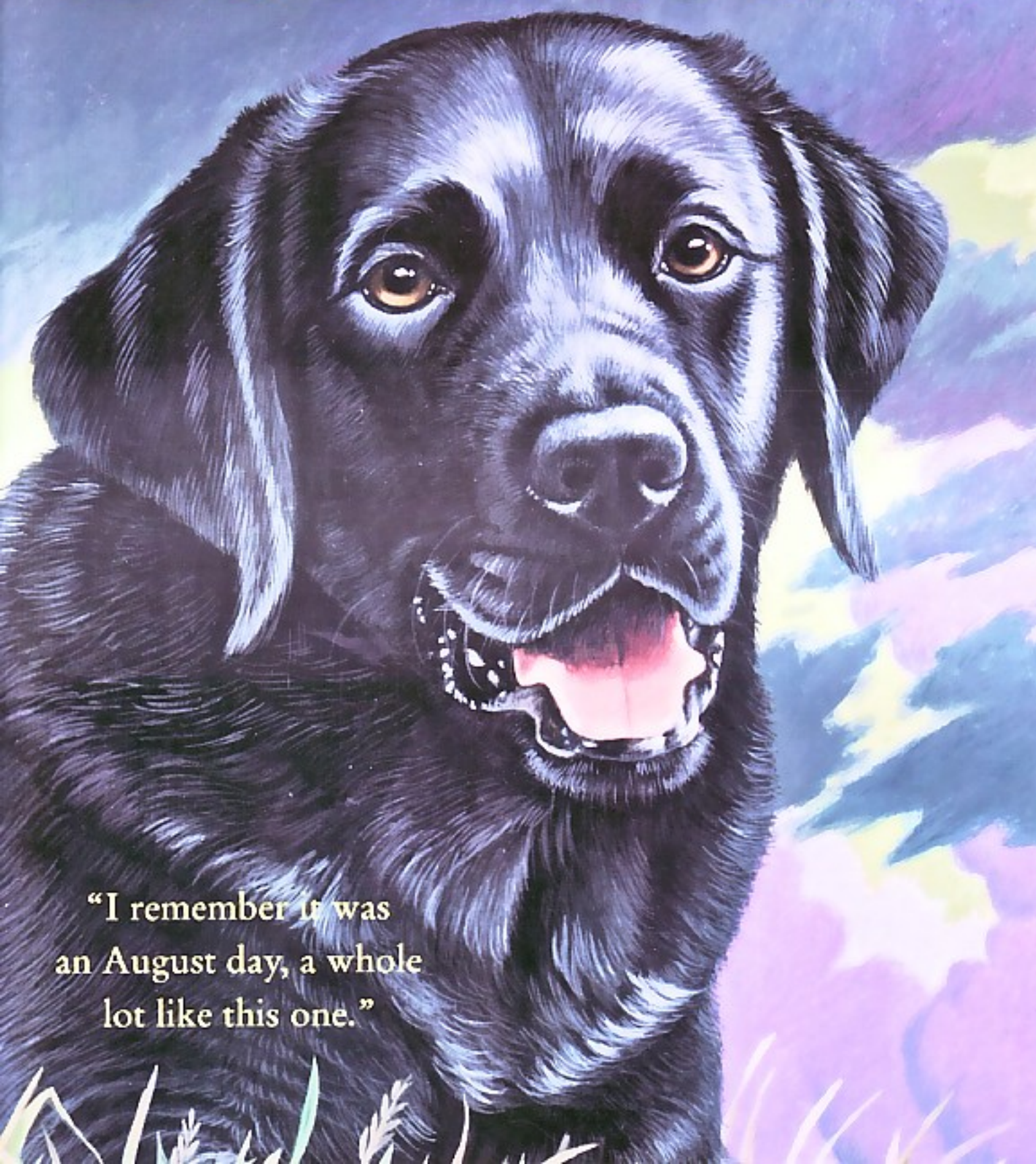


NEWBERY MEDALIST

BETSY BYARS

Tornado



"I remember it was
an August day, a whole
lot like this one."

CHAPTER 1

The Storm

“**T**wister!” Pete yelled. “Twister!”
I ran for the house.

“Twister!”

He pointed.

I looked over my shoulder. I could see it—a long, black funnel cloud in the west. It pointed from the dark sky right down to our farm.

Pete opened the doors to the storm cellar and beckoned with his straw hat.

“Twister!” he shouted again.

My two brothers ran from the barn. Pete helped my grandmother down the steps.

“Hurry up, boys,” she called. Then she said to my mother, “Come on, Beth.”

My mother was standing outside the door. She was worried about my daddy.

“Link! Link!” she called. My daddy had been named for a president. “Lincoln!”

“He’s in the cornfield,” Pete said. “He can’t hear you, ma’am.”

Still my mother hesitated. The cornfield seemed to be directly under the funnel.

“He’ll be all right. He can get in a ditch. You come on now.”

She ducked into the cellar, and Pete pulled the doors shut behind her.

The storm cellar was dim and cool. It smelled of potatoes and pickles. My mother kept sacks of root vegetables here along with boxes of eggs and jars of tomatoes.

My brothers and I sat on the dirt floor. My grandmother sat on a pickle barrel and my mother on an orange crate.

We sat for a moment, silent. We listened to the storm and worried about my father in the cornfield.

Something that sounded like gravel was thrown against the cellar doors.

“Hail,” my mother said, and bowed her head.

Pete cleared his throat. “You know what this brings to my mind?” he said.

We knew, and my brothers and I



A TORNADO APPEARS IN THE
distance, and Pete, the farmhand, gathers everyone into the storm cellar. While they wait for the storm to pass, he tells the family about the dog dropped down by a tornado when Pete was a boy.

Named Tornado, Pete's pet was no ordinary dog—he played card tricks, saved a turtle's life, and had a rivalry with the family cat. By the time Pete tells all of Tornado's lively stories, the storm has passed, and another family has been entertained by this very special dog.

IRA/CBC Teachers' Choice

HarperTrophy®

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

Ages 7–10

Cover art © 2004 by Mary Ann Lasher

Cover © 2004 by HarperCollins Publishers Inc.

US \$4.99 / \$6.50 CAN

ISBN-13: 978-0-06-442063-1

ISBN-10: 0-06-442063-9



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