



# QUEEN BEE

a collection of short stories

by  
**Marie Rippel**  
and  
**Renée LaTulippe**

 ALL ABOUT *Reading*

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Marie Rippel: "Ruben and the Secret Gift" - "Mrs. Marvel's Garden"  
"Storm in the North" - "In My Backpack"  
"Pumpkin and the Kitten" - "Life on *The Blue Whale*"  
"Wild Rice Harvest" - "Rawhide"

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"Oh, Brother!" - "Cricket's Picnic" - "Queen Bee"

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"Storm in the North" - "Dragon in the Wagon"  
"In My Backpack" - "Pumpkin and the Kitten"  
"Oh, Brother!" - "Cricket's Picnic"  
"Wild Rice Harvest" - "Rawhide"

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"Queen Bee"

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*To the reader –*

*may you be inspired  
to embark on  
your own adventures*

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**Oh, Brother!**





This is Brother. He lives on a farm with Grandmother.



Do you see Brother's big grin? When he grins like that, it's a clue that he is up to his tricks. But he will never admit it! If you ask him what he's up to, he will yell, "Nothing!"

Uh-oh, here comes Grandmother.



Brother has a big grin on his face. He runs to get his gloves. When Brother gets to the front gate, Grandmother stares.



You see? I told you that big grin was a clue. Let's see what other tricks Brother will do.



Brother runs here and there. What will he put in his bucket? He grabs leftover pancakes, fish, milk, and one bag of nuts.

Uh-oh. There's that big grin.  
Brother, what are you up to?



You can bet that with Brother,  
“nothing” is “something.”





And what is under that cover? It's cheese! The pigs do a jig.

But here comes Grandmother. She stops and stares.





Brother's tricks have made the pigs glad, but not Grandmother.

Brother, I don't mind that you fed the pigs on my nice plates. But the pigs upset the plates and there is a mess in the pigpen. You must shovel up this slop!



Yes, Grandmother.



Did Brother do the job well? Not if you ask Grandmother.

Brother, you got slop on the  
geese! I like my geese to be white.  
Rinse the geese—and no tricks this  
time!

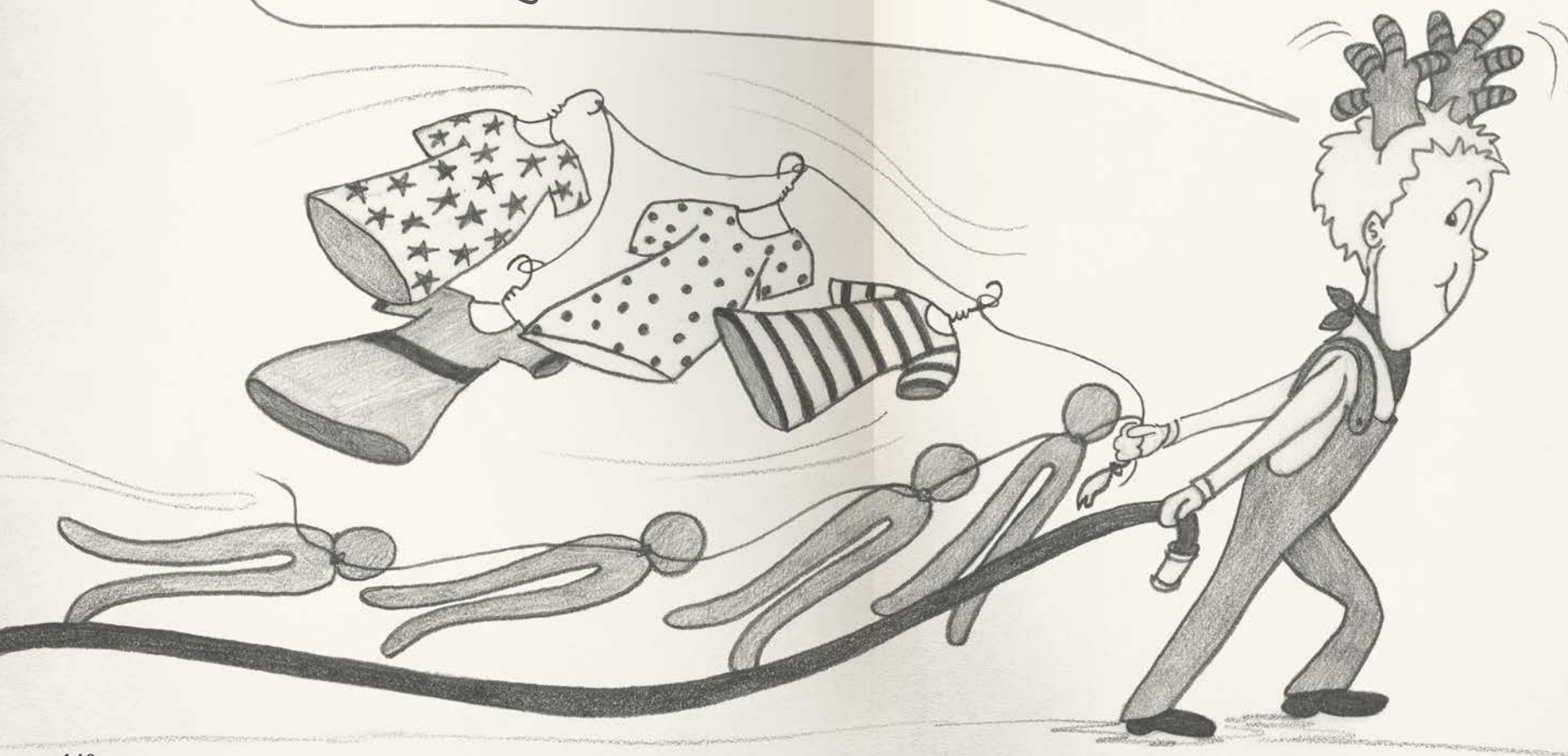
Yes,  
Grandmother.

Brother gets the hose. Uh-oh. What's  
that on Brother's face? Yes, it's a big  
grin. What do you think he'll do?  
Let's ask.

Brother, what are you up to?

Do you trust Brother? Will  
Grandmother?

Nothing!





Here she comes. She stops and stares.



What's the matter?  
You told me to rinse  
the geese!

Oh,  
Brother!

Is Grandmother mad? Or is that a  
smile on her face? It's hard to tell.

Brother, these tricks have to  
stop! Take the geese off the line.  
Then come in for lunch.  
No tricks!

Yes,  
Grandmother.



This time Brother gets his chores done. And then it's time for lunch and cake! But where is Grandmother? Brother yells for her.





Hold on. Is that a big grin on Grandmother's face? Grandmother, what are you up to?





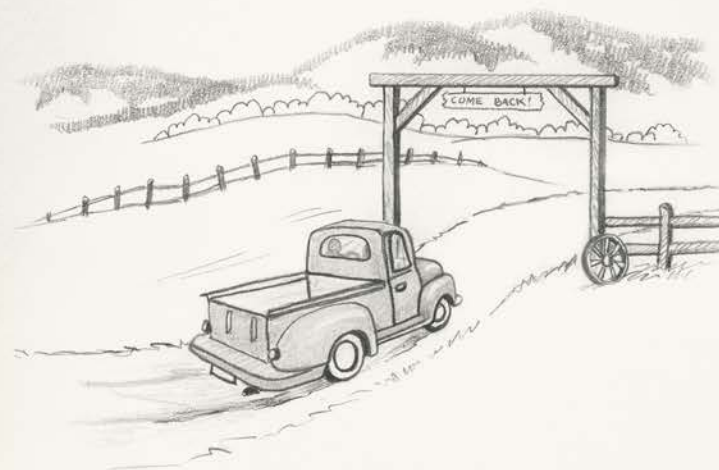
Brother stares.



Rawhide



My name is Rawhide. I'm a ranch dog. I'm the boss of this place. I protect the kids and keep things in order.



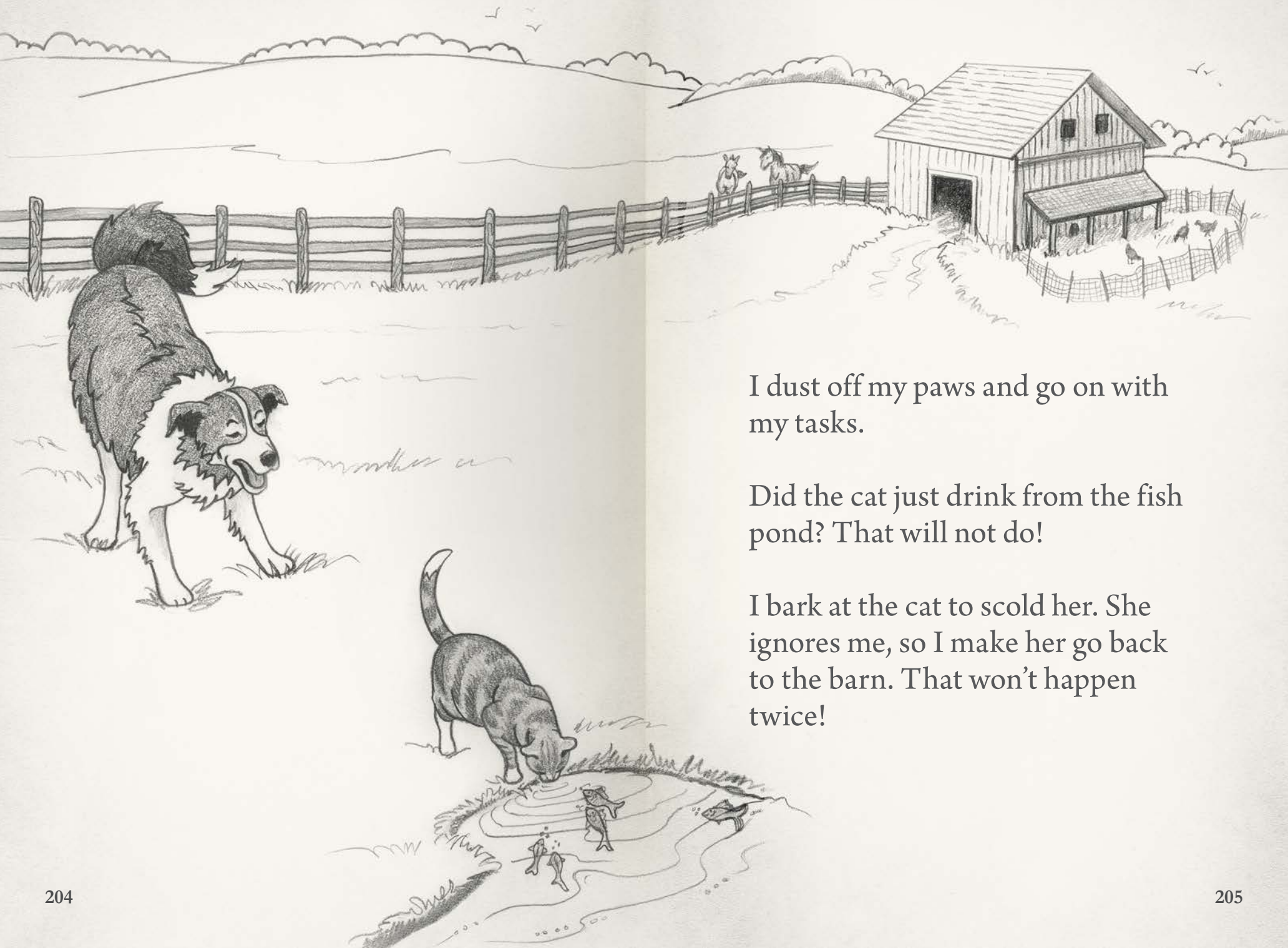
Mr. and Mrs. August drove off in the truck. They left me in charge of the kids. There is a ranch hand, but he's not much help.



While the kids have pancakes, I go  
for a short stroll.

I spot a large rat by the sawmill. I  
chase it over a pile of sawdust. He  
won't be back while I'm on the job.

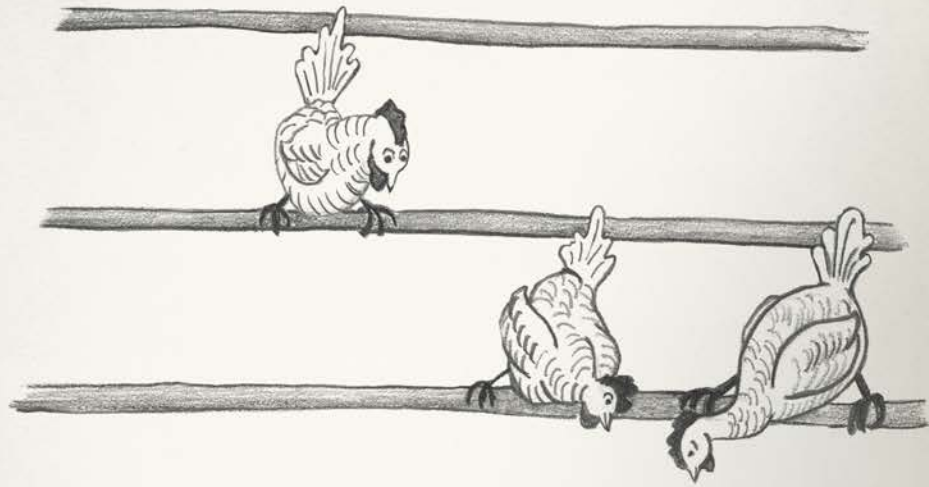




I dust off my paws and go on with my tasks.

Did the cat just drink from the fish pond? That will not do!

I bark at the cat to scold her. She ignores me, so I make her go back to the barn. That won't happen twice!



The ranch hand enters the chicken pen. I crawl over to spy on him. Did he just nab an egg? I'll put a stop to that!



I creep over the straw and jump at him. He drops his basket and flees.



The kids are on the lawn in bare feet. I see a huge green snake coiled up by the seesaw.

I pause ... then I jump onto the wild snake and haul it off. I have saved the kids!



Just then, the truck chugs up the lane. Mr. and Mrs. August step out—but who is with them?

They call her Aunt Sue, and she has a blue shawl. Her arms are filled with boxes and bags. This upsets me!



The kids seem to like her. I don't understand why! I have never seen her before!

The kids take the boxes from her. Stop! I have not checked the boxes yet to see if they are safe! I must tell the kids to stop.



Aunt Sue sets a box in front of me and opens it. It smells like bacon. I love bacon!

Perhaps she isn't as bad as she seems. In fact, I love Aunt Sue!



We all go inside to wash up for supper. I sprawl on my bed while Mrs. August makes the sauce.

I am tired. Yawn!

I must rest up so I can start over in the morning.



