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# Chaalu Plays a Trick

& Mus Saves her Tail







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Classics for Kids

# Chalu Plays a Trick

Story told by  
Vijita Mukherjee

Illustrations  
Savio Mascarenhas



This book belongs to

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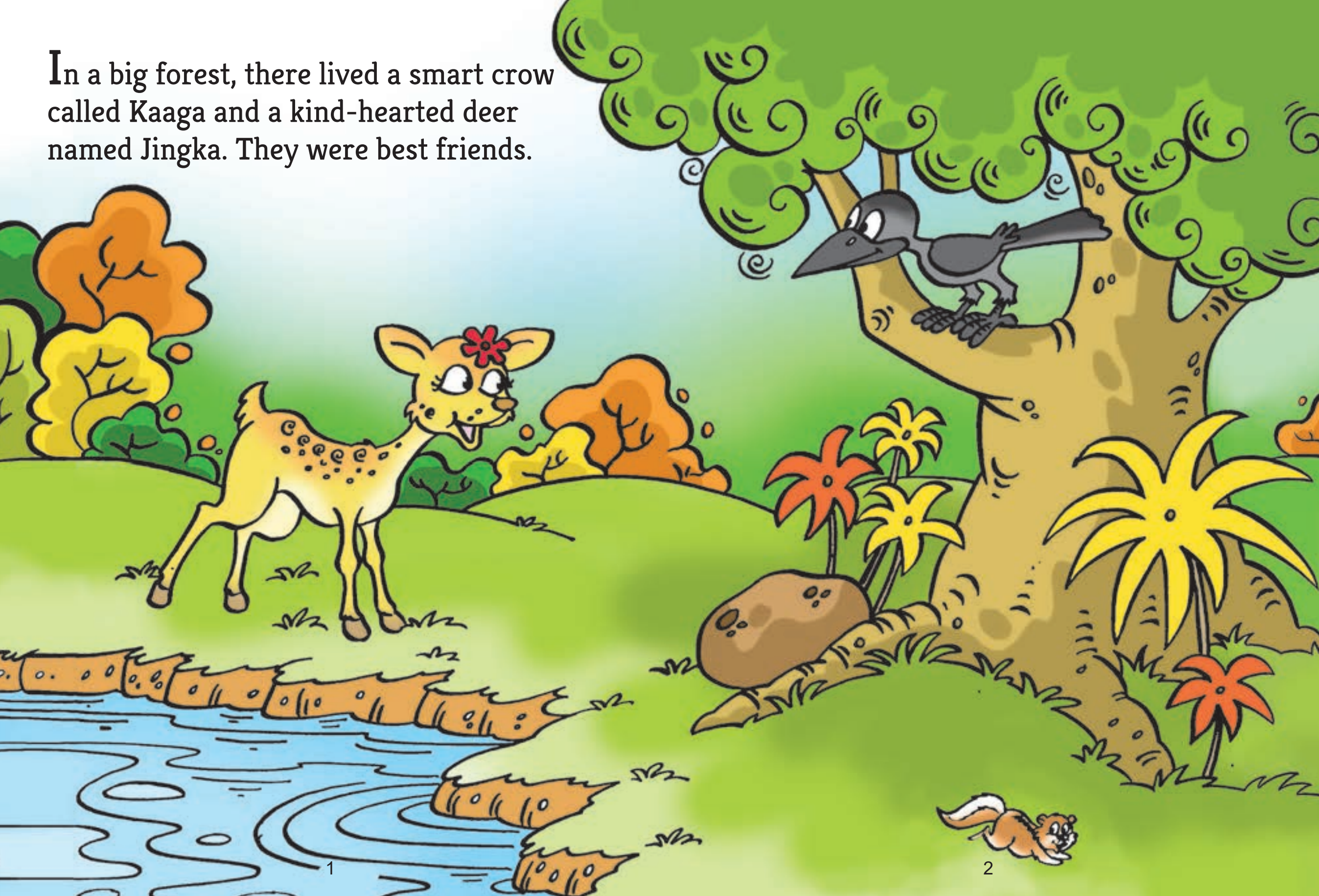
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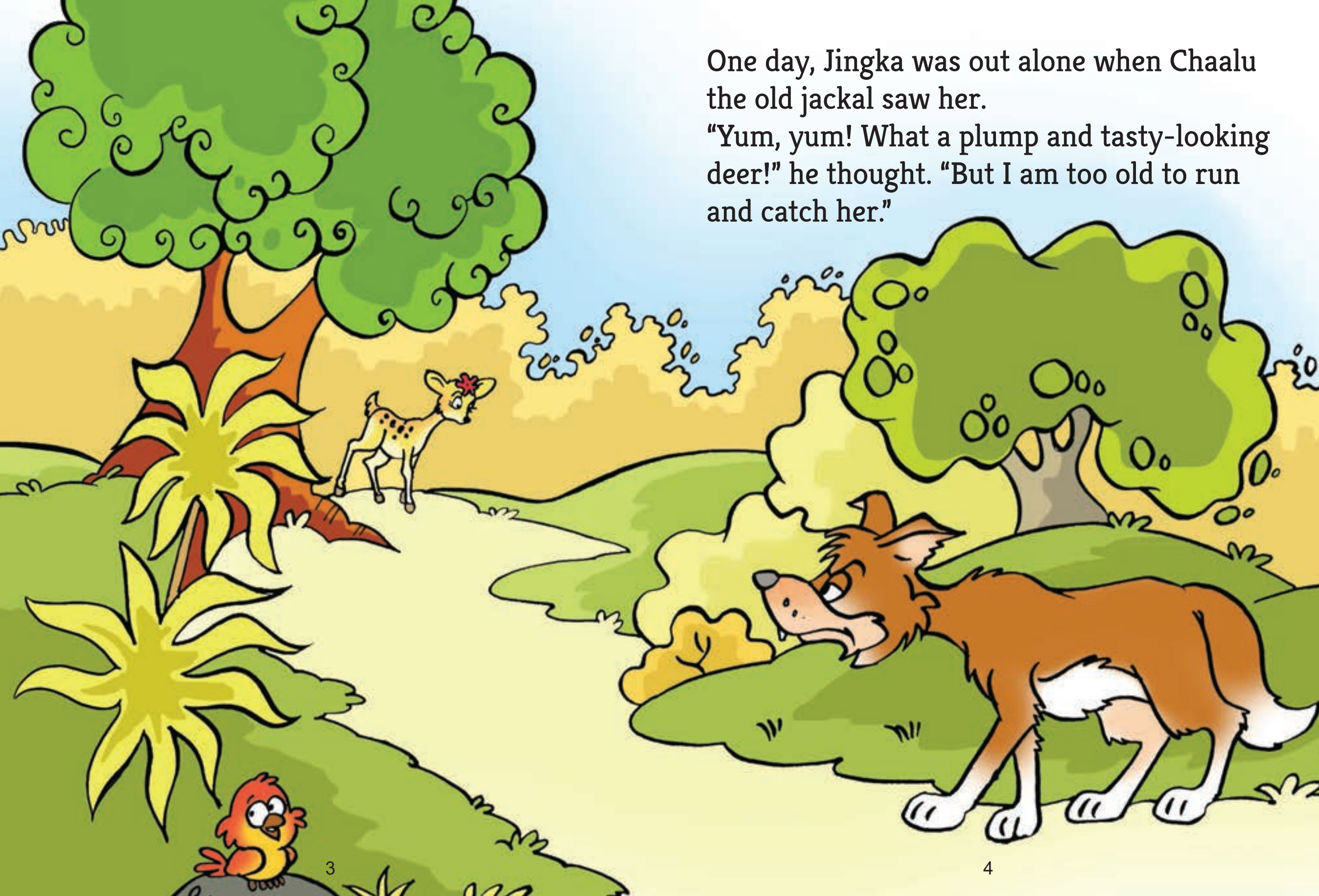
In a big forest, there lived a smart crow called Kaaga and a kind-hearted deer named Jingka. They were best friends.





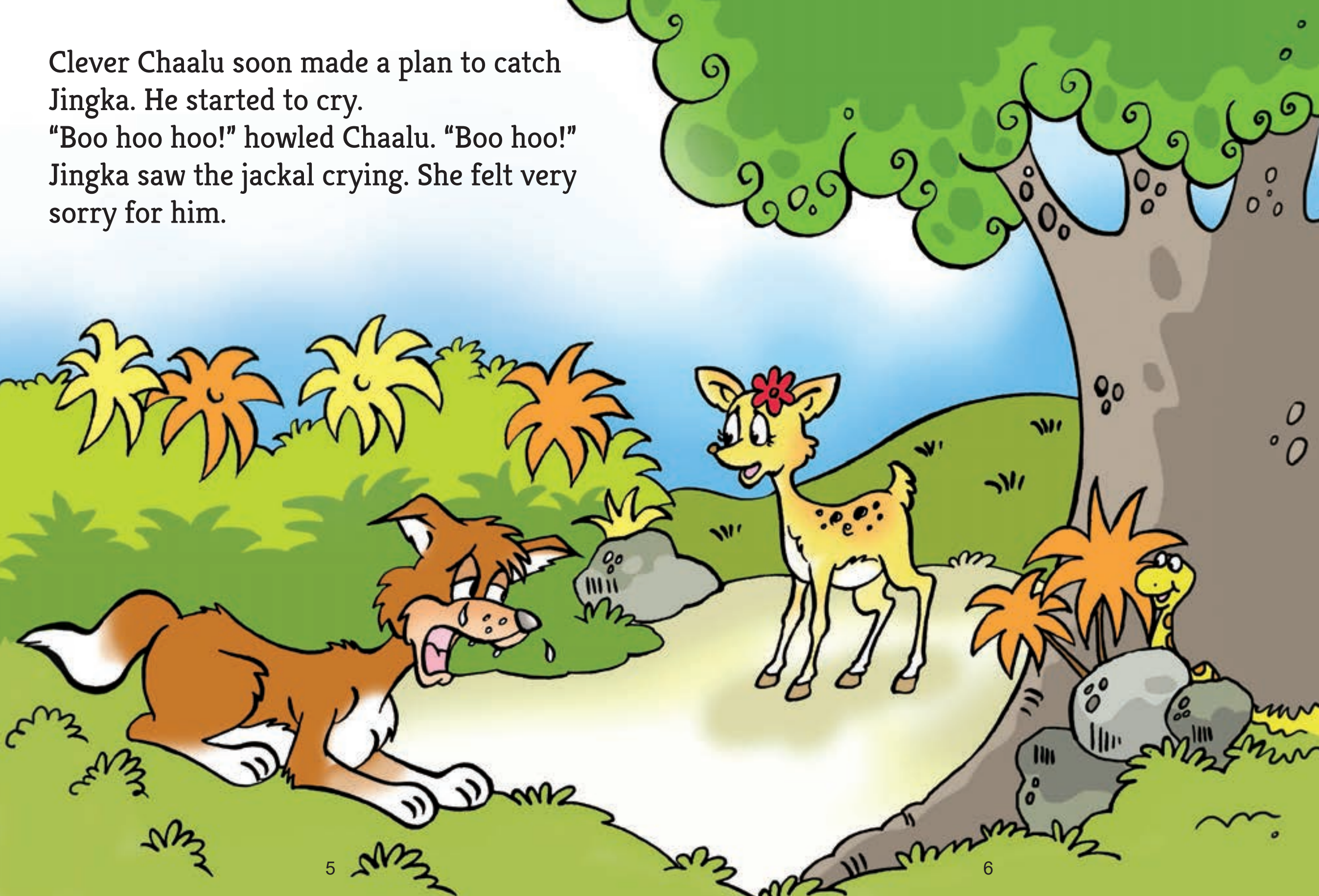
One day, Jingka was out alone when Chaalu the old jackal saw her.

"Yum, yum! What a plump and tasty-looking deer!" he thought. "But I am too old to run and catch her."





Clever Chaalu soon made a plan to catch Jingka. He started to cry.  
“Boo hoo hoo!” howled Chaalu. “Boo hoo!”  
Jingka saw the jackal crying. She felt very  
sorry for him.



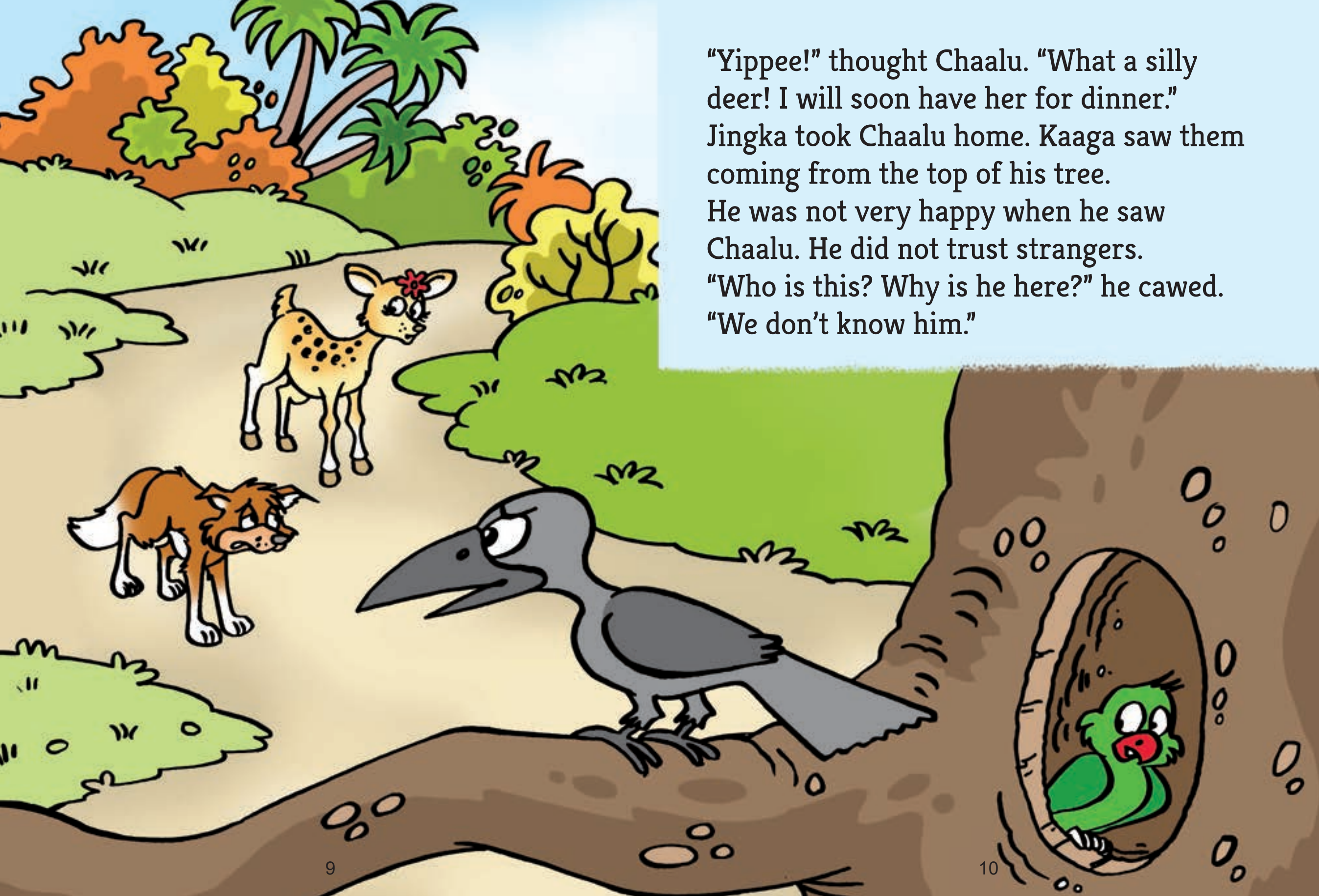


“Why are you crying?” asked Jingka.  
“I have no friends,” sobbed Chaalu, big fat tears running down his face. “Nobody loves me . . . sniff . . . sniff.”  
“Don’t cry,” said Jingka. “Come home with me and meet my best friend, Kaaga. He will make you feel better.”





“Yippee!” thought Chaalu. “What a silly deer! I will soon have her for dinner.”  
Jingka took Chaalu home. Kaaga saw them coming from the top of his tree.  
He was not very happy when he saw Chaalu. He did not trust strangers.  
“Who is this? Why is he here?” he cawed.  
“We don’t know him.”





Chaalalu started to wail and cry. "Your best friend doesn't like me!" he wept. "Sniff . . . sniff."

"Now, now, don't cry," said kind-hearted Jingka. "He didn't mean it."

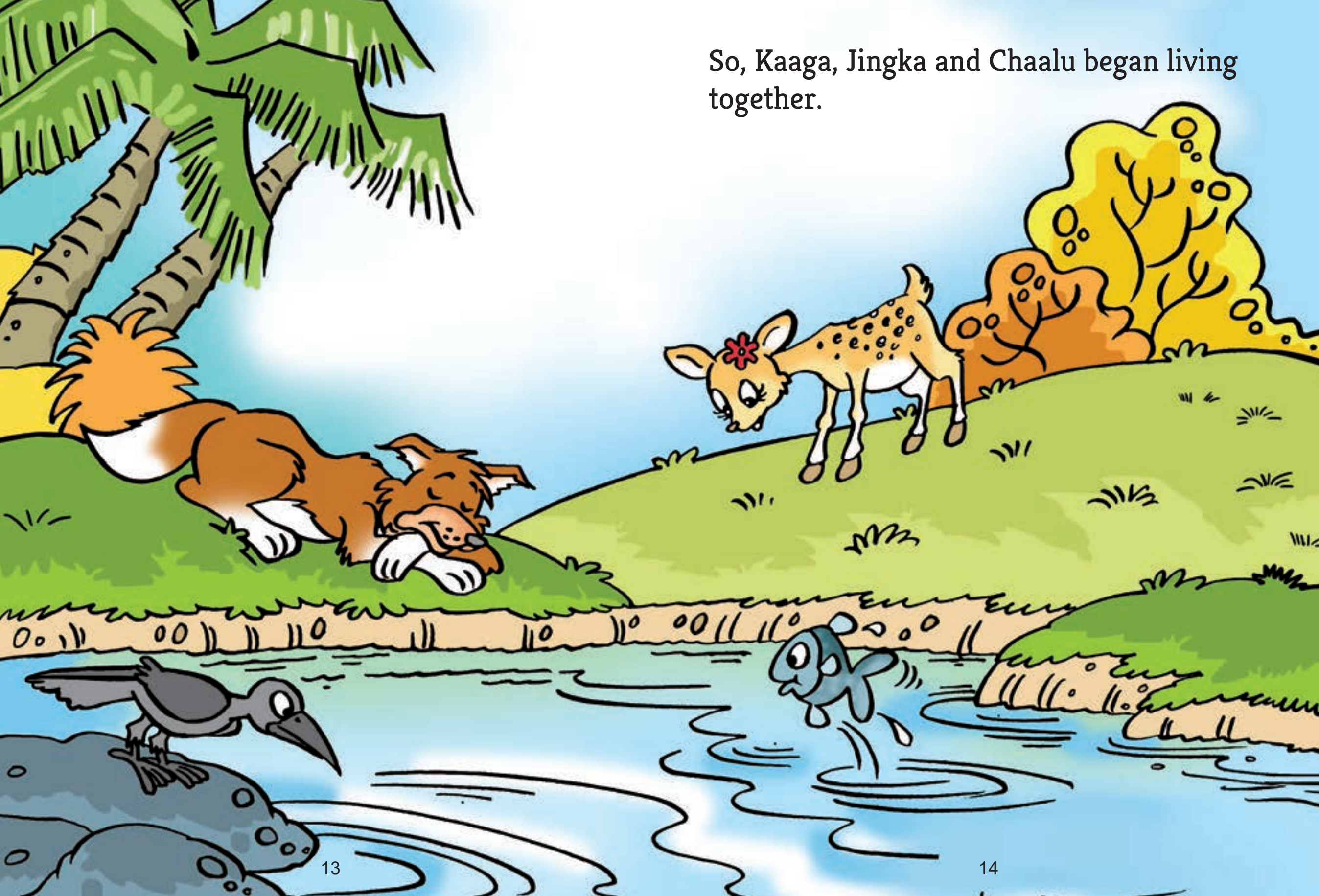
"Please, Kaaga," she said. "Let's all be friends."

"Oh, all right," said Kaaga. He did not want Jingka to feel bad.



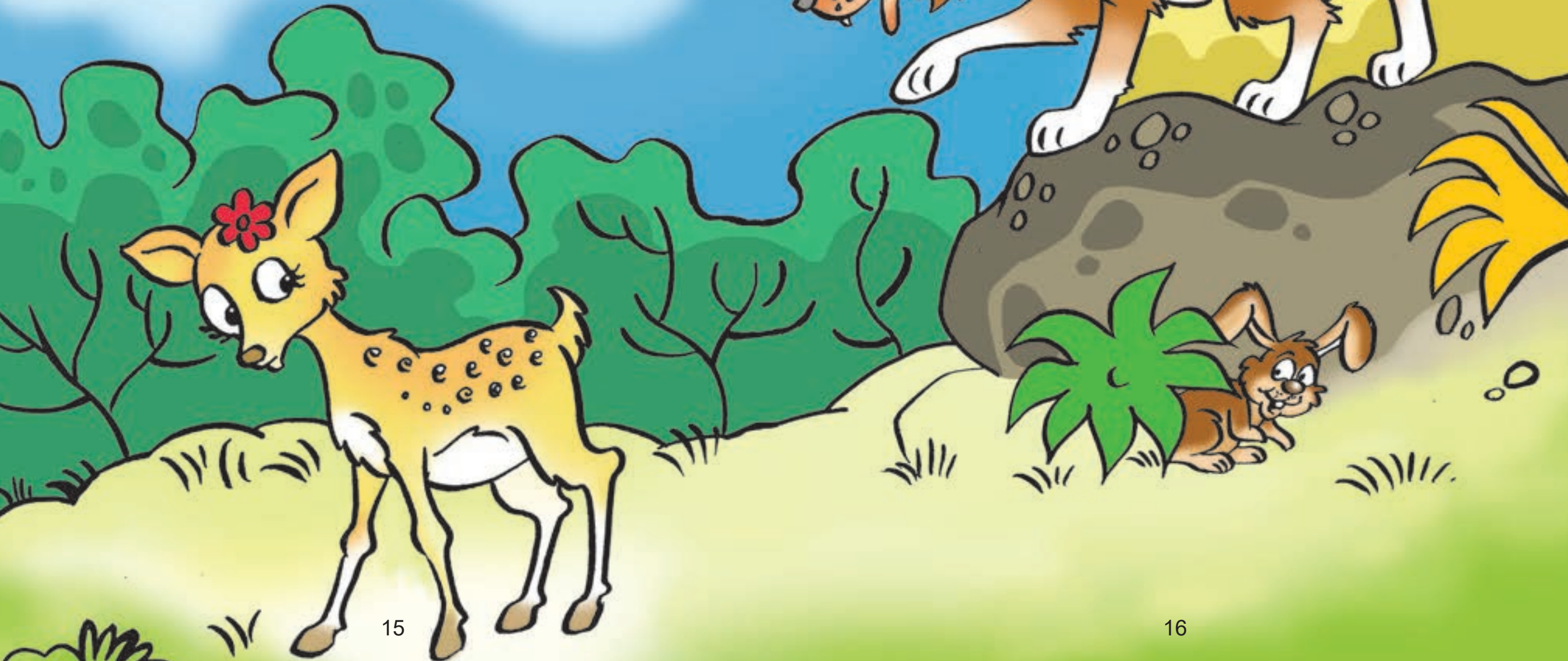


So, Kaaga, Jingka and Chaalu began living together.





The days passed by. One day, when Kaaga had gone out, Chaalu said to Jingka, "Don't eat this prickly grass, my friend. I have found a field of soft, sweet corn for you. Come with me and I will show you where it is."





Cunning Chaalu took Jingka to a field full of bright yellow, juicy corn.

"Oh, what lovely corn!" exclaimed Jingka. "I will come here every day."

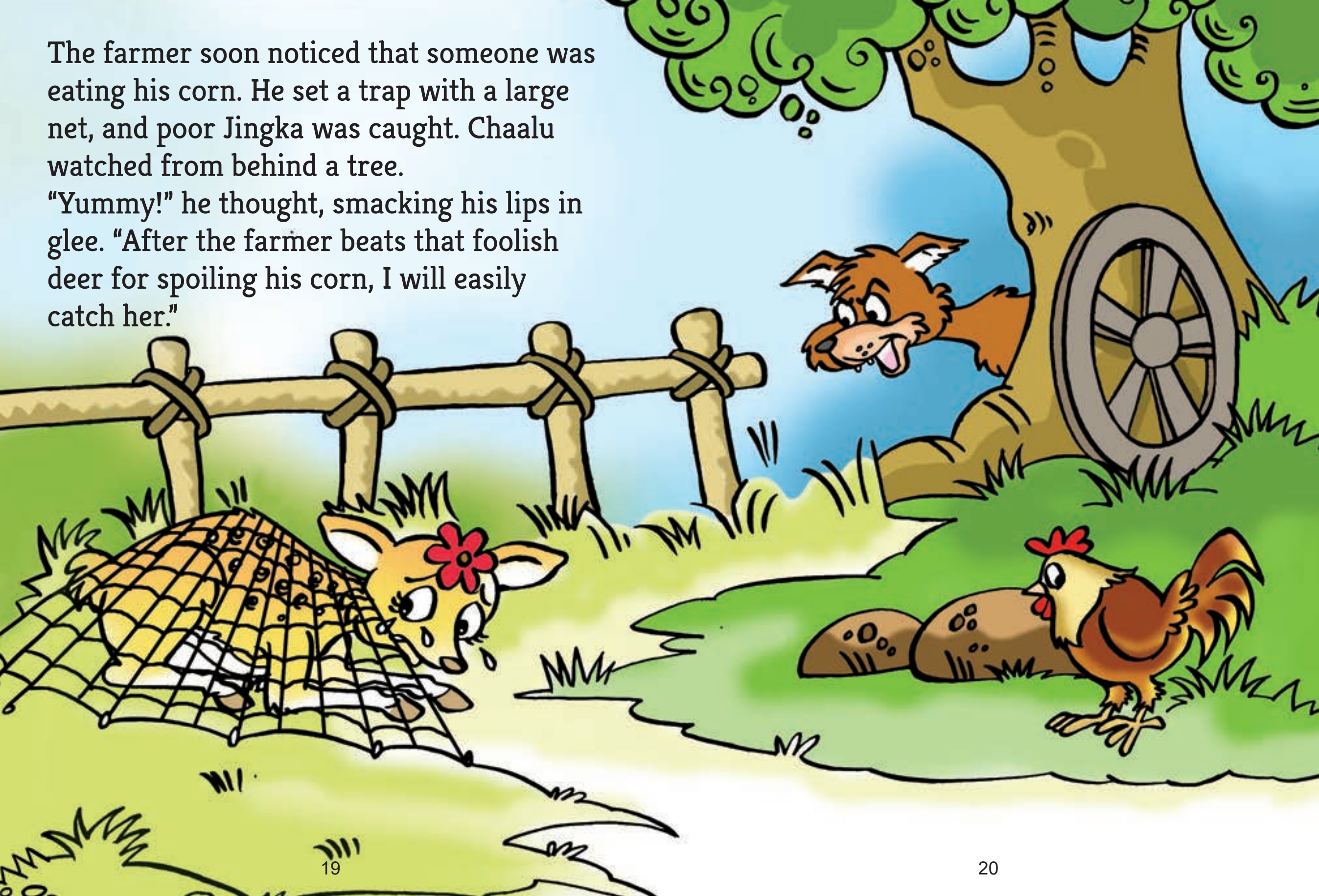
Chaalu was very happy. The farmer would get angry when he saw Jingka. He would lay a trap for her and catch her. Then, Chaalu could eat her up!



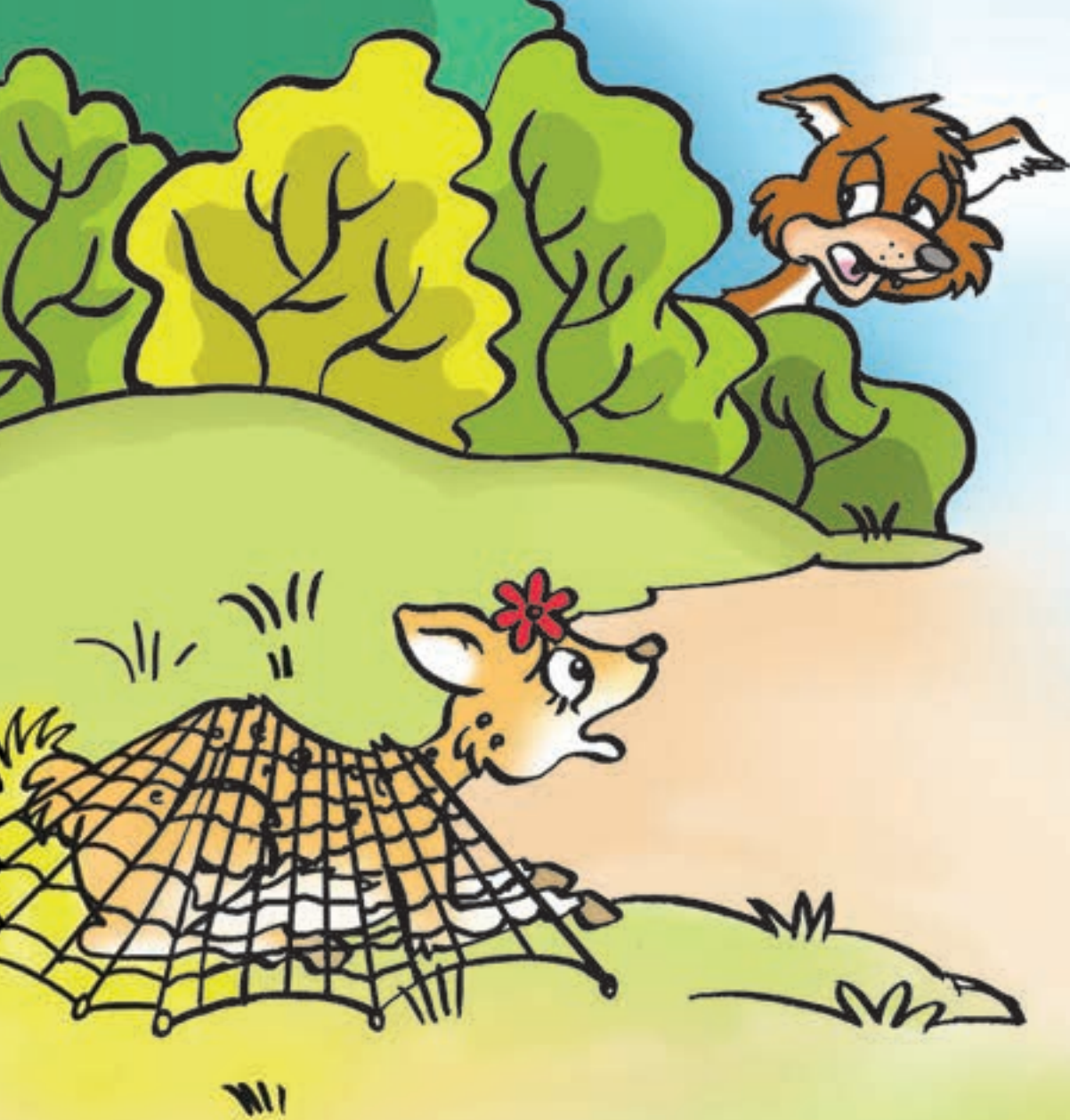


The farmer soon noticed that someone was eating his corn. He set a trap with a large net, and poor Jingka was caught. Chaalu watched from behind a tree.

"Yummy!" he thought, smacking his lips in glee. "After the farmer beats that foolish deer for spoiling his corn, I will easily catch her."







Jingka saw Chalu and called, "Chalu, quick! Tear this net with your sharp teeth and free me!"

"I can't," said Chalu, rolling his eyes helplessly. "The net is too strong for me."

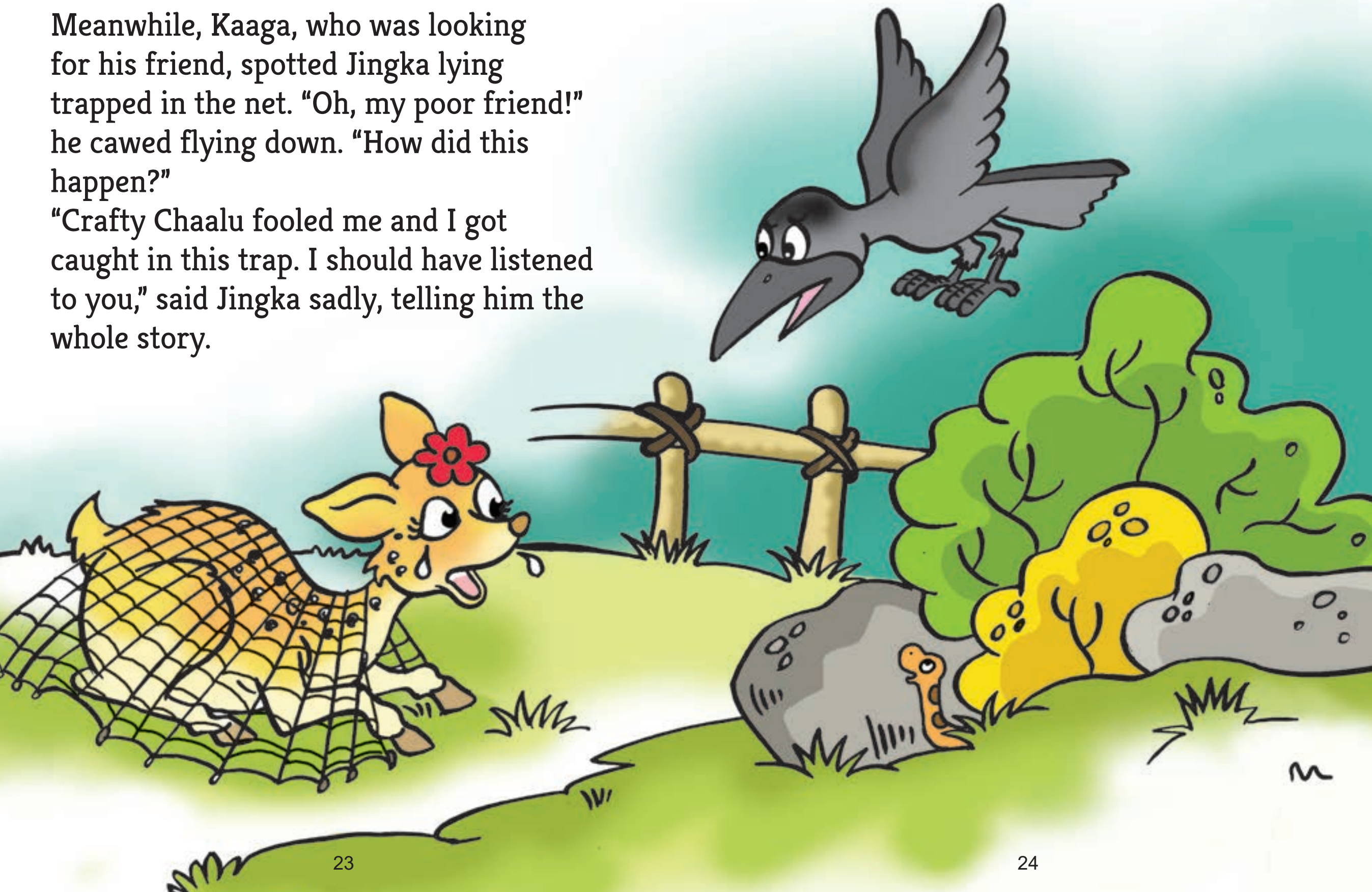
He walked off and sat under some bushes close by. Jingka was very upset. She realised that the jackal had tricked her. "I should have listened to Kaaga," thought Jingka sadly.





Meanwhile, Kaaga, who was looking for his friend, spotted Jingka lying trapped in the net. "Oh, my poor friend!" he cawed flying down. "How did this happen?"

"Crafty Chaalu fooled me and I got caught in this trap. I should have listened to you," said Jingka sadly, telling him the whole story.





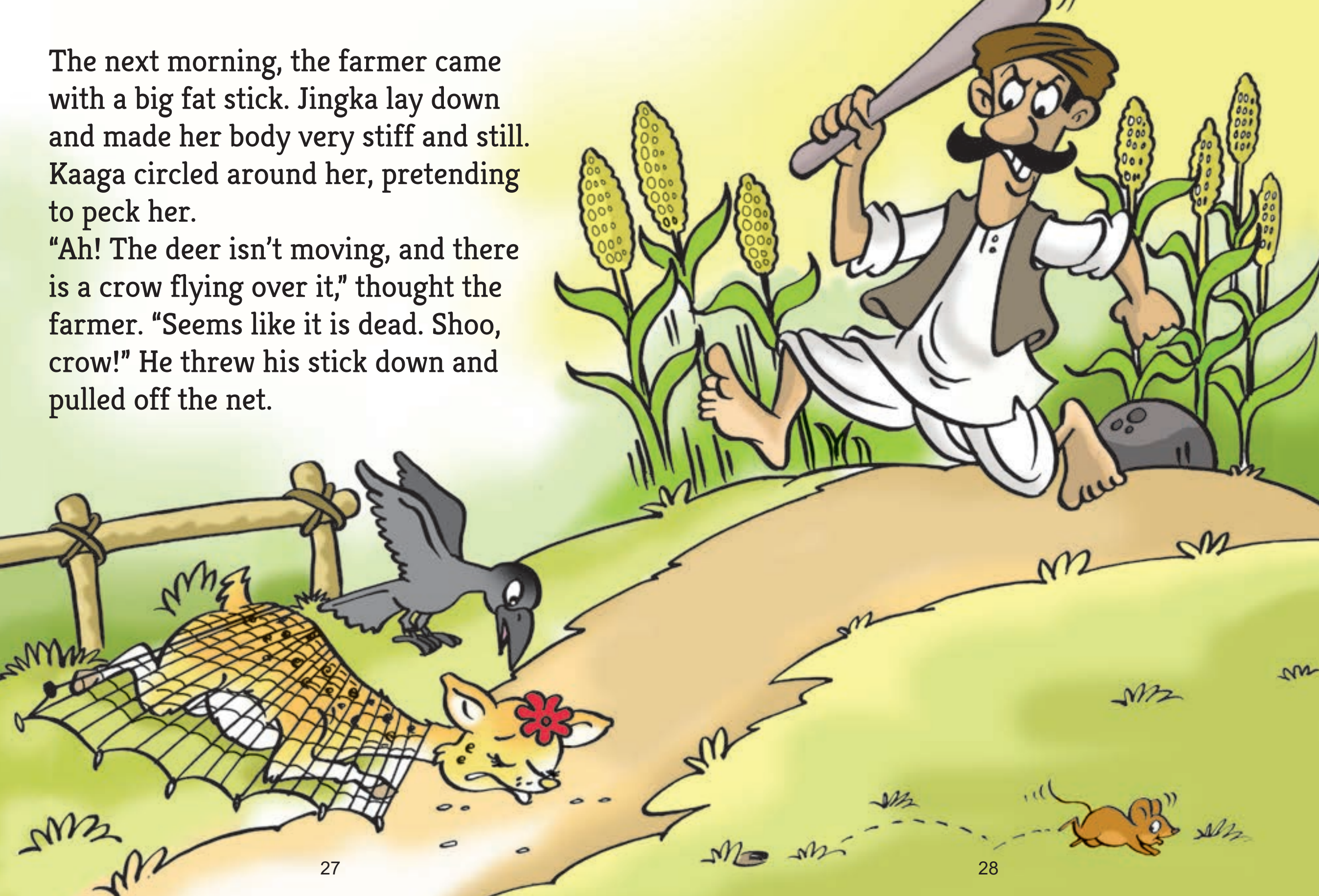
“Don’t worry! I’ll think of a plan to save you,” said Kaaga. He whispered something to Jingka. She listened carefully.





The next morning, the farmer came with a big fat stick. Jingka lay down and made her body very stiff and still. Kaaga circled around her, pretending to peck her.

“Ah! The deer isn’t moving, and there is a crow flying over it,” thought the farmer. “Seems like it is dead. Shoo, crow!” He threw his stick down and pulled off the net.







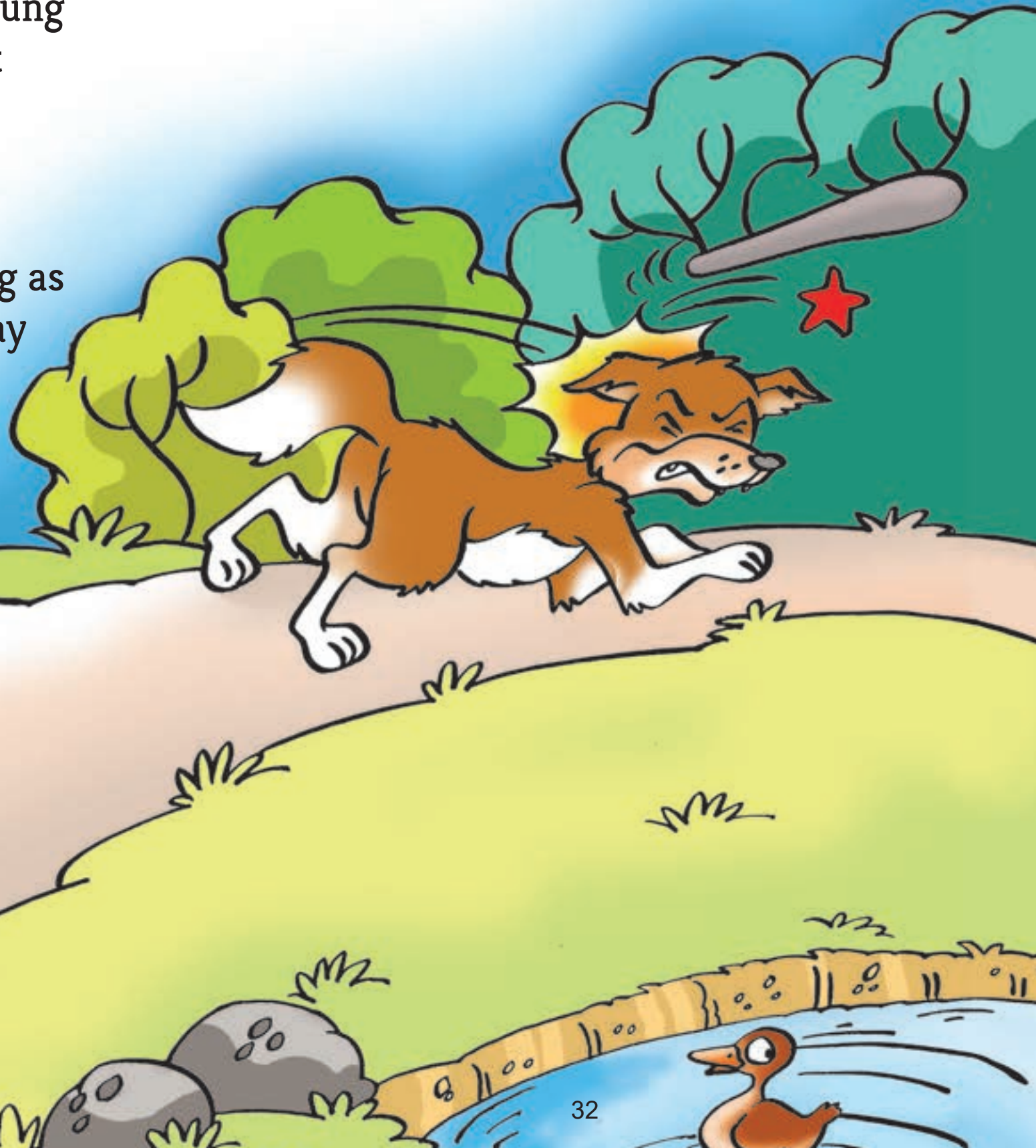
“RUN, Jingka, RUN!” cawed Kaaga. That was the signal for Jingka. Up she jumped and ran away as fast as she could.



“Why, you . . .” shouted the farmer and flung his stick at Jingka. But he missed and hit Chaalu instead.

**THUD!**

“Ow! Oww! Owww!” said Chaalu, running as fast as he could. “I wish I had stayed away from that deer and her clever friend.”







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**KAPWING**





# Learning Ladder

Caw	The sound a crow makes
Wail	Cry
Crafty	Cunning
Glee	Great Happiness
Prickly	Something that pokes
Crops	Plants that are grown in fields for food

Tricked	Fooled
Trapped	Caught
Stiff	Very straight without bending
Circled	To go round and round