

LUCKY ME

LAWRENCE
SCHIMEL

ILLUSTRATED BY
JUAN CAMILO MAYORGA



MAYBE EVERYONE IS LUCKY IN THEIR OWN WAY

Bruno's friend Sanjay is lucky: He doesn't have to share his room (well, except with a pet iguana), and he can leave his toy soldiers all over

the house. And Bruno's brother, Mateo, who is visually impaired, is pretty lucky too: He has a dog named Rocco who helps him get around. Plus, Mateo can keep reading after dark by using just his fingers (while Bruno has to use a flashlight). Still, Bruno has it pretty good. He can leave his bed a total mess. He can play dinosaurs with Sanjay and his iguana. And he can listen to Mateo's made-up adventure stories (Mateo is a great storyteller). Bruno's home is a bit different, but he wouldn't trade it for the world. If he had to compare, he'd say he was the luckiest of all to have such a great friend and fantastic brother.

This is an advance reading copy of the uncorrected proofs and is not for sale. Changes may be made to the text before publication, so **all quotations for review must be checked against the final bound book.**

PICTURE BOOK • AGES 3-5
Publication: September 12, 2023

Final version will be a hardcover
9781459837386 HC • \$21.95
9781459821873 PDF • 9781459838673 EPUB



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS
orcabook.com • 1-800-210-5277



@orcabook

Orca Book Publishers is proud of the hard work our authors do and of the important stories they create. If you are reading this book and did not purchase it or did not check it out from a library provider, then the author has not received royalties for this book. The ebook you are reading is licensed for single use only and may not be copied, printed, resold or given away. If you are interested in using this book in a classroom setting, we have digital subscriptions with multi user, simultaneous access to our books, or classroom licenses available for purchase. For more information, please contact digital@orcabook.com.

ivaluecanadianstories.ca

LUCKY ME



AUTHOR: LAWRENCE SCHIMEL

ILLUSTRATOR: JUAN CAMILO MAYORGA

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Bruno's friend Sanjay has his own room and a pet iguana. Bruno's brother, Mateo, who is visually impaired, has a dog named Rocco who helps him get around, and Mateo is a fantastic storyteller. Bruno doesn't have a pet, and he has to share his room with Mateo, but he still feels like the luckiest of all to have such a great brother and an amazing friend.

FORMAT

9 × 9"

32 pages

Hardcover

9781459837386

\$21.95

PDF

9781459821873

EPUB

9781459838673

KEY SELLING POINTS

- Bruno thinks his friend Sanjay, who has his own room and owns a pet iguana, and Bruno's brother, Mateo, who can read with his fingertips and tell amazing stories, are pretty lucky—but he feels luckiest of all.
- From the perspective of Bruno, we look at the differences between his friend, his brother and him; this includes the way his brother interacts with the world as someone with a visual impairment. The positive attitude of the narrator shines through as he appreciates everyone's "luck," including his own.
- The book deals with disability (visual impairment) and differences without being heavy-handed. Mateo's visual impairment is never directly mentioned, and the author avoids labels like blind or visually impaired to allow the voice to come across as kidlike, matter-of-fact and non-otering.
- *Lucky Me* includes a brief background on Braille, as well as the Braille alphabet (and an activity), at the back of the book for curious visual readers.
- The original Spanish-language edition of this book, *¡QUÉ SUERTE TENGO!*, was selected as one of the IBBY's Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities in 2021.



PHOTO CREDIT: NIEVES GUERRA

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

LAWRENCE SCHIMEL writes in both Spanish and English and has published over 120 books as author or anthologist in a wide range of genres, including fiction, poetry, graphic novels and children's literature. He has twice won a Lambda Literary Award and has also won a Crystal Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and a White Raven from the International Youth Library in Munich. Three of his books have been chosen for IBBY's Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities. Lawrence is also a prolific literary translator. He lives in Madrid, where he founded the Spanish chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and served as regional advisor for five years.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

JUAN CAMILO MAYORGA is a graphic designer who graduated from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, where he developed a special interest in illustration and art. He currently lives in a small town near Bogotá named Zipaquirá, where he develops his work as an illustrator of various editorial projects, such as picture books and illustrations for magazines, which have been published in Colombia, other countries in Latin America, and Europe.

PROMOTIONAL PLANS INCLUDE

- Print and online advertising campaigns
- Promotion at national and regional school, library and trade conferences
- Extensive ARC distribution, including NetGalley
- Blog and social media promotion
- Outreach in Orca newsletters

BISACS

JUV039150 JUVENILE FICTION / Disabilities & Special Needs

JUV013070 JUVENILE FICTION / Family / Siblings

JUV039060 JUVENILE FICTION / Social Themes / Friendship

RIGHTS

North America, English

AGES

3–5

PUBLICITY

For more information or a review copy,
please contact Kennedy Cullen at kennedy@orcabook.com

Order online at orcabook.com or orders@orcabook.com
or 1-800-210-5277



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS
orcabook.com • 1-800-210-5277

@orcabook







LUCKY ME

Lawrence SCHIMEL

ILLUSTRATED BY
JUAN CAMILO MAYORGA

ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS

I love going over to Sanjay's house.

He has hundreds and hundreds of toy soldiers
that he's painted different colors.

We set up battles all over the place—
an ambush under the dining room table,
a skirmish on top of a chair...

We lay siege to a fortress sitting way
up high, on top of the pile of
cushions on the sofa.





When it's time for us to have a snack,
Sanjay and I declare a cease-fire
and leave all the little soldiers
right where they are ...



so we can continue the great battle
after eating the cupcakes his father made.



My house is a little different.
We put everything back where it belongs,
so that my brother, Mateo, knows where it is.









So when Sanjay comes over for a visit, instead of setting up military campaigns across the living room or building forts out of the couch cushions, we usually watch a movie or play video games.



Even though I share a room with Mateo,
my bed is my own space.

I can keep it however I want,
and leave my toys and comics there
without putting them away.

My parents don't even mind
if I don't make my bed all day long.



Sanjay has to make his bed every morning when he gets up.

Sanjay is an only child, but he still shares his room—with a pet iguana! It lives in a terrarium on his bedside table. It's bright green, with a crest like a dragon, and is longer than my forearm. Sometimes Sanjay lets it out to wander around.



I like to imagine that we are
explorers in a Mesozoic jungle
and that the iguana is a ferocious
dinosaur.



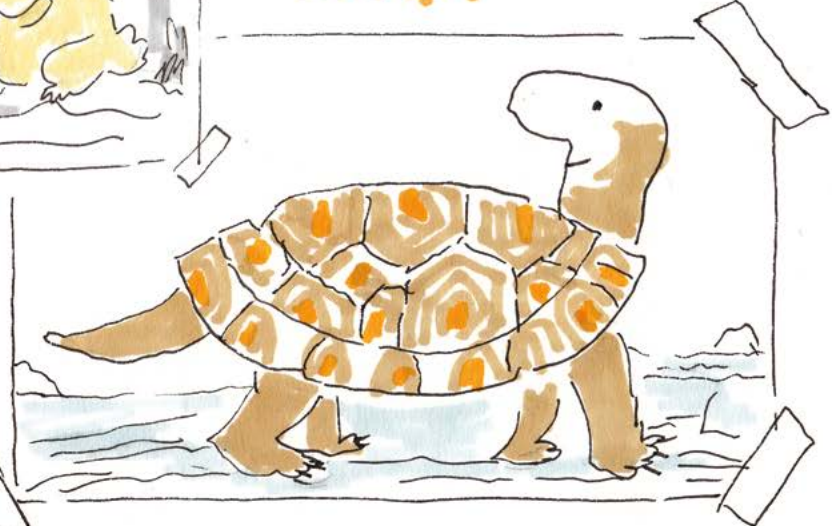
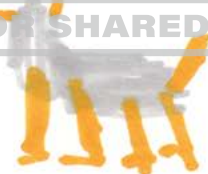


I've always wanted to have a pet.

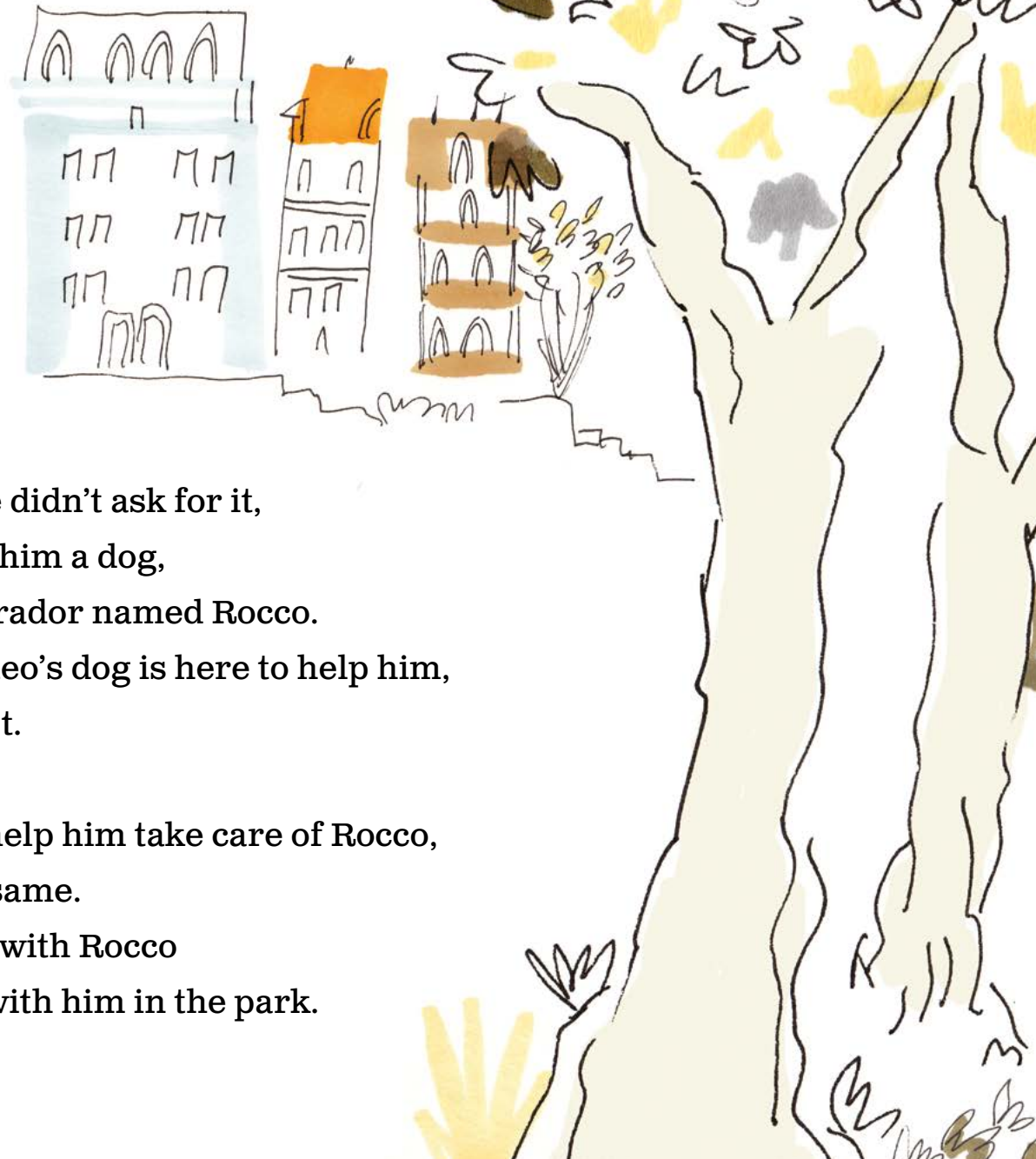
For years I've begged for a turtle,
a snake, an elephant,
even a guinea pig—
any animal would do.

But my parents always say no.





My brother is really lucky.



Even though he didn't ask for it,
my parents got him a dog,
a very nice Labrador named Rocco.
I know that Mateo's dog is here to help him,
but it's still a pet.

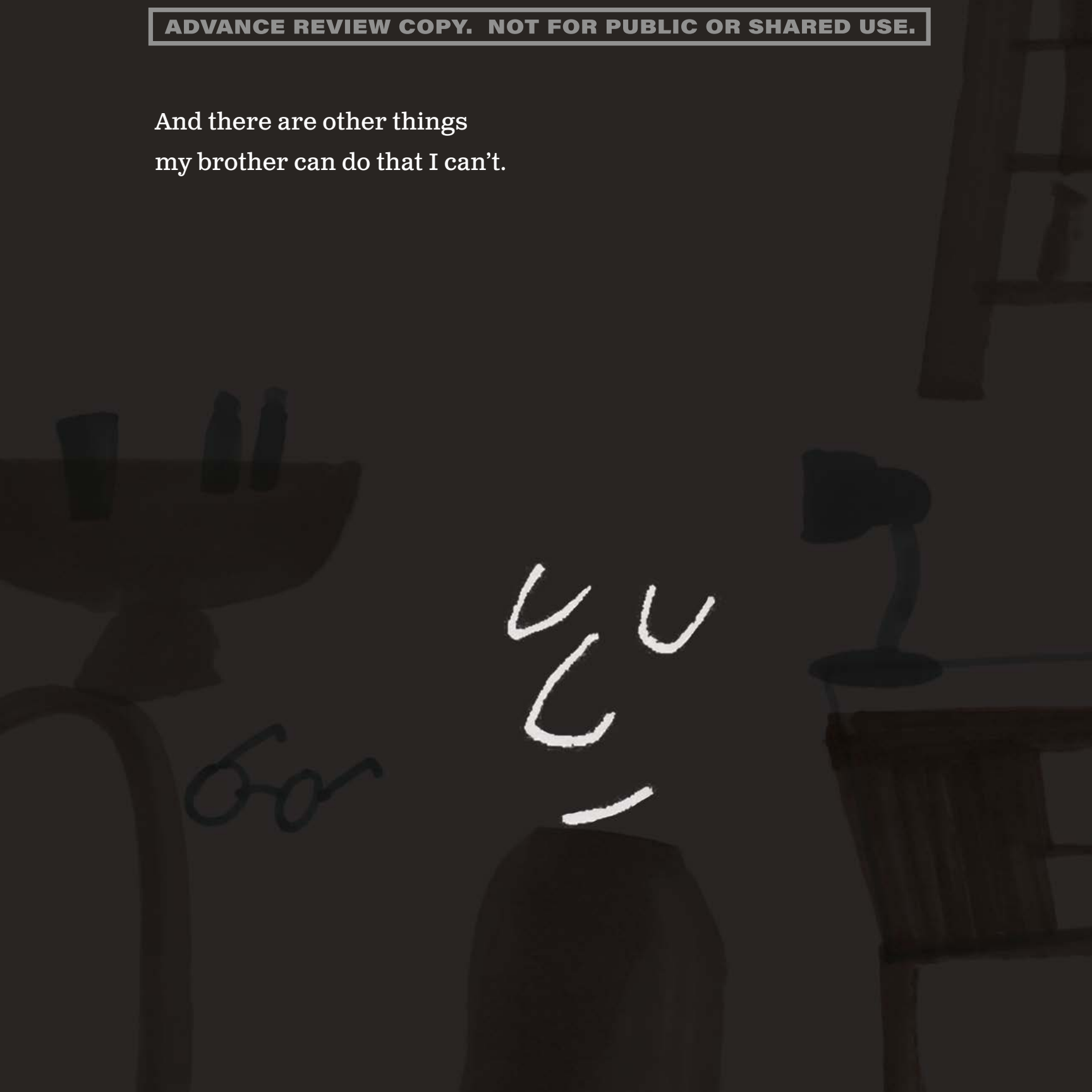
Mateo lets me help him take care of Rocco,
but it's not the same.
I can't play ball with Rocco
or go running with him in the park.

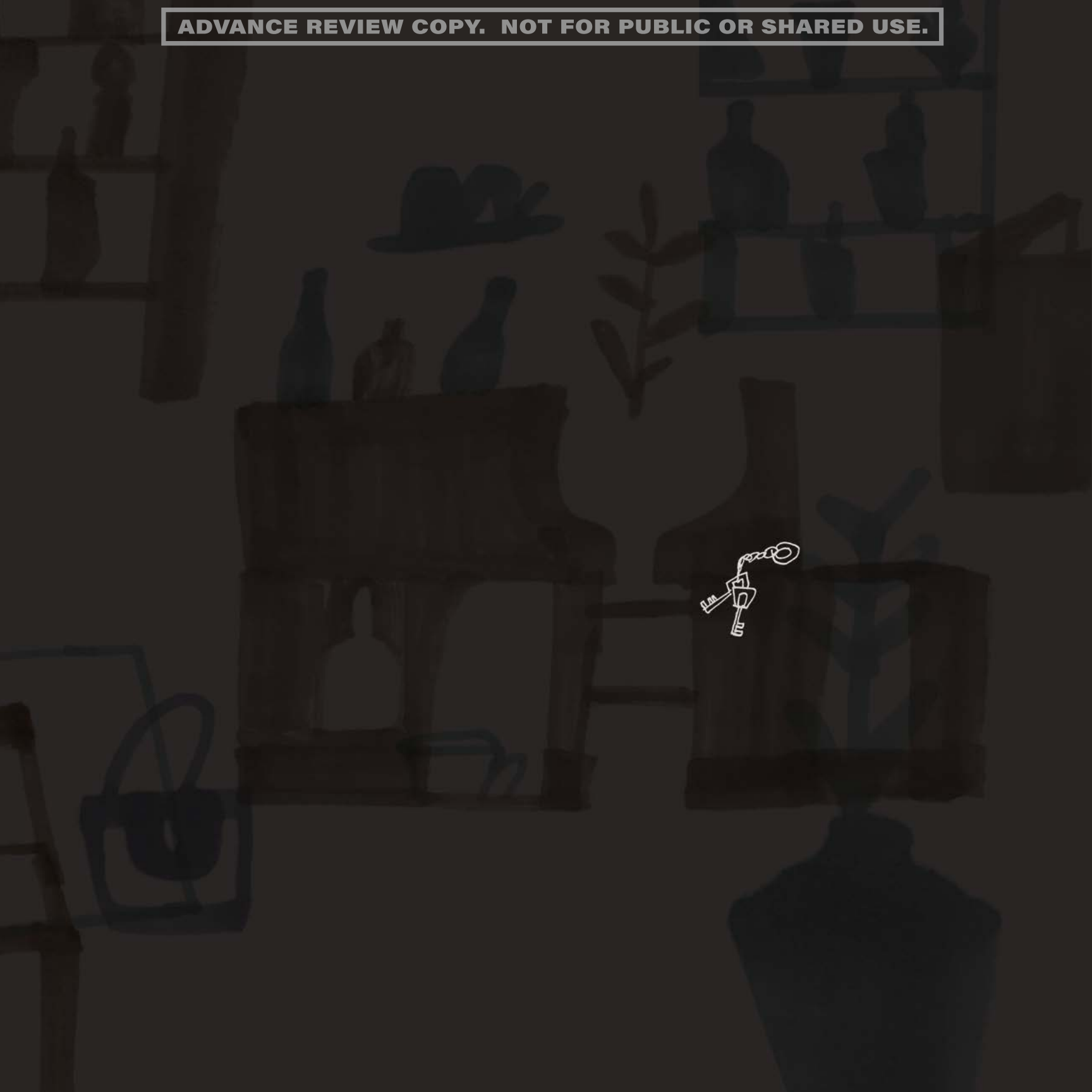
Mateo
needs Rocco,
and they're always
together.

That's just Mateo's luck.



And there are other things
my brother can do that I can't.







Mateo has a really good memory.
He always knows where he's left things
and sometimes even remembers
for the rest of us!



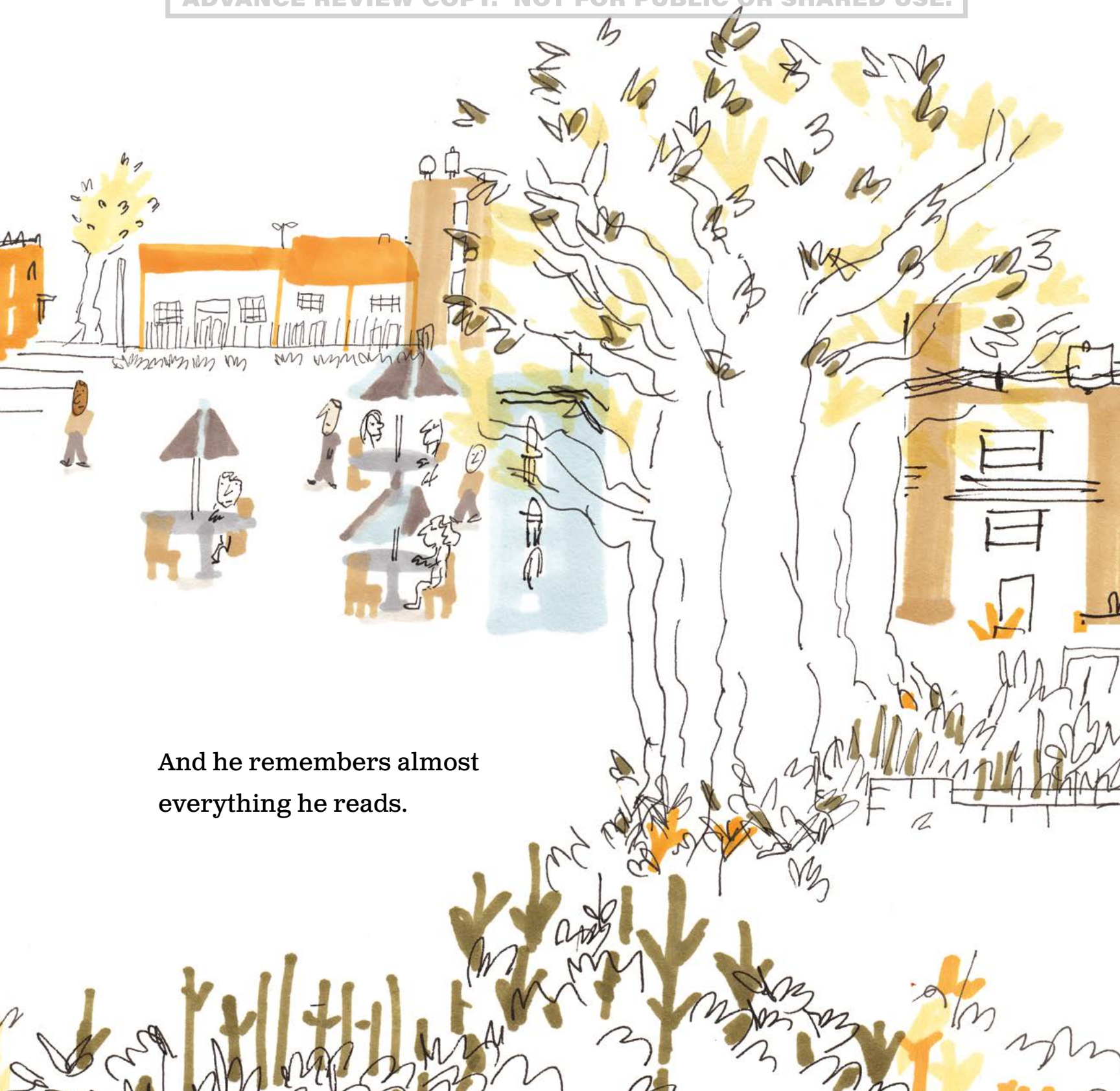
Yesterday Mom was looking all over the living room for her keys when Mateo said, *“I think they’re in the kitchen. I heard you put them down on the counter.”*

And, of course, when Mom went in to check, there they were.



He also remembers how
many steps there are in all the
different staircases we use:

fifty-six
to climb up
to our apartment,
sixteen to go into the subway
plus another twenty-three to the platform,
and six to go up to the park where we take Rocco.



And he remembers almost
everything he reads.

Mateo loves to read,

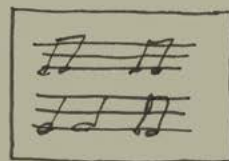


and that's another thing that sometimes
he can do which I can't: At night, when
our parents tell us it's time to turn
off the lights, I need to use a
flashlight to read under
the blankets.

Mateo can keep reading like he always does.



Some nights I can hear
the whisper of his fingers
passing over the raised dots
on the pages of his braille books.



Even if Mom and Dad take away my flashlight—and I'm dying to find out what happens next in my book—I never squeal about Mateo reading at night.



Instead I try to imagine
what he's reading about,
and in the end I fall asleep,
sure that one day he'll tell me.



My brother doesn't just read.
He also tells really good stories.

Some are from his favorite books,
but some he's invented himself.

I prefer his own stories, because they always have
lots of action and adventure. I think that if Mateo is a
writer when he grows up, he'll be a huge success...



and his books will definitely be made into movies!

Sanjay may have a pet iguana,
but it's a shame he doesn't have a brother.

I love to visit Sanjay's house,
but I always like to come home to my own.



I am so lucky—
I have an awesome brother
and a really good friend!



English translation © Lawrence Schimel 2023
Original text copyright © Lawrence Schimel 2018
Illustrations copyright © Rey Naranjo Editores / Juan Camilo Mayorga 2018

Published by arrangement with Rey Naranjo Editores SAS, Colombia.
Originally published in Spanish in 2018 by
Rey Naranjo Editores under the title *¡Qué suerte tengo!*

Published in Canada and the United States
in 2023 by Orca Book Publishers.
orcabook.com

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted
in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying,
recording or by any information storage and retrieval system now known or
to be invented, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Library and Archives Canada Cataloguing in Publication

Title: Lucky me / Lawrence Schimel ; illustrated by Juan Camilo Mayorga.
Other titles: ¡Qué suerte tengo! English
Names: Schimel, Lawrence, author. | Mayorga, Juan (Juan Camilo Mayorga Olmos), illustrator.
Description: Translation of: ¡Qué suerte tengo!
Identifiers: Canadiana (print) 20220467382 | Canadiana (ebook) 20220469741 |
ISBN 9781459837386 (hardcover) | ISBN 9781459821873 (PDF) | ISBN 9781459838673 (EPUB)
Classification: LCC PZ7.S355 Luc 2023 | DDC j863/.64—dc23

Library of Congress Control Number: 2022950040

Summary: Bruno's friend Sanjay has his own room and a pet iguana. Bruno's brother, Mateo, who is visually impaired, has a dog named Rocco who helps him get around, and Mateo is a fantastic storyteller. Bruno doesn't have a pet, and he has to share his room with Mateo, but he still feels like the luckiest of all to have such a great brother and amazing friend.

Orca Book Publishers is committed to reducing the consumption of nonrenewable resources in the production of our books. We make every effort to use materials that support a sustainable future.

Orca Book Publishers gratefully acknowledges the support for its publishing programs provided by the following agencies: the Government of Canada, the Canada Council for the Arts and the Province of British Columbia through the BC Arts Council and the Book Publishing Tax Credit.

Edited by Sarah Howden

LAWRENCE SCHIMEL writes in both Spanish and English and has published over 120 books as author or anthologist in a wide range of genres, including fiction, poetry, graphic novels and children's literature. He has twice won a Lambda Literary Award and has also won a Crystal Kite Award from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and a White Raven from the International Youth Library in Munich. Three of his books have been chosen for IBBY's Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities. Lawrence is also a prolific literary translator. He lives in Madrid, where he founded the Spanish chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators and served as Regional Advisor for five years.

JUAN CAMILO MAYORGA is a graphic designer who graduated from the Universidad Nacional de Colombia, where he developed a special interest in illustration and art. He currently lives in a small town near Bogotá named Zipaquirá, where he develops his work as an illustrator of various editorial projects, such as picture books and illustrations for magazines, which have been published in Colombia, other countries in Latin America, and Europe.

Braille is a form of writing used for visually impaired people, who read it with their fingertips. It's not a language of its own, but a code made up of a system of raised dots that represent letters and numbers. It can be used for almost any language in the world.

Braille was invented by Louis Braille (who was blind) in the 1800s, because he wanted a way to read more books, more quickly. He was inspired by a

system of raised-dot writing created by Charles Barbier. Though it took a while for braille to gain acceptance, it is now used worldwide—including by Bruno's brother, Mateo, in this book.

Printing in braille is very specialized, so we weren't able to reproduce it here in its proper form. But on the opposite page is a sample of the standard (six-dot) braille alphabet. The black circles represent the dots that would be raised.

Now that you have the alphabet, try writing your name in braille. Copy this row of empty cells onto a piece of blank paper (add more if you need them), and fill in each one to represent the letters of your name.

MY NAME IS:

