The background of the cover features a large, dark brown tree trunk on the left side. The tree's branches extend towards the top right, adorned with green leaves and small white flowers. A boy with a large, round, reddish-brown face and a black bowl-cut hairstyle stands on a dark, textured ground. He is wearing a red long-sleeved shirt and orange shorts. A black and white soccer ball is positioned on the ground near his feet. The overall style is whimsical and artistic, with a soft, painterly texture.

PICKLE YOLK BOOKS  
CATALOGUE

2018

Pickle Yolk Books, an independent publishing house based in New Delhi, India turns 3 this year. We continue to be driven by our unbridled passion to create picture books in English that make the readers smile, laugh, ponder, reflect and arrive at their own eureka moment. With universal themes and contemporary Indian urban settings, our books weave together childhood's eclectic patchwork of joys, challenges and personal triumphs.

Our list is small but we dream big. With awards and nominations under our belt, our titles have begun attracting love and critical appreciation. And there's a certain madness about us that's hard to miss.

We invite you to have a look at our catalogue.





## The Tree Boy

Srividhya Venkat and  
Nayantara Surendranath

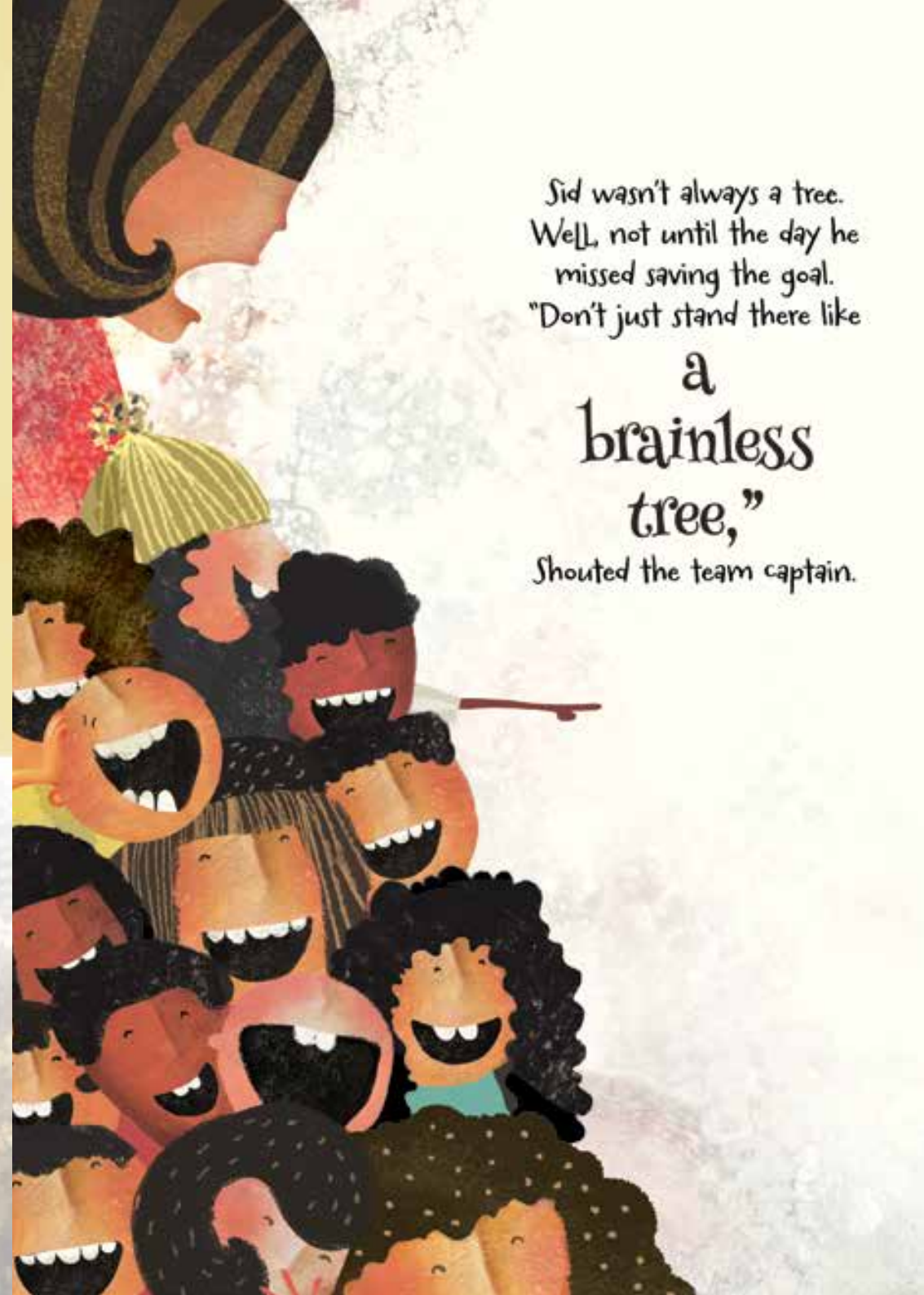
Lonely Sid wasn't always a tree. But the day he misses saving a soccer goal at school, things change for him. He wakes up the next morning to discover he is no more the boy he used to be. With an entire ecosystem hovering above him, he finds himself transformed into one of those brainless trees that he so detests. Will he ever be back to being Sid again? And will his loneliness end?

**Srividhya Venkat** spins a delectable fantasy tale around thinking twice about what you wish for, or not, and about how Sid's lonely changes. **Nayantara Surendranath** adds more quirkiness to the story with her eccentric combination of art collage and digital creation.

32 pp. Hardcover

27.9 cm x 22.2 cm

All rights available



Sid wasn't always a tree.  
Well, not until the day he  
missed saving the goal.  
"Don't just stand there like  
a  
brainless  
tree,"  
Shouted the team captain.

That night, he scribbled in his  
diary, "Silly Tree! I don't ever  
want to be you."



He looked at the  
plant in his room.  
**Go Away**



**Crash!**  
It did.



**Sigh...**  
That felt Good.





## Dance of the Wild

Richa Jha and Ruchi Mhasane

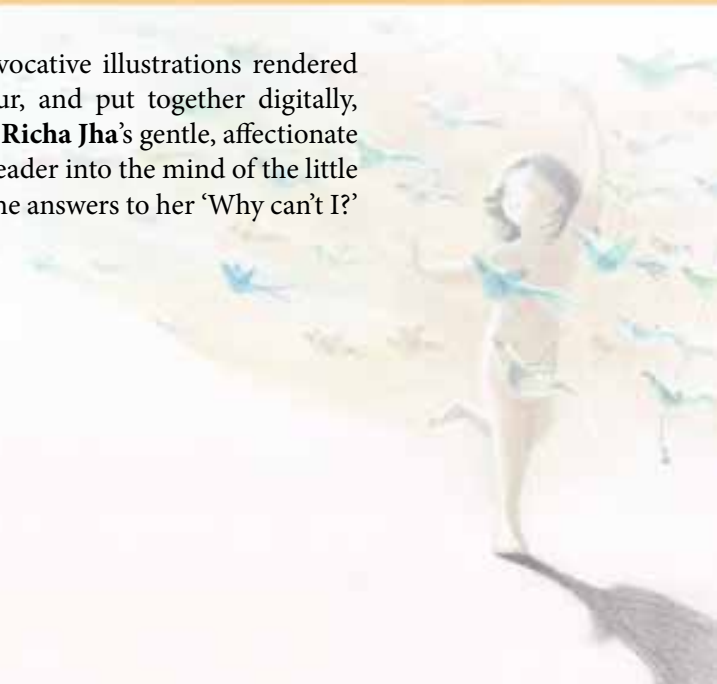
Little Shilu loves to dance around naked. She wants to be like the animals; like Pirate, her cat. When her grandmother Nannu says she can't because she is now a big girl, Shilu gets down to understanding why she can't. Peppered with Nannu's loving chiding, intimate grandma-granddaughter bonding over conversations, and a heart-to-heart between the mother and this little inquisitive daughter, this book is a reflection of the wild and free nature of childhood.

**Rhuchi Mhasane's** soft evocative illustrations rendered in pencil with watercolour, and put together digitally, create a dreamlike charm. **Richa Jha's** gentle, affectionate and lyrical text takes the reader into the mind of the little girl who can't wait to get the answers to her 'Why can't I?'

32 pp. Hardcover

21 cm x 21 cm

All rights available







## The Magic Bird

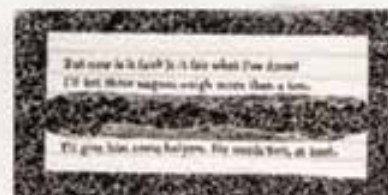
Ken Spillman and Malavika PC

A lone bird pecks at alphabet shapes. Hungry for even a scrap of the magic that reading can offer, it collects words anyway it can. The bird knows that when ideas hatch and imagination takes flight, the sky is no limit at all.

**Ken Spillman's** simple prose and **Malavika PC's** inspired images combine to make *The Magic Bird* a powerful story about the fascination of language, the delights of books, and the value of spreading our wings to take stories to others.

32 pp. Paperback

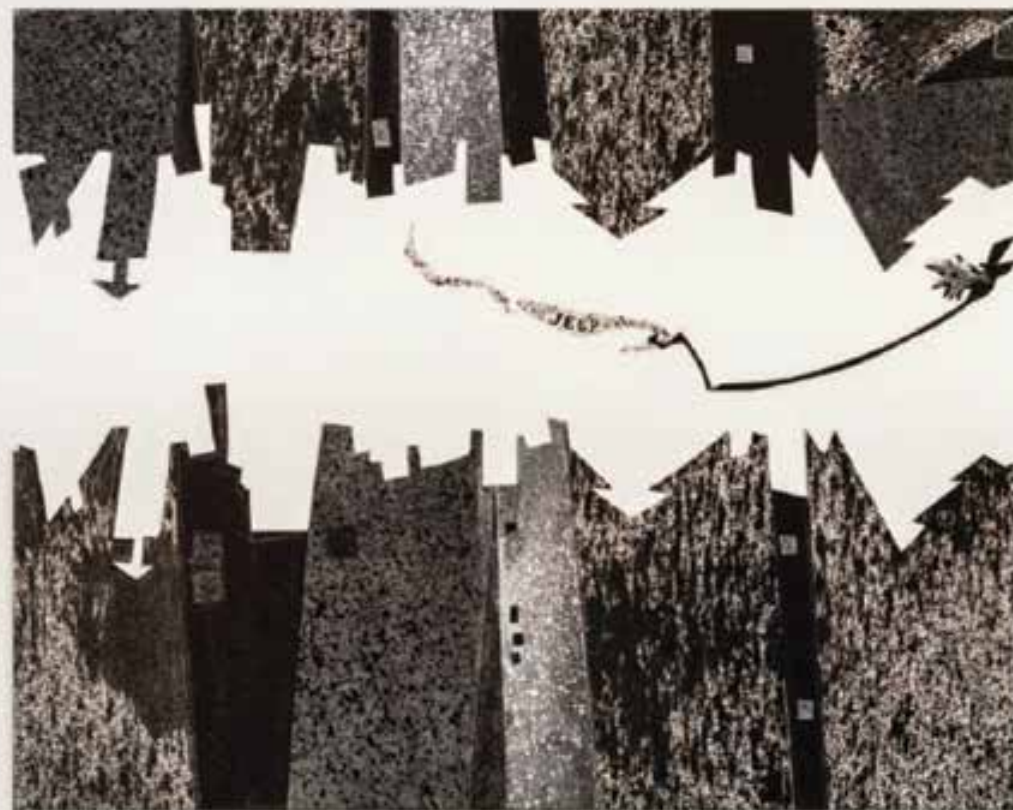
All rights available except Malaysia, Singapore and South Korea.



It found wrappers, leaflets, even love notes.



One day, the bird began collecting scraps of paper.  
It flew all over the city, sharp-eyed and hungry.





## Aai and I

Mamta Nainy and Sanket Pethkar

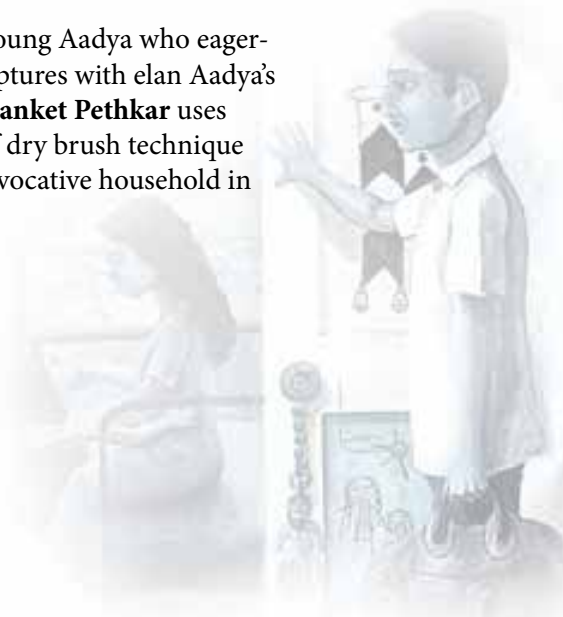
Aai, mother, is returning from the hospital. The household is getting ready for her. A car stops outside and out walks Aai. Aadya runs into her arms, but what has happened to her; where has all her hair gone? Aai no longer looks like Aai. Or like her. Will Aadya ever again hear her Grandma say, 'You look just like your Aai?'

**Mamta Nainy** gets under the skin of young Aadya who eagerly awaits her mother's return. Nainy captures with elan Aadya's innocence, impatience and dilemma. **Sanket Pethkar** uses acrylic on paper with a combination of dry brush technique and digital reinforcement to paint an evocative household in the Indian state of Maharashtra.

32 pp. Hardcover

27.9 cm x 22.2 cm

All rights available



Everything became quiet after  
Aai left. I am thinking of how  
she would have loved to see  
me perform at the school play  
last week, when suddenly a car  
stops outside our gate.





## It's Dark

Tanu Shree Singh and  
Sandhya Prabhat

Everything has turned dark in Ani's life since his mother left. Grandma, Bruno, friends – he has them all. But he pulls himself away from them. Will he ever see colours again?

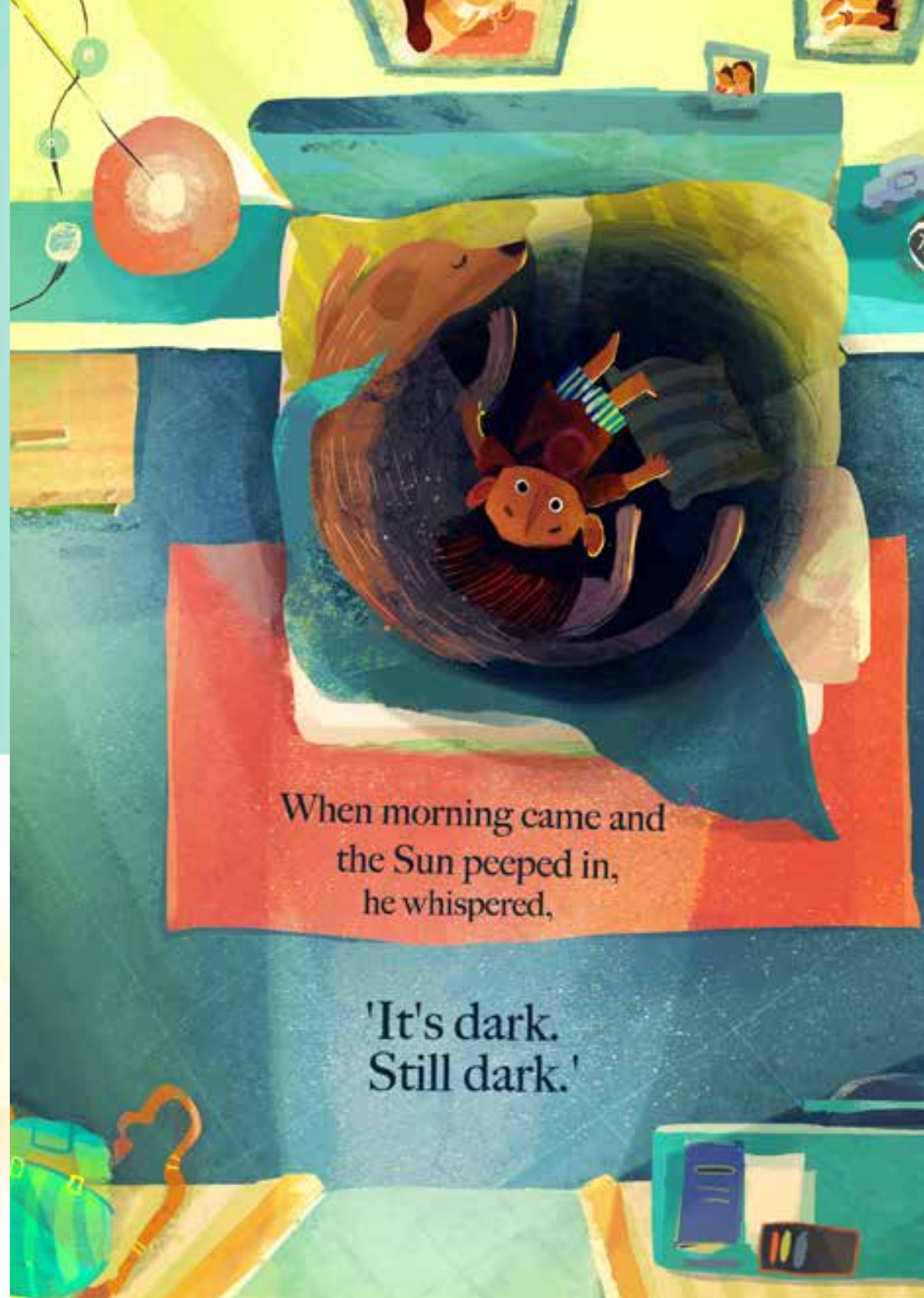
**Tanu Shree Singh's** poignant tale of a child waiting for his mother, a cancer patient, is told with exceptional depth and economy of words. **Sandhya Prabhat** masterful hand-drawn digital, textured illustrations build an interplay of Ani's immediate dark world juxtaposed with the brightness of colours that his eyes can't see beautifully capturing the essence of this story.

32 pp

Paperback, Hardcover

27.9 cm x 22.2 cm

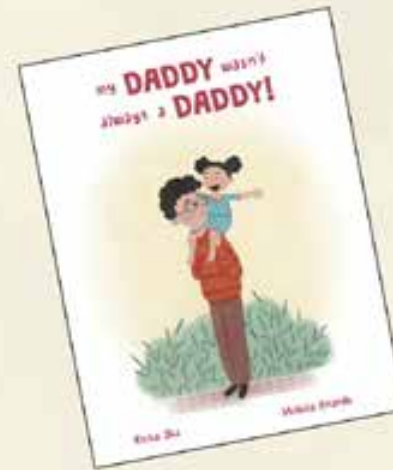
All rights available





On a night when the  
Moon shone and the  
little specks of light  
danced on the ceiling,  
Ani lay awake.

'It's dark,' he said.



## My Daddy Wasn't Always a Daddy

Richa Jha and Mithila Ananth

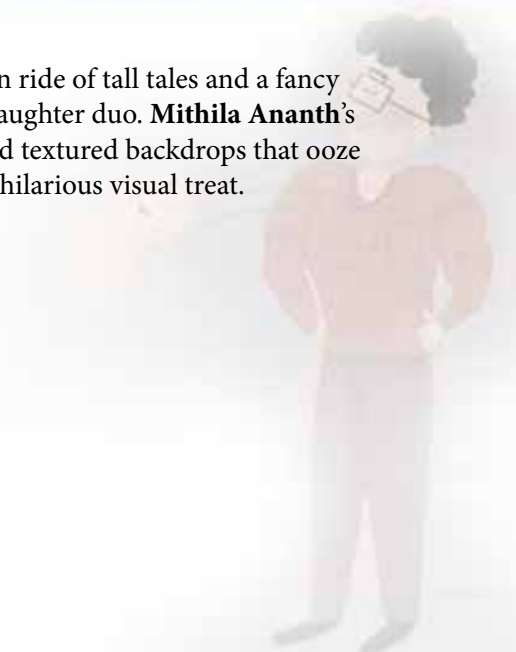
Daddy wasn't Daddy until Ria popped out of his pocket. Or so he says. And he talks about what an exceptionally efficient father he has always been. Even before he decided to join the school for daddies, that is. Does Ria believe him?

**Richa Jha** takes the reader on a jolly fun ride of tall tales and a fancy imagination, and an adorable Daddy-daughter duo. **Mithila Ananth's** blend of simple uncomplicated lines and textured backdrops that ooze perfect comic timing make this book a hilarious visual treat.

32 pp. Hardcover

27.9 cm x 22.2 cm

All rights available





My Daddy wasn't  
always a Daddy.

Or so he says.



## The Manic Panic

Richa Jha and Mithila Ananth

Mom and Dad completely lose the plot the day the Wifi stops working in the house. In a role reversal of sorts, it's up to little Shivi to get her bored and tantrum-throwing parents to see that there is a perfectly wonderful life to be enjoyed beyond their screen-craze.

**Mithila Ananth's** zany, whimsical digital illustrations with a minimal neat colour palette and a touch of quiet humour throw into sharp focus **Richa Jha's** funny story done as a second person narrative. Together, they draw the reader right into the centre of this book's relatable universe.

32 pp. Hardcover

27.9 cm x 22.2 cm

All rights available except World English



This is when you will lose it. You will flare your nostrils,  
fling your hair, and say what you MUST.

"Mommy! Daddy! BEHAVE! It is NOT the end of the world.  
The Internet wasn't even around when you were my age."



Their eyes will not blink for a million gazillion seconds.

"But  
that  
was  
THEN..."

they will finally whimper.



They wondered how many other Others would come,  
and how they might change the shape of things.



## The Circle

Ken Spillman and Manjari  
Chakravarty

Do we really care about the Others? Do the Others care about the other Others?

In a troubled world, **Ken Spillman's** *The Circle* is a book for our times – with particular appeal to the education sector. With thought-provoking art from **Manjari Chakravarti**, it's an allegorical tale that delicately draws together the threads that connect globally important issues: displacement of people, environmental degradation, prejudices and multiculturalism. Ultimately, it's about understanding and the joys of harmony.

32pp. Paperback

20.3 cm x 20.3 cm

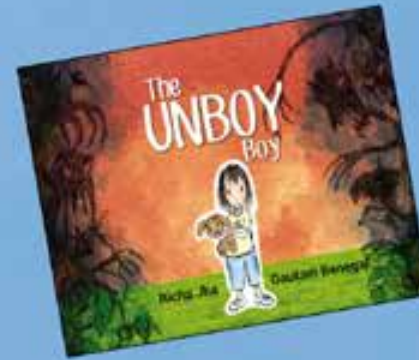
All rights available except ASEA



So, believing the Circle to be a perfection all their own,  
they told the Others to go.



They told the Others to go home—  
back to their own tiny parts of the forest  
which had shrunk away to nothing.  
They told the Others that this was not their Circle.  
It was not their tiny part of a very small planet  
that was all things to all Little Creatures—  
other than the Others.



## The Unboy Boy

Richa Jha and Gautam Benegal

Young Gagan is at ease being what he is: quiet, gentle, sensitive, and an animal and book lover. But his family and friends think of him as being not boy enough, and want to make him more boy-like. Gagan, however, has enough tricks up his sleeve to show the world that there are no boy-boys or unboy-boys. Just boys. And just girls.

Gender stereotyping has strong under currents in the social fabric of India and in many cultures around the world. **Richa Jha** tackles this difficult subject with unburdening simplicity and lightness of tone. **Gautam Benegal** brings the characters to life with sensitivity and electrifying dynamism. His gentle and endearing water colours match the mood and pace of the story, making it an unforgettable read.

32 pp. Hardcover

22 cm x 28 cm (Landscape)

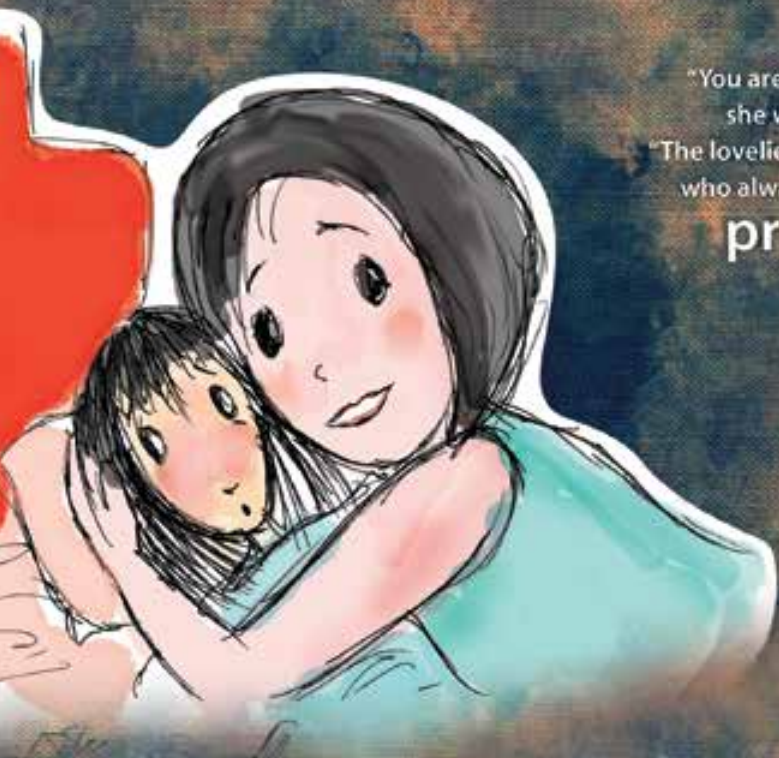
All rights available



So he would ask.

"Mummy, am I not a boy?"

"You are, my darling,"  
she would say.  
"The loveliest, gentlest one,  
who always makes me  
**proud.**"



That felt nice.

Gagan asked her every night and she said the same thing.

Soon, Bingo and he would be smiling in their dreams...





## Vee Loved Garlic

Richa Jha and Kunal Kundu

When Miss Vee Noonie falls in love with garlic, there is pandemonium in the house. She is a vampire, after all. Her parents do their best to urge her to stay away from it. Garlic, they tell her, is fatal for vampires. Freethinker Vee's research tells her that's not true and she leaves no stone unturned in convincing her folks. Does she succeed?

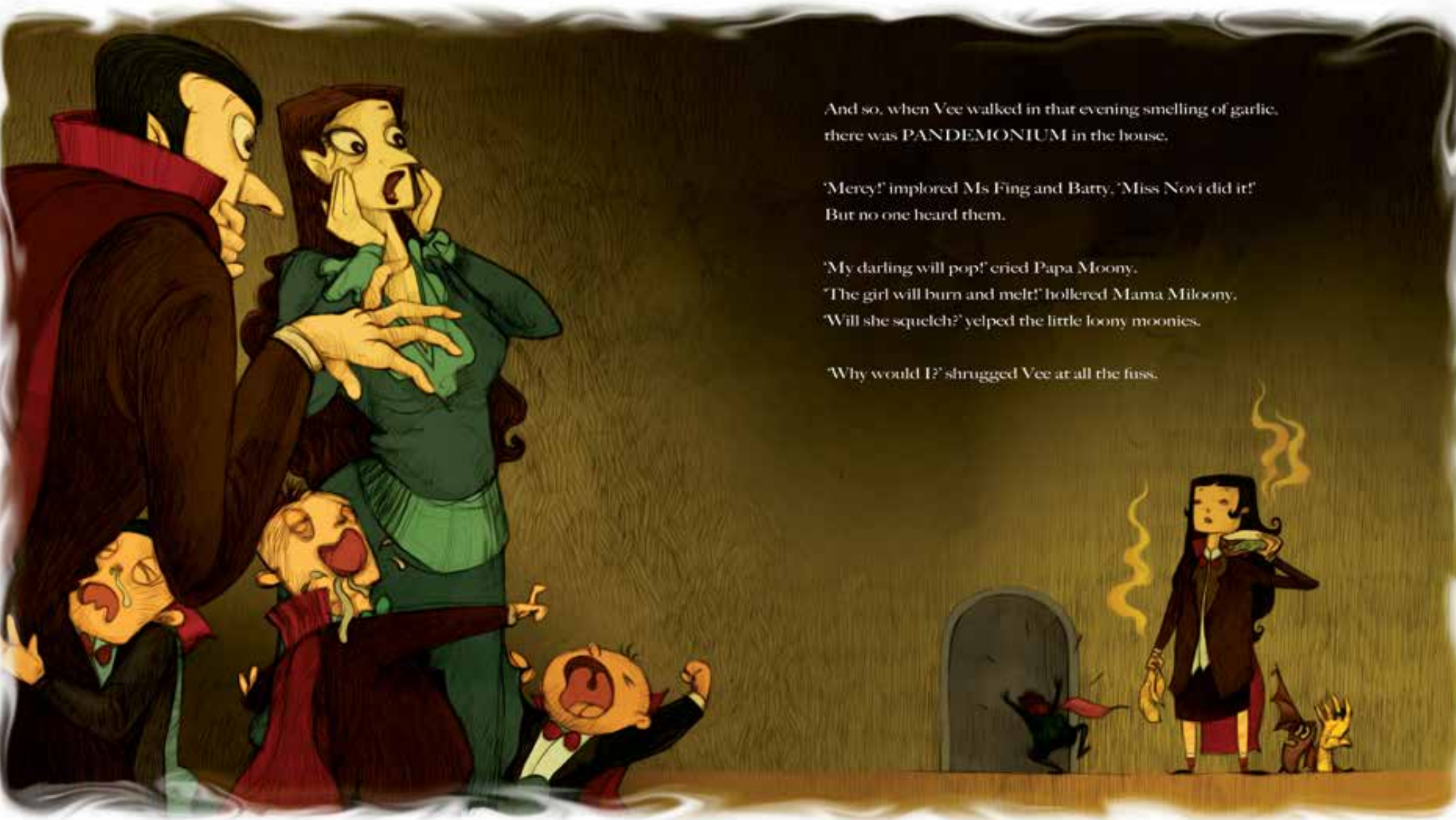
**Richa Jha** celebrates a young thinking mind's spirit of inquisitiveness, questioning the given, persuasiveness and non-conformist free will in this pacey picture book that is packed with sharp dialogues, intense passion, and chic humour. The breathtaking sweep of **Kunal Kundu's** detailed etching and dramatic artwork lingers on till long after the book has been put aside.

32 pp. Hardcover

27.5 cm x 24.7 cm

All rights available





And so, when Vee walked in that evening smelling of garlic,  
there was PANDEMONIUM in the house.

'Mercy!' implored Ms Fing and Barry, 'Miss Novi did it!'  
But no one heard them.

'My darling will pop!' cried Papa Moony.  
'The girl will burn and melt!' hollered Mama Miloony.  
'Will she squelch?' yelped the little loony moonies.

'Why would I?' shrugged Vee at all the fuss.



## Maccher Jhol (Fish Curry)

Richa Jha and Sumanta Dey

When Gopu's father (Baba) falls sick, the visually impaired Gopu knows he would have to step out alone. He negotiates the crowds, the markets and the traffic of the city of Calcutta, all by himself, to reach his grandma's house to get her to cook Baba's favourite fish curry. Does he succeed in bringing it home to him?

In this book, **Richa Jha** writes as much about the courage of Gopu as she does about the sounds and smells of a bustling metropolis. **Sumanta Dey** brings alive the city of Calcutta between the covers of this book and makes the readers feel they are walking alongside Gopu.

40pp. Hardcover

18.5 cm x 27 cm (landscape)

All rights available







## The Forever Pals

(Published in India as The Susu Pals)

Richa Jha and Alicia Souza

Shortlisted for the Raymond Crossword Awards 2014, India

Runner up at the RiviKids Parents and Children's Choice Award 2015, India

Rhea and Dia are inseparable soulmates. But when Nikki moves in next door, their friendship goes through trying times. Will Rhea, Dia and Nikki become three best pals? And who is that boy always lurking in the background?

Richa Jha weaves a clever, believable story of the typical joys, thrills, conflicts, jealousies, patch ups and all the bitter sweet stuff friendships are made of. Alicia Souza's feisty and utterly playful artwork and hand etched letterings add a charming quirkiness to this delightful story.

32 pp. Hardcover

27.9 cm x 22.2 cm.

All rights available



At the dragon-slayer picnic, Dia comes with Nikki

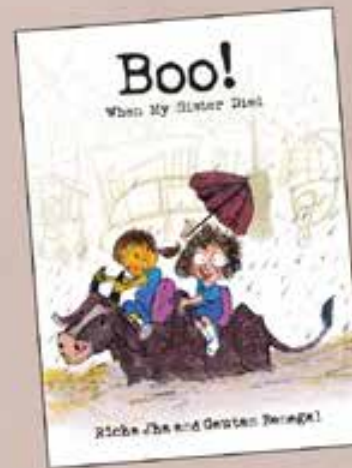
'You and this teddy look so silly,' says Nikki

'Yes, really silly,' says Dia.



So, Nikki and Dia find more interesting things to do





## **Boo!** **When my Sister Died**

**Richa Jha and Gautam Benegal**

*Shortlisted for Publishing Next Industry  
Award 2017, India*

When Noorie's sister Zoya dies, everything in Noorie's world becomes silent. She knows her sister has gone forever. But what's with Mummy's silly lies that Zoya will always be around, by their side? And what is she to do about Zoya's best friend Dhara, who just won't leave Noorie alone? **Boo! When My Sister Died** is a story about finding strength in love and loss.

**Gautam Benegal** blends a playful water colour and wash style with a somber digital crosshatch to bring together warmth in the memories of the sisters' togetherness and the intensity of Noorie's grief. **Richa Jha's** spare and simple text keeps the story poignant, believable and full of hope.

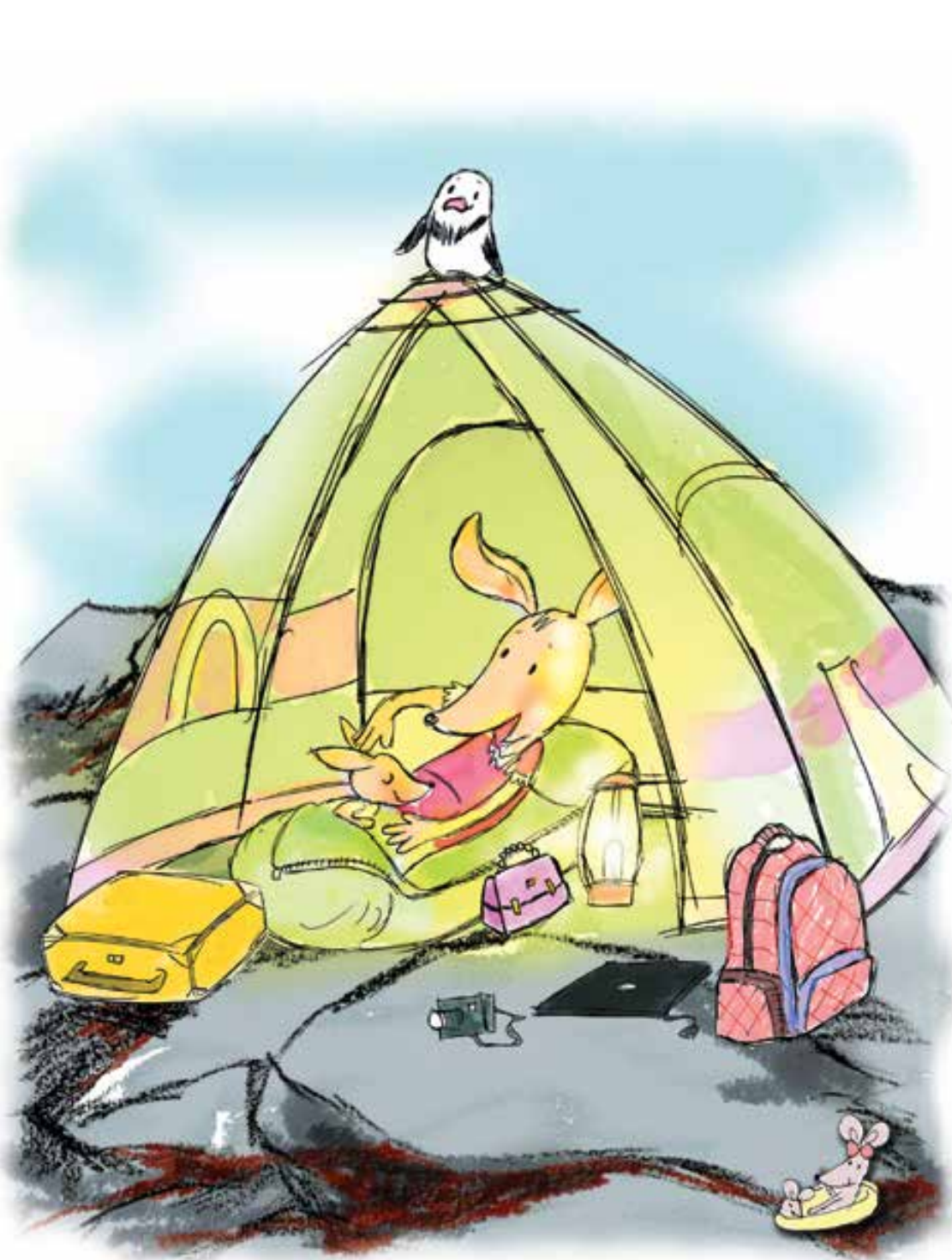
**40 pp. Hardcover**

**25.5 cm x 18.5 cm**

**All rights available**







## Love Like That

**Richa Jha and Gautam Benegal**

*Shortlisted for Publishing Next  
Industry Awards 2016, India*

Little Kroo and Mamma Hop travel to different natural habitats around the world where Kroo is fascinated by new ways of parent-young one bonding. But why doesn't his Mamma love him like that?

What will get him to believe what she always says - that she may not love him like that, but she loves him the most in this world?

In this simple, elegantly told story, **Richa Jha** touches upon the one existential doubt every child's mind faces at one point or another. The gentle pace of the book is in sharp contrast to the sheer scale of globe-trotting that the Mamma-baby duo are engaged in. Lyrical prose, a lilting assuring refrain, and adorable animals make this book a perfect bed time read. **Gautam Benegal** brings to life the landscapes with his magic brush strokes, each transporting the reader thousands of miles away to the real world of animals in their beautiful habitats.

**32 pp. Paperback.**

**27.9 cm x 22.2 cm**

**All rights available**





'Mommy, look! He'll fall!' cries Kroo.

'Mamma Panda loves her baby. She won't let him fall!' smiles Konga.

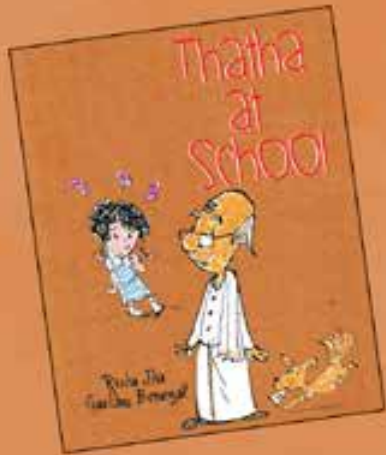
'Ah!' says Kroo, and looks on.

Then he asks, 'Mommy? Why don't you love me like that?'



'Not like that, my darling, but I love you the MOST in this world!' says Konga.

He wonders how, but forgets to ask as he soars.



## Thatha at School

Richa Jha and Gautam Benegal

It is Grandparents Day at school, and everyone is excited. Not little Oviyam, who is embarrassed at the thought of her school mates seeing her grandfather Thatha in a dhoti, a traditional wrap-around lower. She tries her best to convince him to skip the event but he insists on attending. Will Oviyam rise above her insecurities and own up her dhoti-wearing Thatha in front of everyone?

Richa Jha's light, breezy words, along with Gautam Benegal's soft playful colour palettes and vividly illustrated frames help the reader both empathise with Oviyam fears and strongly hope for her baseless insecurities to rid her troubled mind.

32 pp. Paperback.

27.9 cm x 22.2 cm.

All rights available



My heavy feet drag along the corridor. Is there still a way out?

I try.

'Miss Venu has some work for me, Thatha. I'll join you soon.'

It is a lie. I won't come back.



Is everyone laughing at Thatha?

I need to RUN.



All rights related queries to:  
Richa Jha [richa@picklefolkbooks.com](mailto:richa@picklefolkbooks.com)

[www.picklefolkbooks.com](http://www.picklefolkbooks.com)

[facebook.com/picklefolkbooks](https://facebook.com/picklefolkbooks)

[twitter.com/PickleYolkBooks](https://twitter.com/PickleYolkBooks)



PICKLE FOLK BOOKS

5181, ATS Hamlet,  
Sector 104,  
Noida, India - 201304  
T: +91 9958222185



Catalogue designed by Abhishek Jha  
[abhishekjha@hotmail.com](mailto:abhishekjha@hotmail.com) +91 8447291563

Front cover illustration by Nayantara Surendranath for *The Tree Boy*.  
Back cover illustration by Sumanta Dey for *Maccher Jhol*.