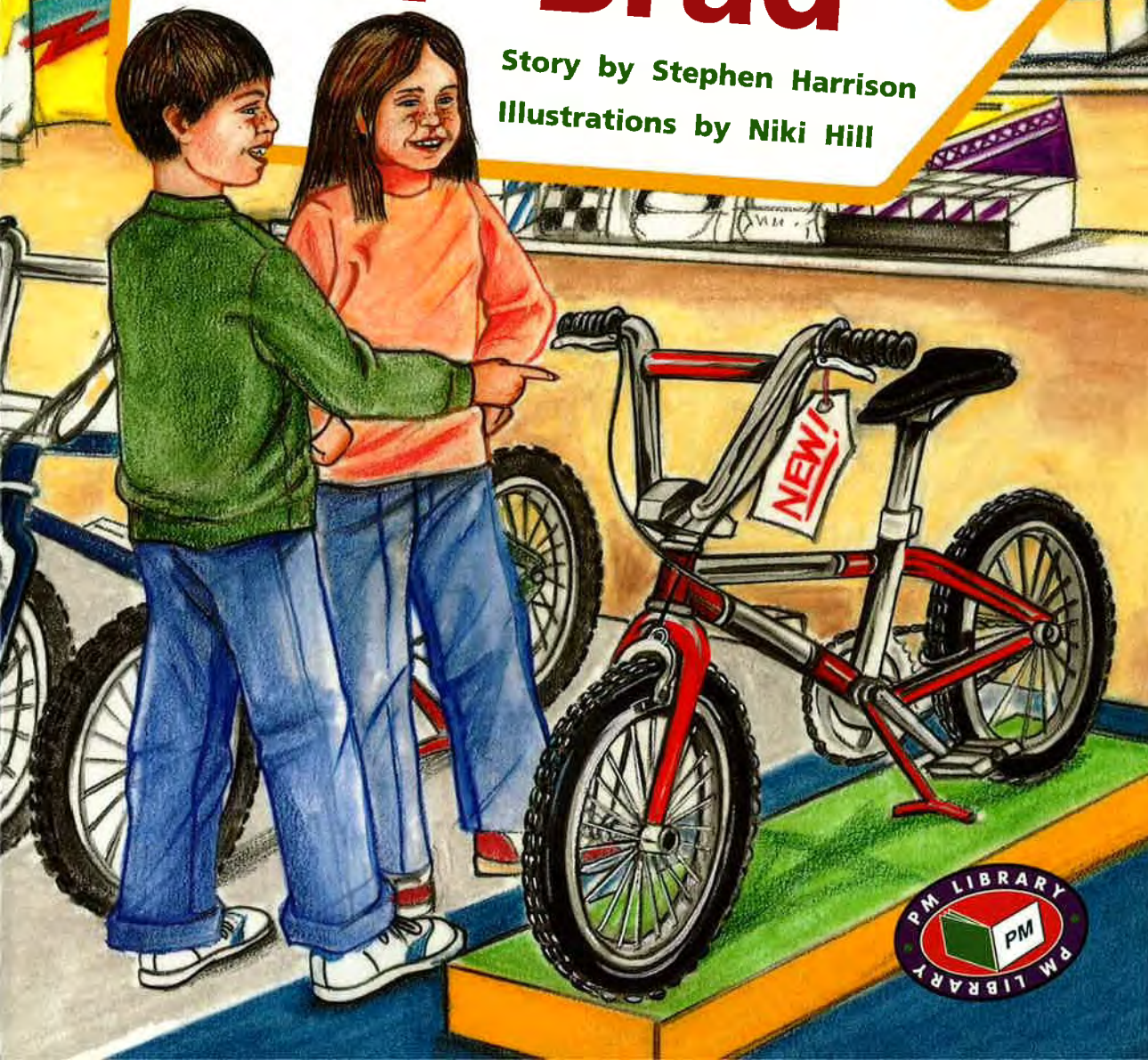


A Bike for Brad

Story by Stephen Harrison
Illustrations by Niki Hill



Brad walked around the bike shop with his cousin Ashleigh, looking at all the shiny new BMX bikes. "There's the one I want for my birthday!" he said. "I could ride really well if I had a bike like that. My old one is much too small for me."

"If you had that bike, you could ride in the BMX races like I do," said Ashleigh.

"But the bike costs such a lot," said Brad, "and we haven't got much money now that Dad's out of work."

**BIKE
SALE**



“You can still ride my bike whenever you want to,” said Ashleigh. “Come on, let’s go and practise down at the track again. You’re getting really good at going over the hills.”



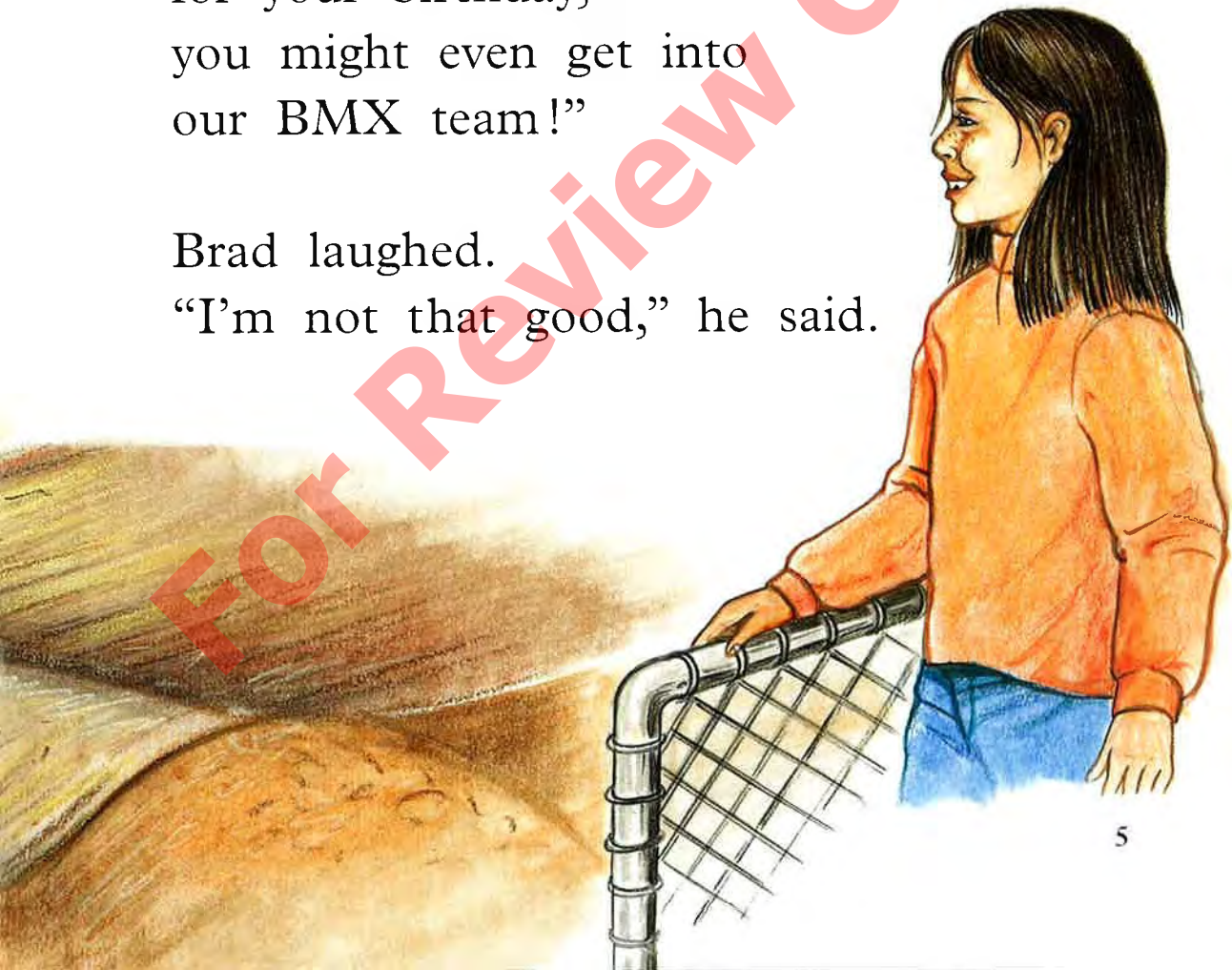
Ashleigh watched Brad riding around the BMX track on her bike.

“You’re a great rider, Brad,” she said, as he came up to the fence.

“If you get that new bike for your birthday, you might even get into our BMX team!”

Brad laughed.

“I’m not that good,” he said.



On the morning of his birthday,
Brad woke up very early.
He could see a bike
at the end of his bed.
It was a BMX bike!



But it was not the shiny new bike
from the shop.

It was a second-hand one,
and it had marks and scratches on it.
Brad sat back on his bed
and tried not to feel too disappointed.

