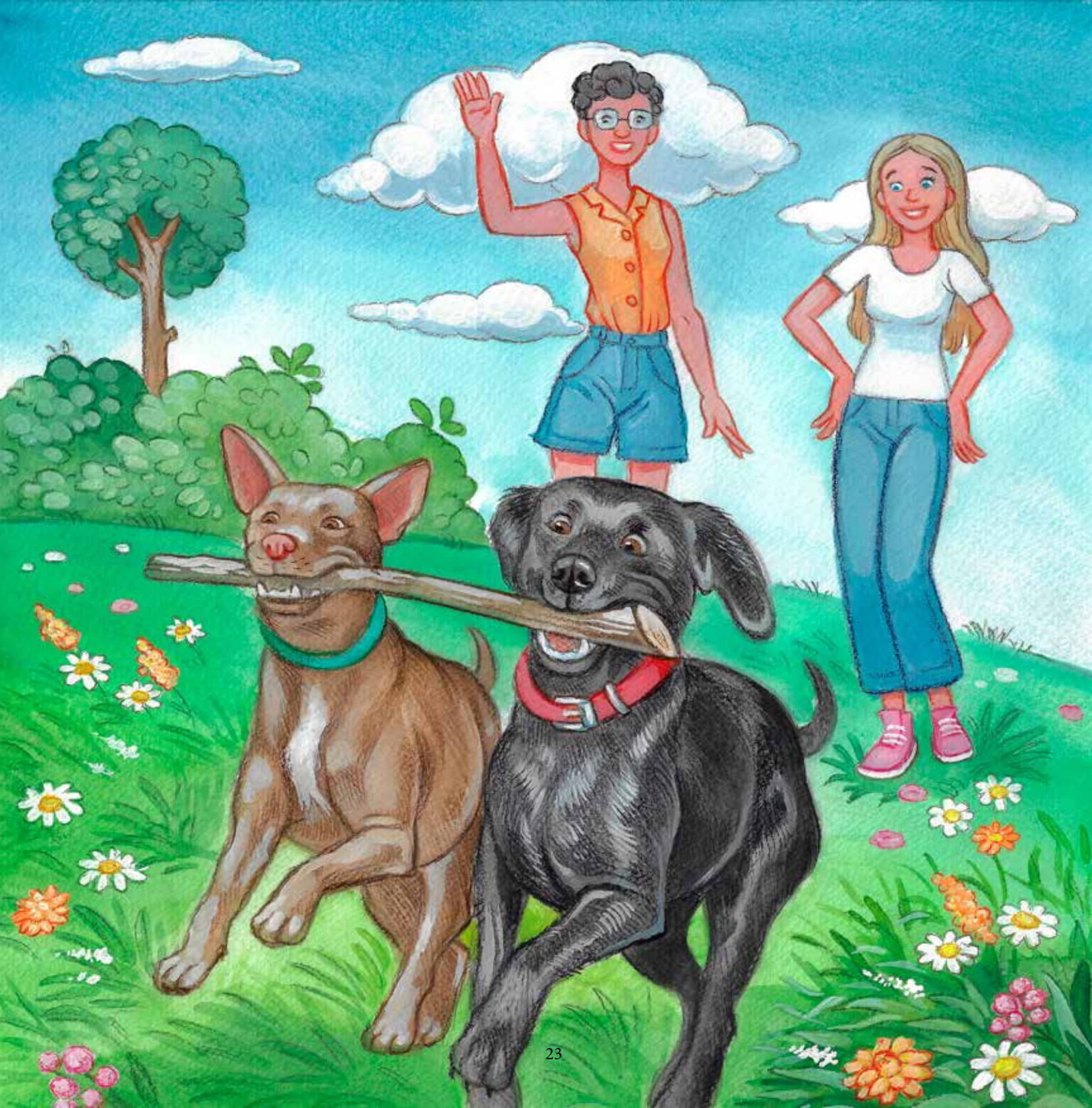
Lady's heart was pounding, but she tried to be brave. As they got closer to the girl, Lady began to recognize her . . .

“Hi! I’m Lily, and this is Milo!”



Lady started to relax when she realized Lily was the human who had saved her! She felt happy, too, when she saw how fast Milo's tail was wagging.

Lily scattered treats on the ground and didn't reach out to pet her too quickly, which helped Lady feel comfortable. Lady and Milo quickly became friends, and Lady showed him some of the tricks April had taught her.



Sometimes, Lady still felt overwhelmed, scared, and nervous, but having one good friend helped her feel confident.

And, sometimes, one good friend is all you need.



## About the Author




**Audrey Weatherstone** is a singer-songwriter, author, and dog lover based in Richmond, Virginia. After graduating from Shenandoah University, she now works as a music therapist in neurological rehabilitation and hospice care, as well as advocating for rescue animals, reactive dogs, and positive reinforcement dog training. Her music and writing are inspired by her work as a music therapist and her reactive rescue dog, Lady. *Lady Needed Space* is her first book.

## About the Illustrator



Illustrator **Natalia Logvanova** was born in the village of Zarechnoye, Ukraine. Natalia's father worked as a math teacher and was a self-taught artist. As a child, she loved to draw and studied fine art with other children. After graduating from high school, Natalia went to the University of Manuilsky in Rivne, Ukraine. She graduated from the faculty of fine arts and design basics. Today, Natalia lives and works in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia. She has worked as an Illustrator for about twenty years, illustrating more than fifty books for publishers in the United States, England, Jordan, Australia, South Korea, Poland, and Belarus. Natalia specializes in children's illustration; she uses watercolors and digital graphics.



When Lady is brought home from the animal shelter, she feels overwhelmed by the busy world around her, full of unfamiliar dogs, people, sounds, and smells. She doesn't know what to do with her big feelings! But with love and patience from April, her human, Lady learns tricks to help her feel safe, and even makes a new friend. Some days she feels brave, and some days she just needs space.

"Children will learn, along with Audrey Weatherstone's lovable characters, not only how to navigate their own big emotions, but how validating those same feelings for a friend can make all the difference in the world. Lady will tug at your heartstrings!"

—Emily Peace Harrison, author of the award-winning picture book *I'd Rather Be Me*

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