



CHOOO MANTAR

Geeta Dharmarajan

Art by Priyanka Pachpande



a 300m thinkbook from Katha 

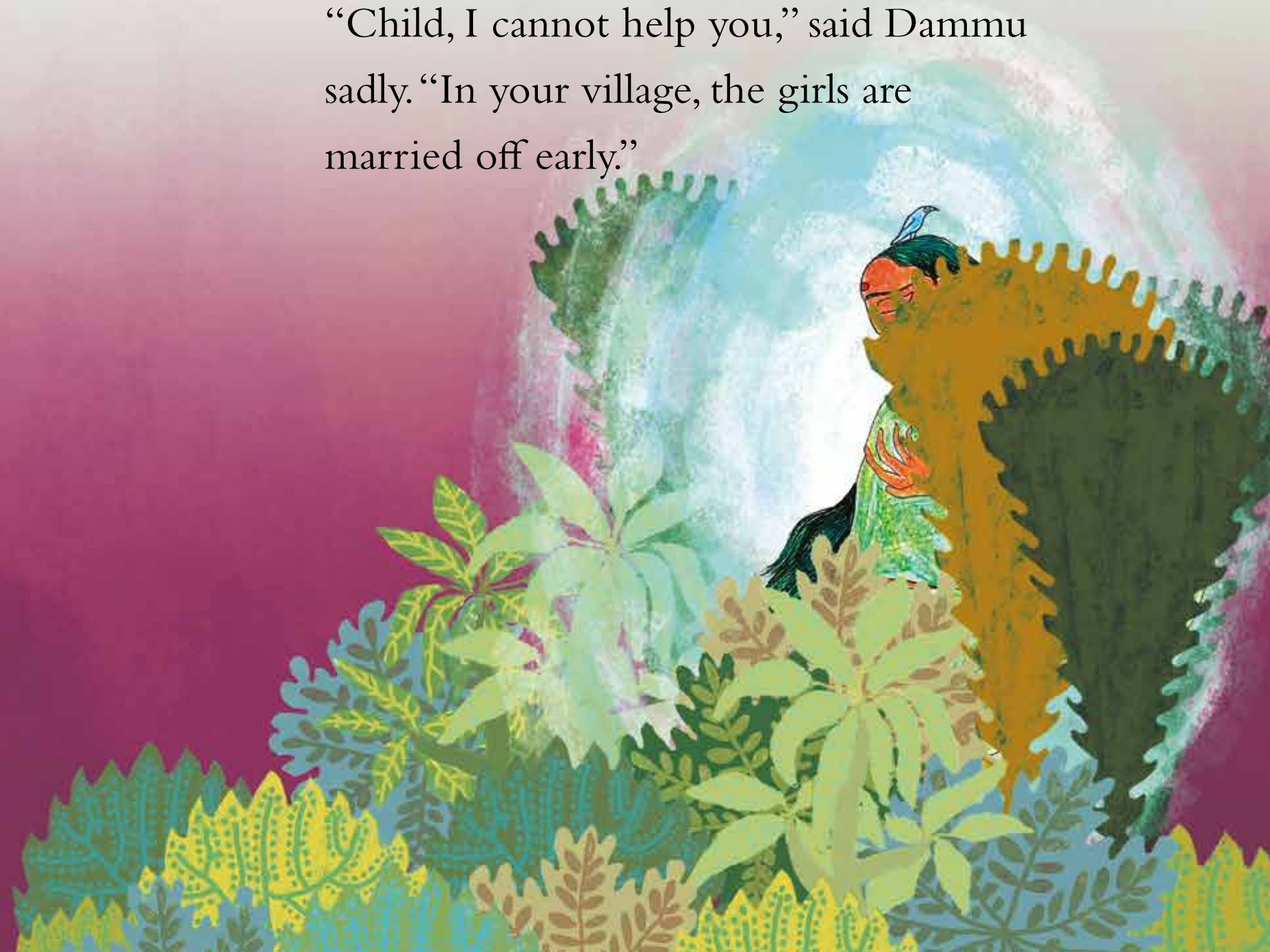
In the village of Bhopali,
there lived Jivuba. She
loved to sing.

“When you’ll have babies,
you’ll have no trouble putting
them to sleep,” said her mother.



But Jivuba wanted to be the best singer in the world. She went to Dammu, the wise apsara of the forest.

“Child, I cannot help you,” said Dammu sadly. “In your village, the girls are married off early.”



“Do something,” begged Jivuba.
Dammu thought hard.
Then ...

“Arre wah!” she exclaimed, “I’ll make
all the parents in Bhopali forget to
get their daughters married! But
if somebody mentions the word
‘marriage’, the spell will be broken.”



And so...

Go to school,
Sultana! Become a
doctor!

Go be a singer,
Jivuba!

Become a
carpenter, Mary!



“Anyone who sends their daughters to school gets a reward,” said the Sarpanch, surprising even himself!

All the girls in the village started going to school.



Two years went by.

One day, Jivuba's uncle came to visit.

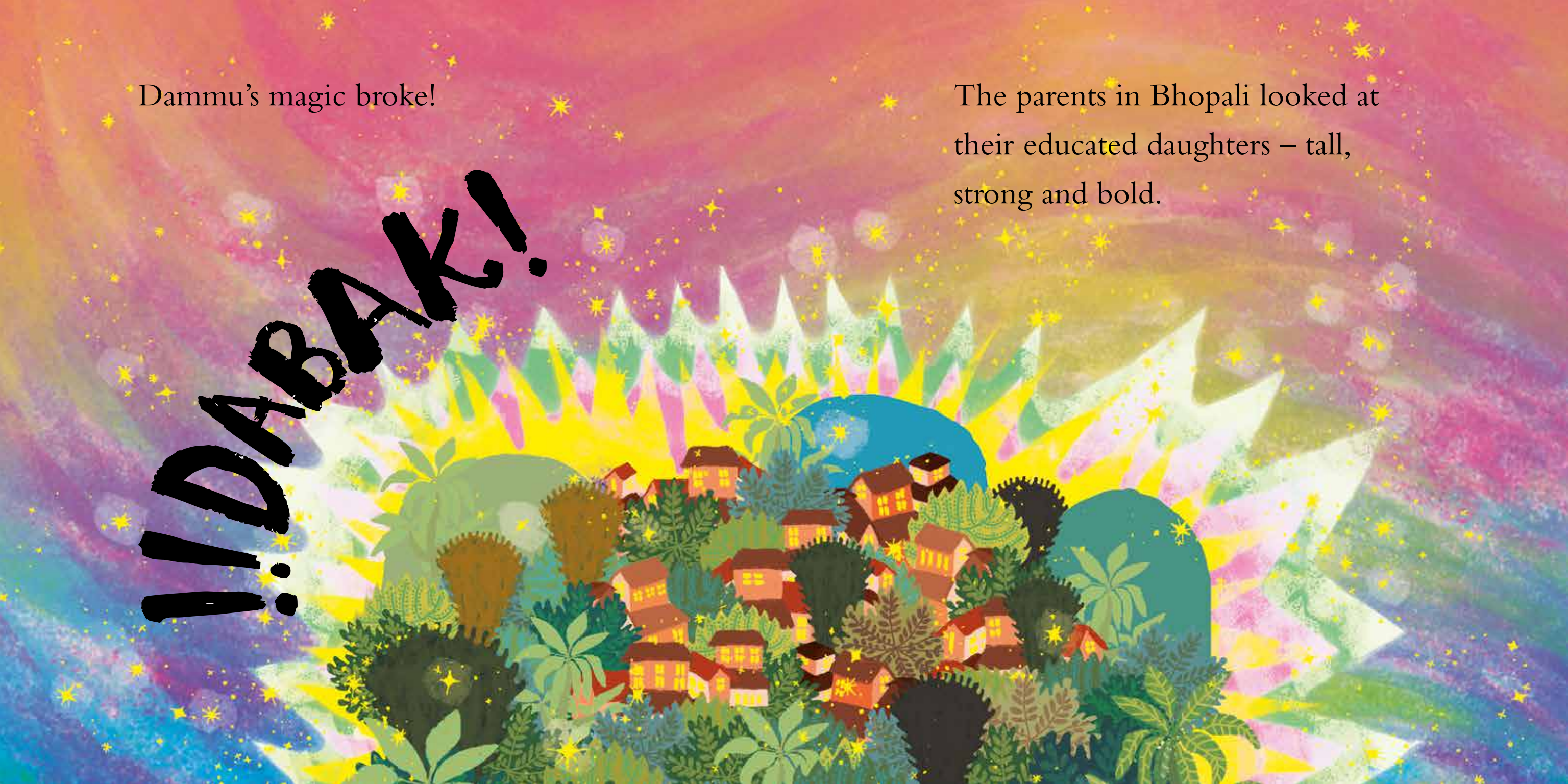
“Jivuba is eighteen years old
and still not married?” he asked
so loudly that everyone heard.



Dammu's magic broke!

The parents in Bhopali looked at their educated daughters – tall, strong and bold.

!!!DABBAK!!!



From nearby villages, people came to see
Bhopali's educated and unmarried girls.

They laughed.



AHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA

AHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA
hahahahahaha
hahahahaha
hahaha



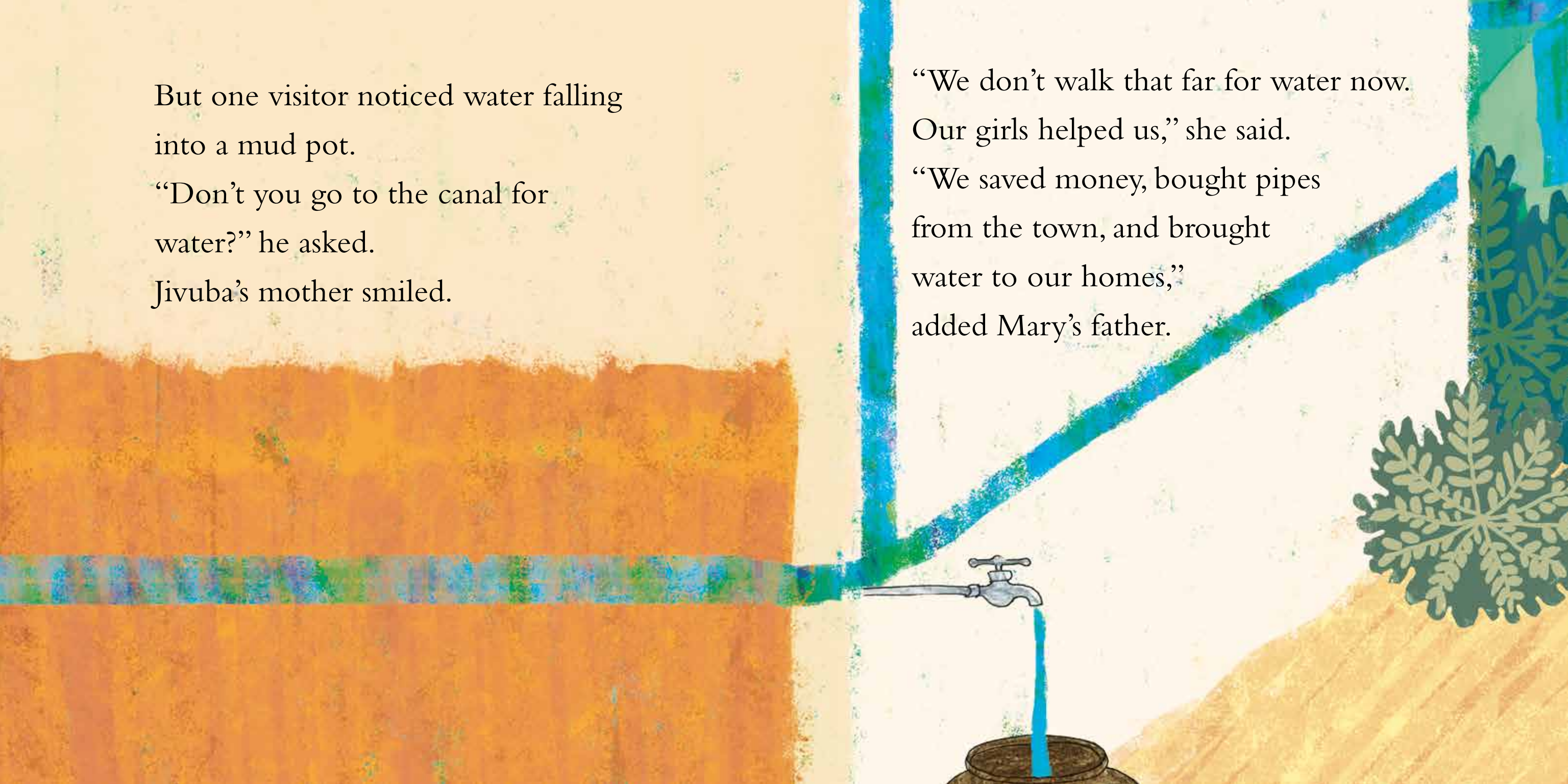
But one visitor noticed water falling
into a mud pot.

“Don’t you go to the canal for
water?” he asked.

Jivuba’s mother smiled.

“We don’t walk that far for water now.
Our girls helped us,” she said.

“We saved money, bought pipes
from the town, and brought
water to our homes,”
added Mary’s father.



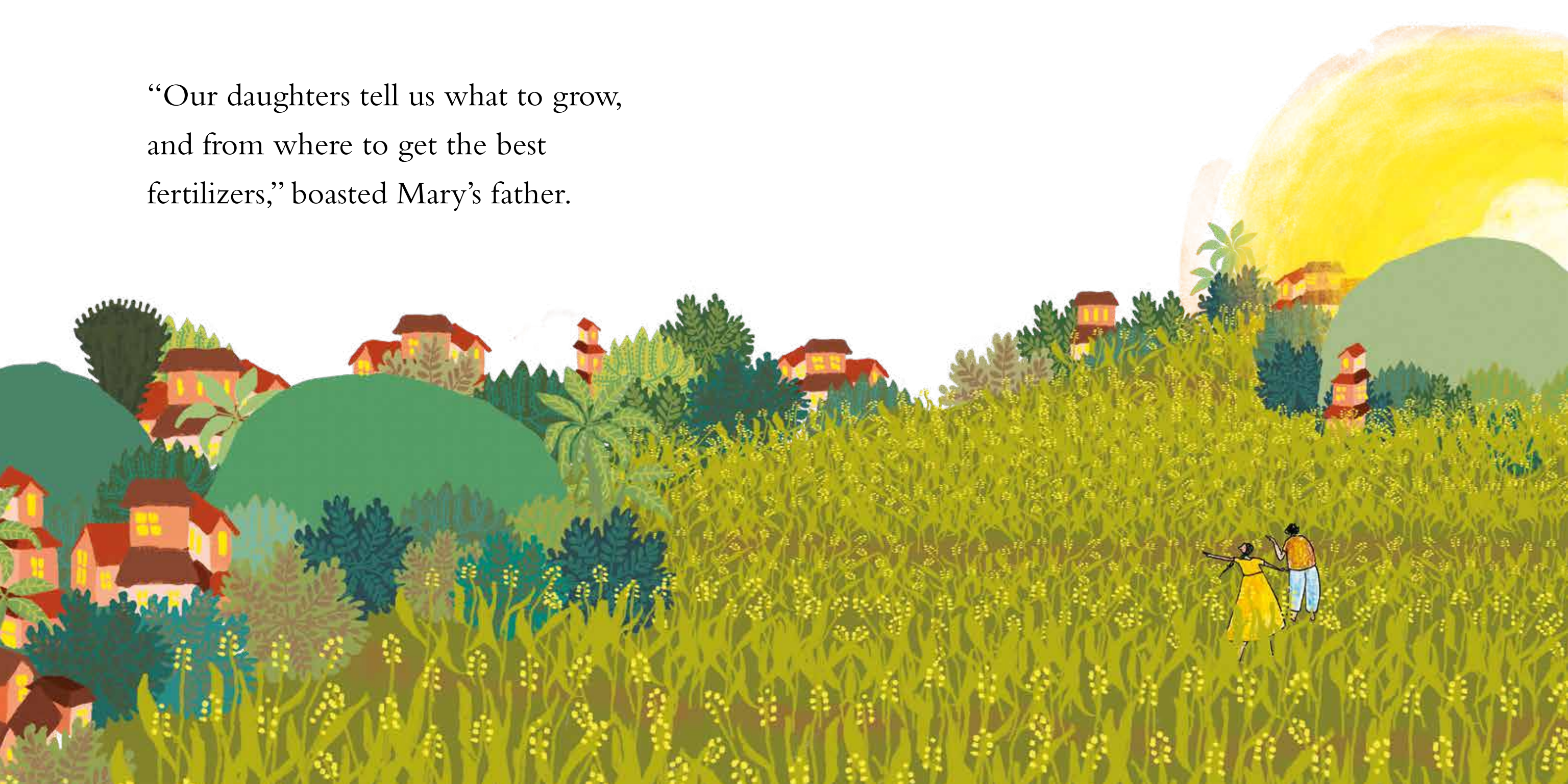
“We have latrines, too,” said Sultana’s mother. “It is frightening to go into the fields before dawn.”



“And it is so open,” said a woman visitor enviously. “Often I don’t eat so that I don’t have to go into the fields during the day.”



“Our daughters tell us what to grow,
and from where to get the best
fertilizers,” boasted Mary’s father.



“Come!” said Mary’s father.
“See their co-operative shop.”

“Wonderful!” said the
visitors. “Can your girls train
the girls in our village?”



So, what happened to the educated girls in Bhopali?

Today, Sultana is a doctor. Mary teaches carpentry. There are co-operative stores and Mahila Mandals in Bhopali.

And all the girls in the village go to school.



And Jivuba?



Why, haven't you seen her singing on television?



THINK

Do you think everyone should have the right to choose and pursue one's dreams?

ASK

Why should girls be educated? Do you think educating girls will lead to a better nation?

DISCUSS

If Dammu had not cast the spell then the girls in Bhopali wouldn't have been able to pursue their dreams. But we do not have such magical spells in real life. What can we do to help girls get educated?

ACT

The girls are married off early and are not given enough opportunities to discover and pursue their dreams which is a basic human right.

- Be the voice of the girls.
- Campaign for girls' rights.
- Spread awareness.
- We are all equal, with equal rights and duties.

Geeta Dharmarajan loves writing for children. She has authored over forty books for children. She received the Padma Shri in 2012 for her work in literature and education.

Priyanka Pachpande is a graphic designer. She dreams to travel the world one day with a suitcase full of books!

KATHA

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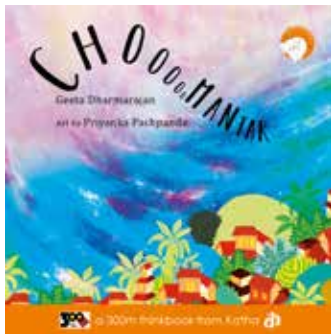
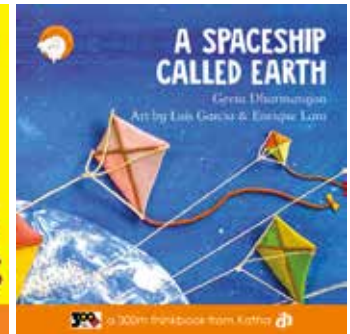
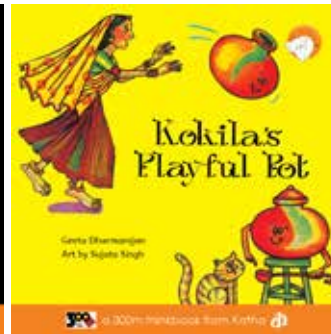
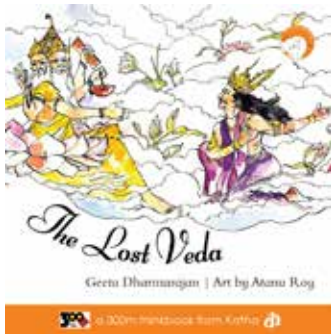
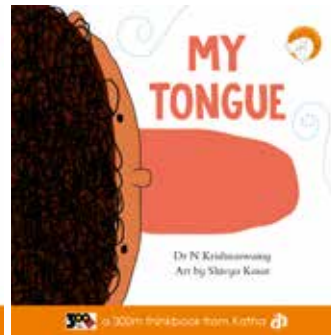
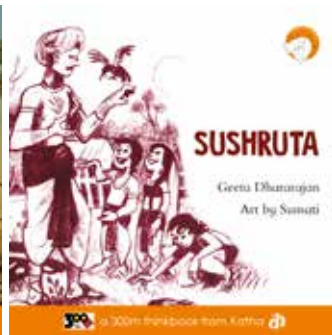
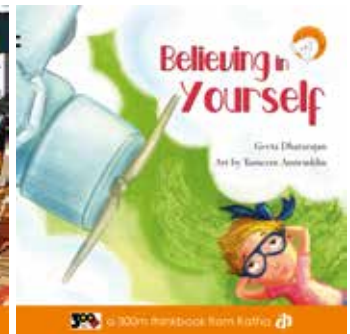
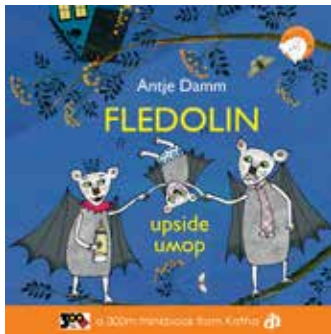
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