PRATHAM BOOKS

Level 3

Muthu and Kappu

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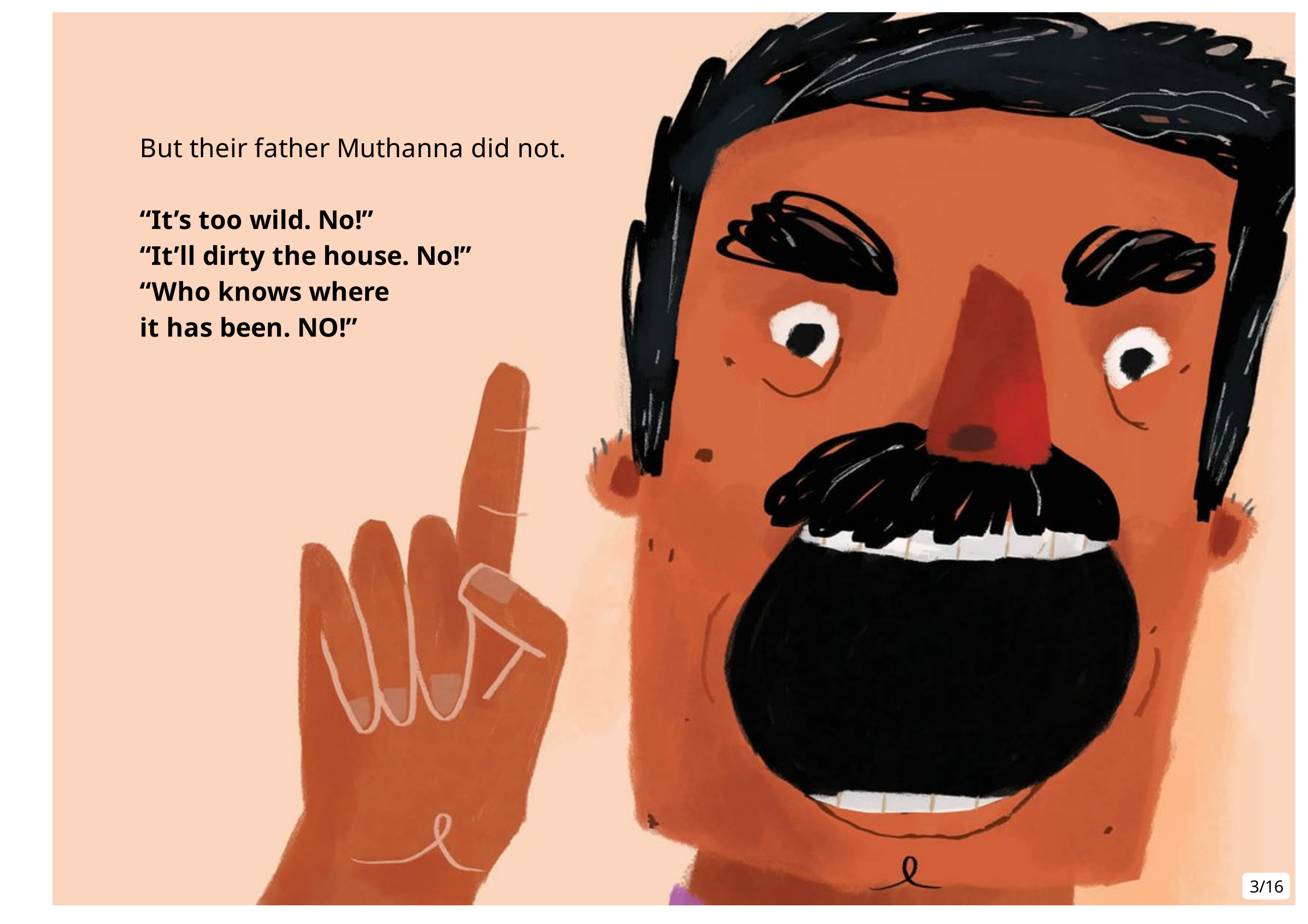
For as long as the Muthanna family of Kottageri, in Coorg, could remember, Gangu Muthanna and Raja Muthanna had wanted a pet.

But their father Muthanna did not.

“It’s too wild. No!”
“It’ll dirty the house. No!”
“Who knows where
it has been. NO!”



One day, Muthanna (whom we shall call Muthu) found that his children had brought home a kitten.
A tiny
BLACK
kitten.
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“Where did you find this thing?” Muthu asked. “Don’t you remember what happened to Machu Uncle? He was enjoying his evening walk when a black cat crossed his path. The next day he was dead!”

“But Pappa, he was 93 years old.”

“NO! Just take it back before something bad happens!”

The children begged and pleaded, but he refused to budge. So they took the kitten back...

to their room, where they secretly
started to take care of him. But soon
enough, Muthu found out.

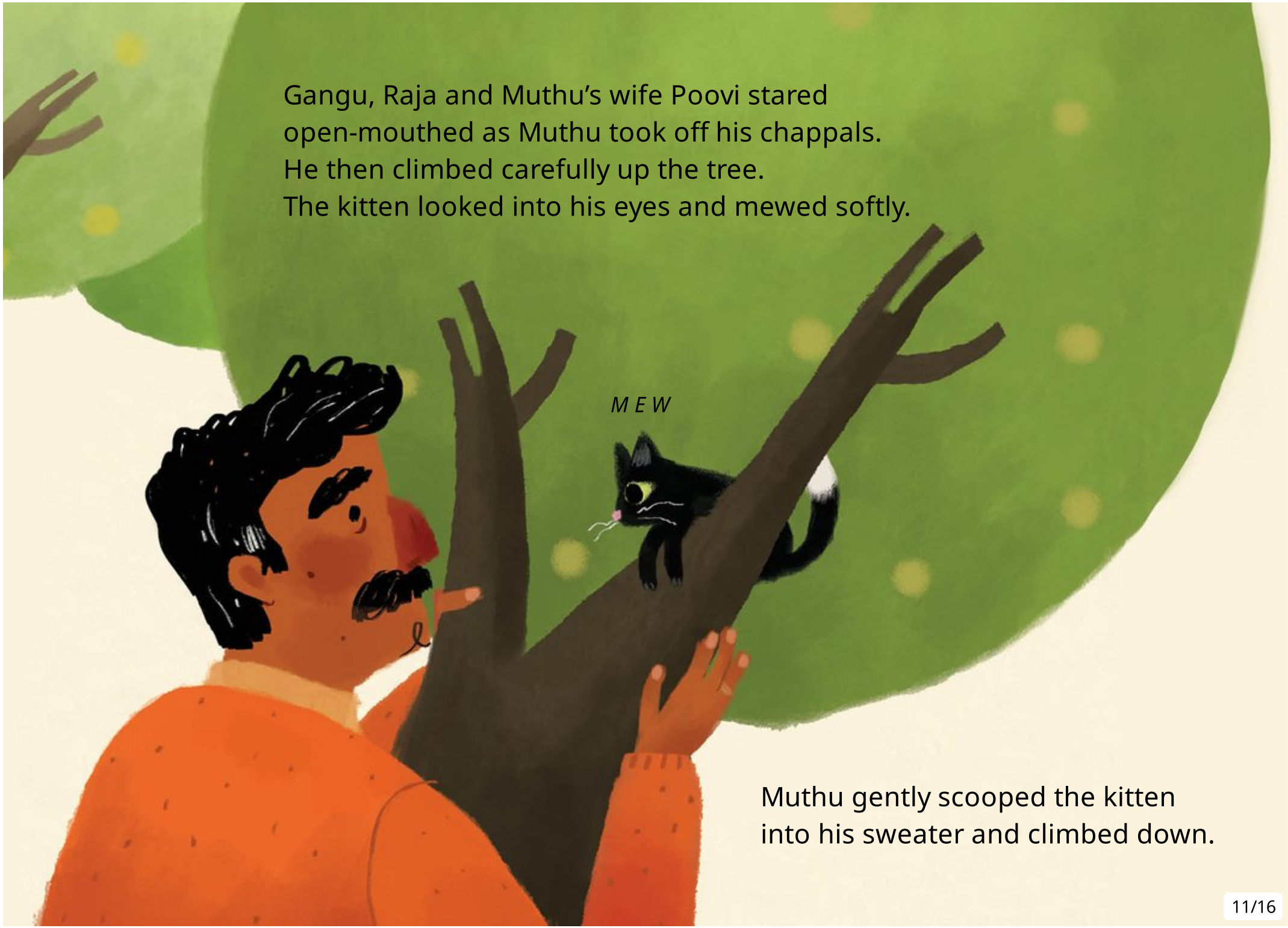
He was very, very angry.
“NO!” he thundered.
“We cannot keep it!
Take it back to where
it came from.”

Gangu and Raja were very, very sad.
They refused to talk to their pappa
or eat their favourite dinner
of noolputtu and koli curry.

That night, Muthu tossed and turned. When he finally fell asleep, he dreamt of black, furry blobs.

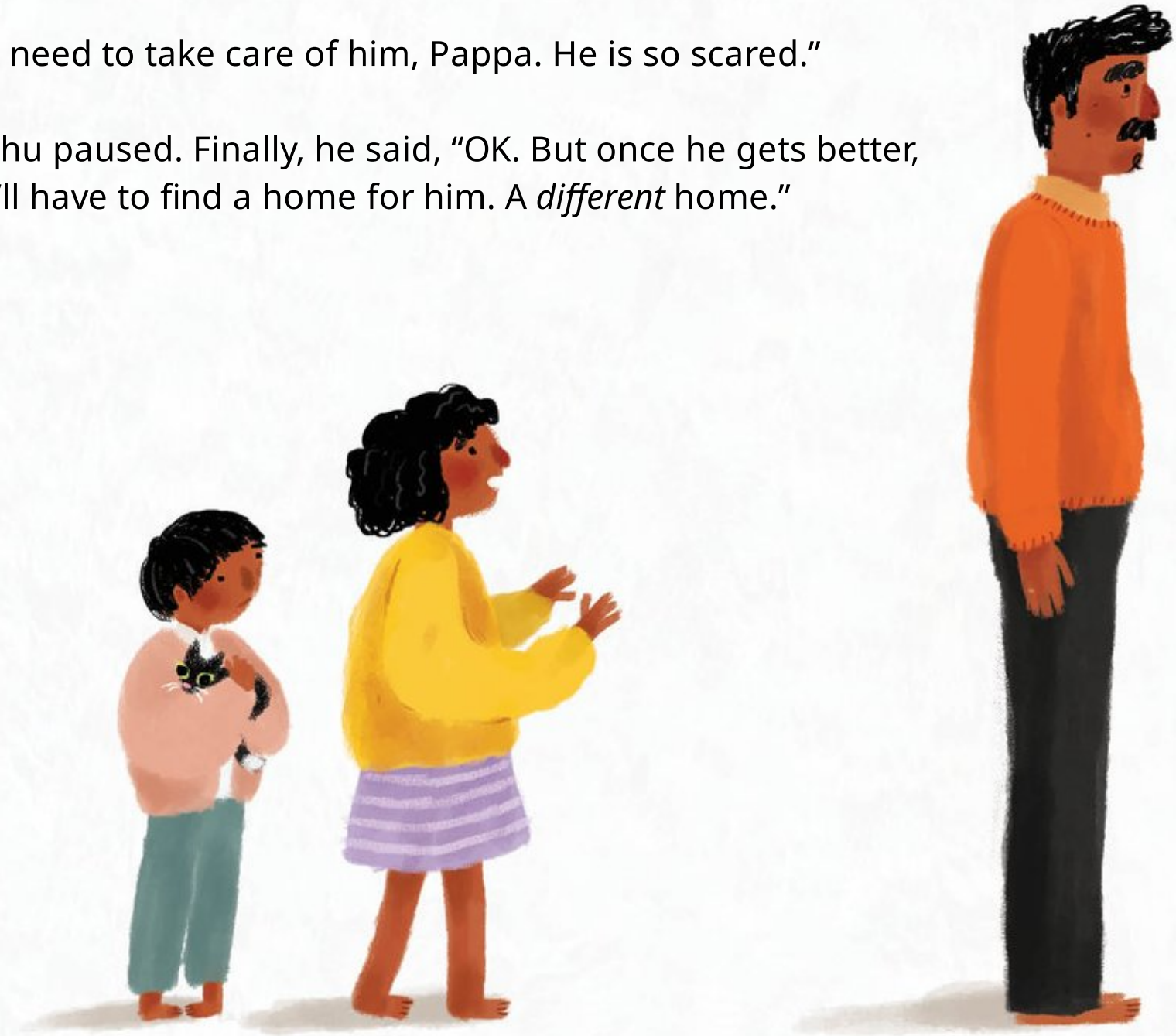
The next morning, he awoke to loud sounds coming from outside the house.

“Muthu!”
“Pappa, come fast!”
Muthu ran out.
“Pappa, it’s the kitten! He’s in the tree! We have to help him.”
Muthu looked up.

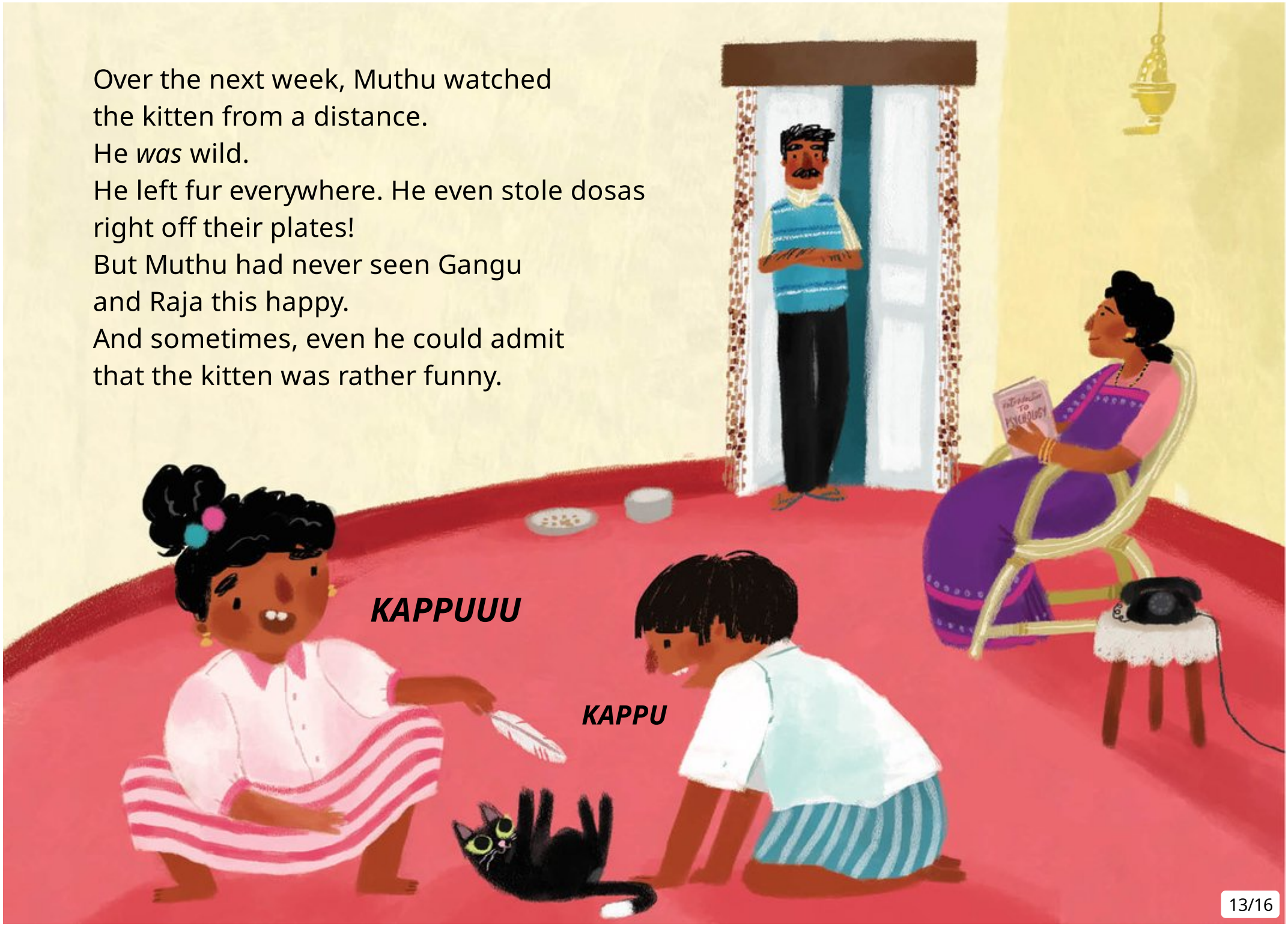

Gangu, Raja and Muthu’s wife Poovi stared
open-mouthed as Muthu took off his chappals.
He then climbed carefully up the tree.
The kitten looked into his eyes and mewed softly.
MEW
Muthu gently scooped the kitten
into his sweater and climbed down.

“We need to take care of him, Pappa. He is so scared.”

Muthu paused. Finally, he said, “OK. But once he gets better, you’ll have to find a home for him. A *different* home.”

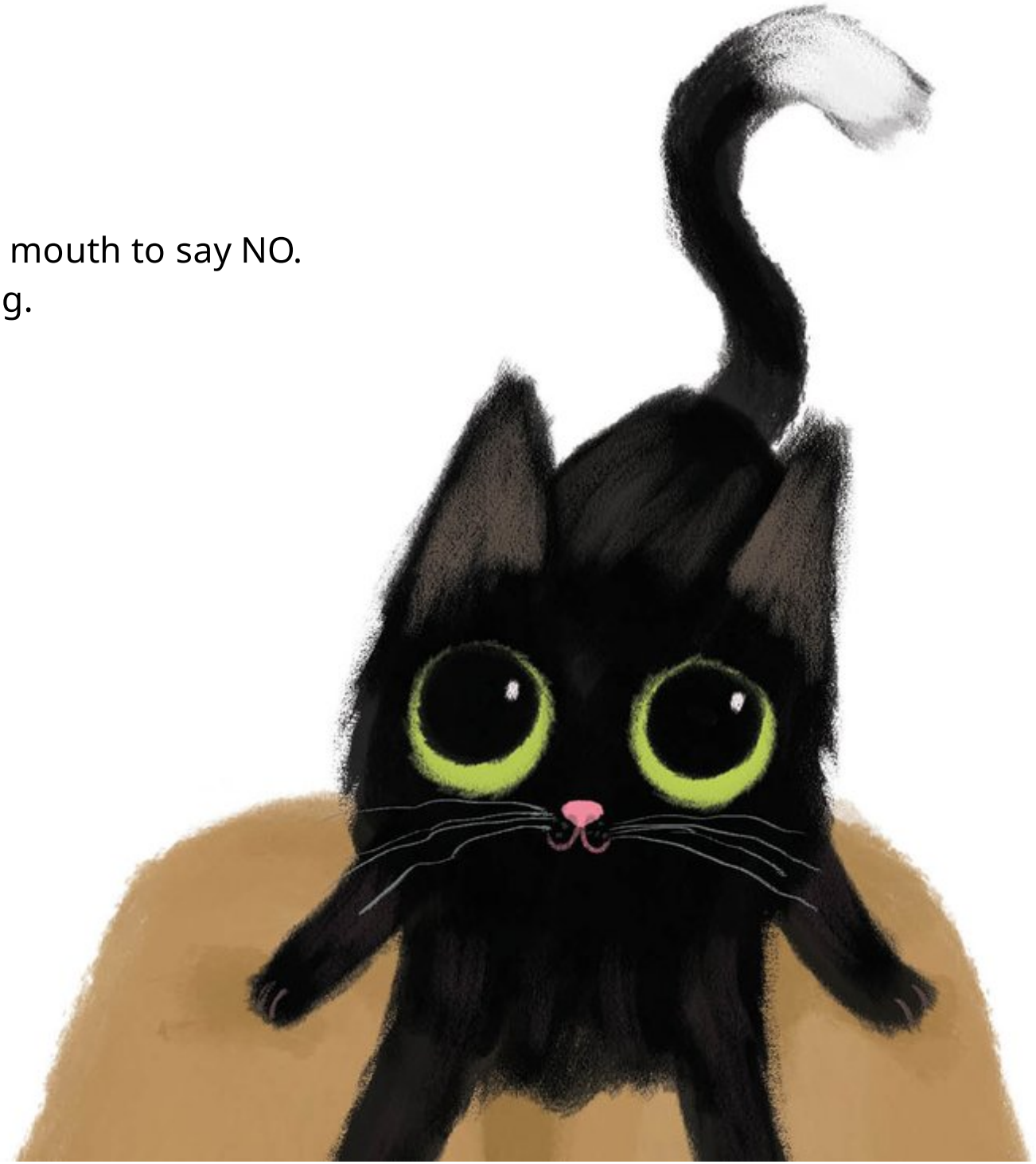


Over the next week, Muthu watched
the kitten from a distance.
He *was* wild.
He left fur everywhere. He even stole dosas
right off their plates!
But Muthu had never seen Gangu
and Raja this happy.
And sometimes, even he could admit
that the kitten was rather funny.



Then, one day, as he was reading
the morning paper, the kitten jumped up
onto the chair and settled into Muthu’s lap,
purring loudly.

Muthu opened his mouth to say NO.
But he said nothing.



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Muthu and Kappu

(English)

Muthanna of Kottageri does not like black cats. They bring bad luck, he is sure. What happens when Gangu and Raja bring home the blackest of kittens?

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.

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