



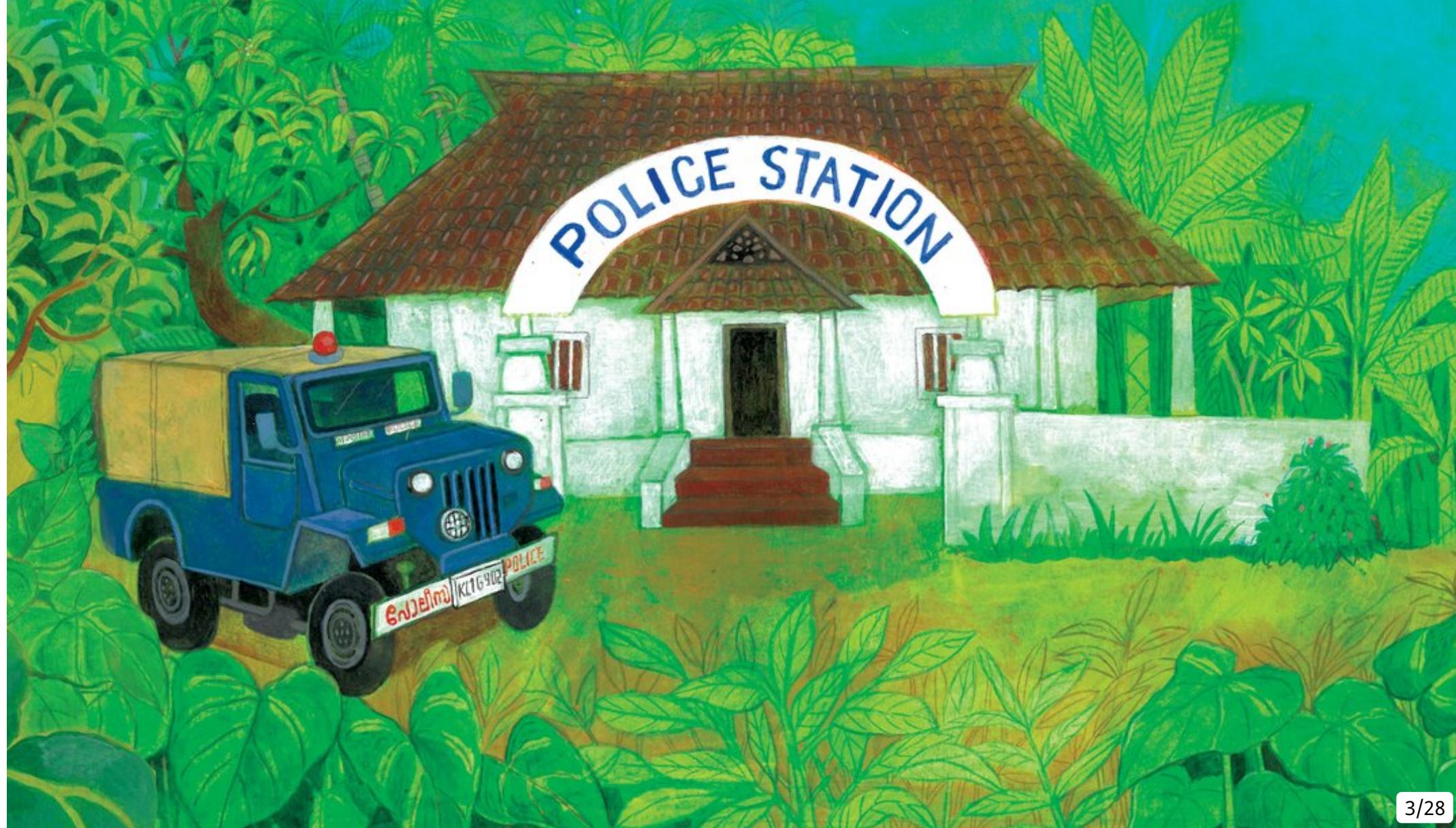
Belle a disparu !

Original Publisher: Pratham Books
Author: Priya Kuriyan
Illustrator: Priya Kuriyan
Translator: Sak Untala

Level 3

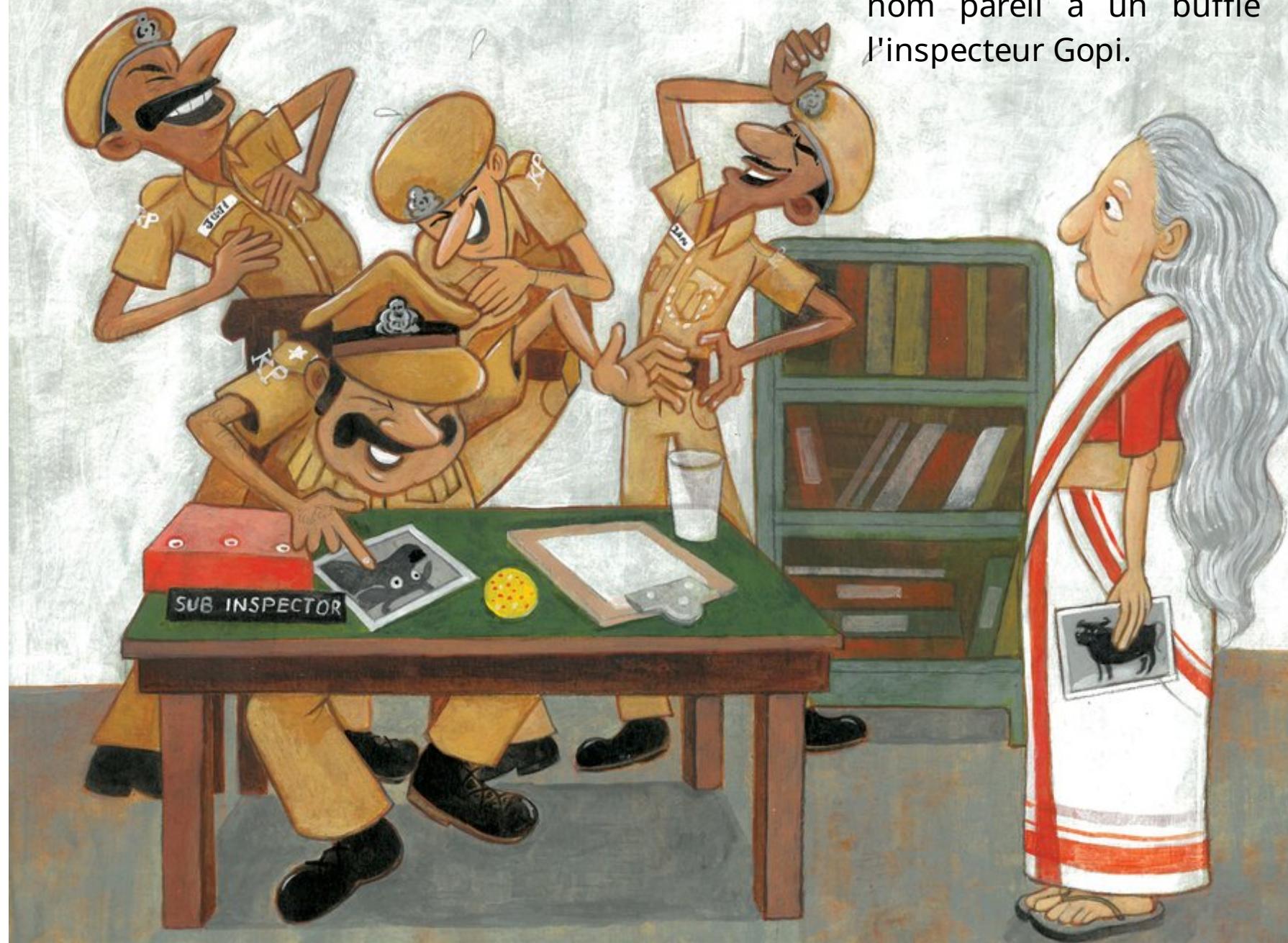


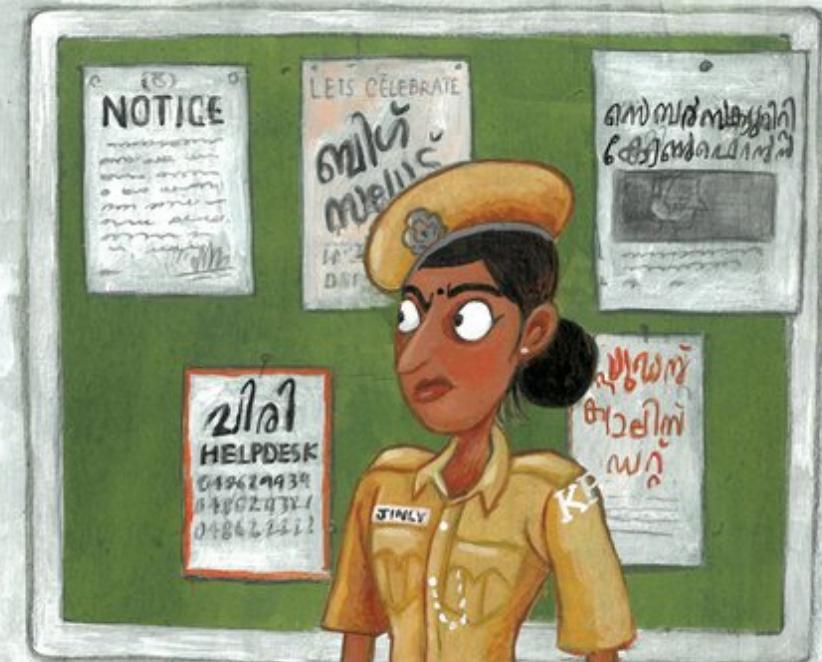
Le lendemain de la disparition de Belle, des éclats de rires retentirent dans le poste de police d'Erumannoor.



« HIHIHI... HAHAHAHAHA ! »

« Belle ? Mais qui peut bien donner un nom pareil à un buffle ! » s'esclaffa l'inspecteur Gopi.





Seules deux personnes ne trouvaient pas cela très drôle.

Tessamma, dont la buffle bien-aimée, Belle, avait disparu, et Jincy Jose, la nouvelle agente de police d'Erumannoor.

Cette dernière se mit aussitôt au travail.



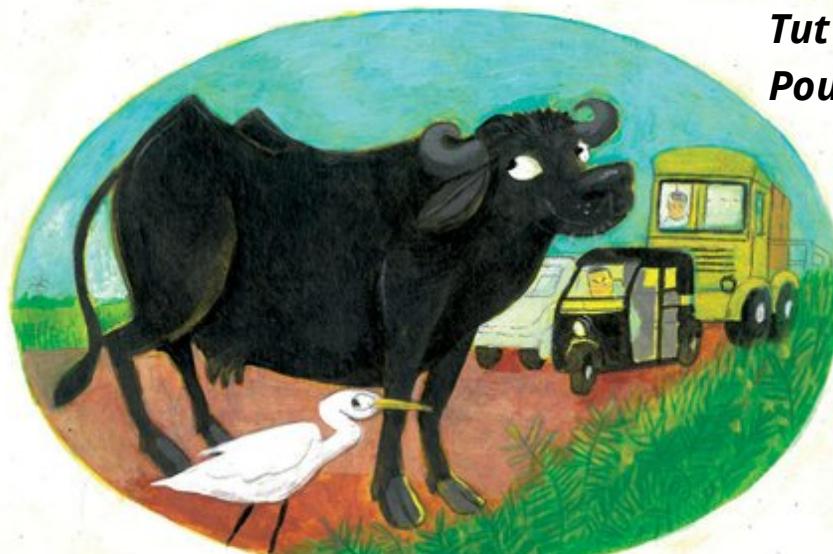
— Alors, parlez-moi de Belle, dit Jincy.

— Eh bien, d'abord, elle est vraiment très belle, indiqua Tessamma.

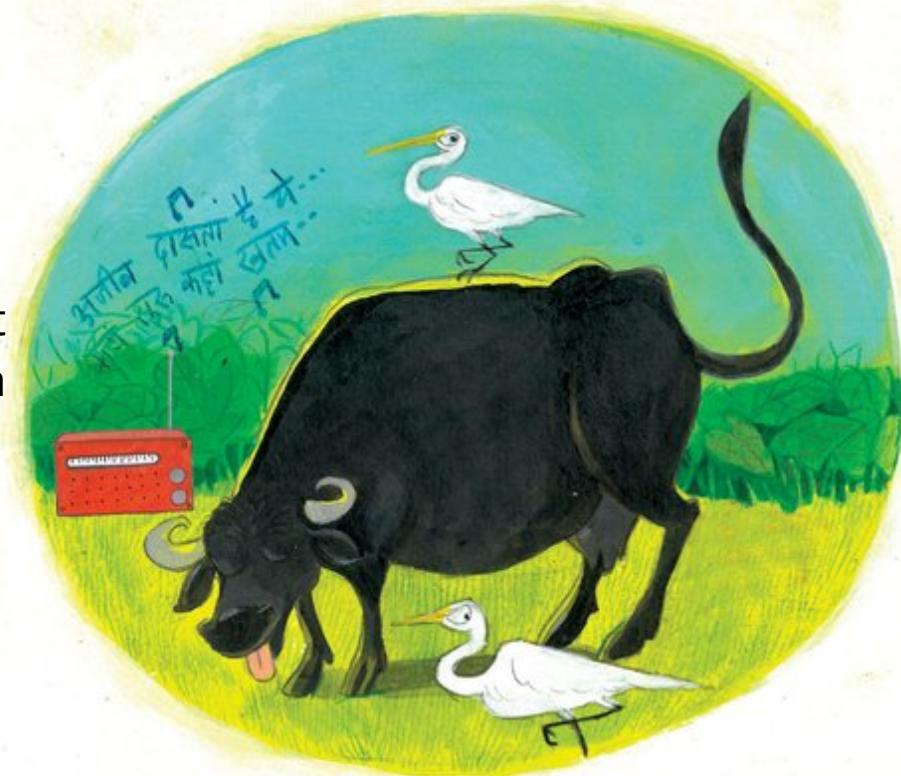


**Tut ! Tut !
Pouèèèèèt !**

— Elle crée des bouchons sur la route, c'est sûr.



— Quand on la trait, le matin aux aurores, elle tient absolument à écouter de la musique classique à la radio.



— Mais quand elle est en train de brouter dans son pré, elle préfère écouter de la musique de Bollywood.

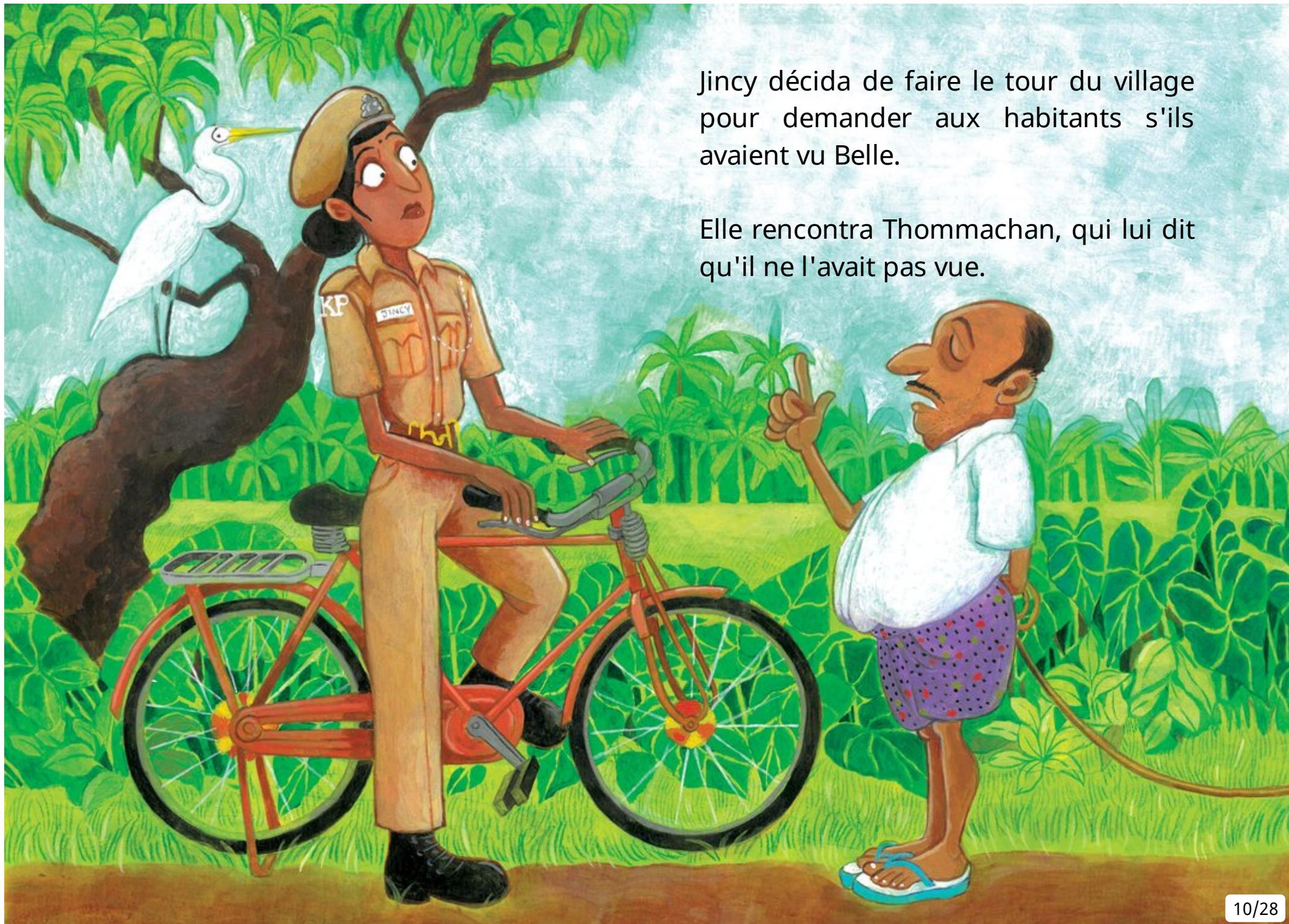
— Lorsqu'elle prend son bain de boue dans l'étang, sa routine beauté, elle préfère écouter les chansons romantiques du Malayalam.



Cette bufflonne a d'excellents goûts musicaux, se dit Jincy.



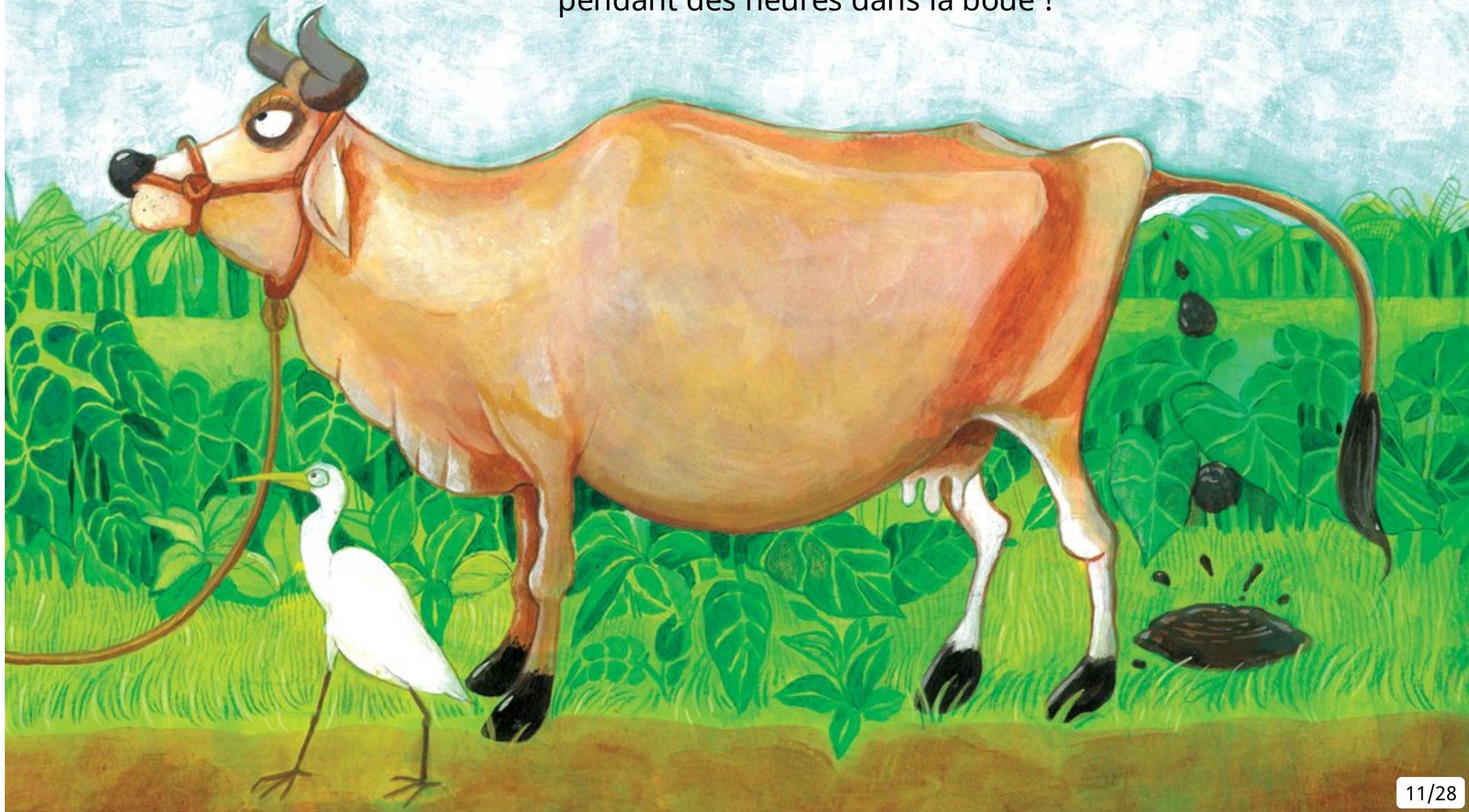
— La nuit, elle dort toujours au son de douces mélodies instrumentales.



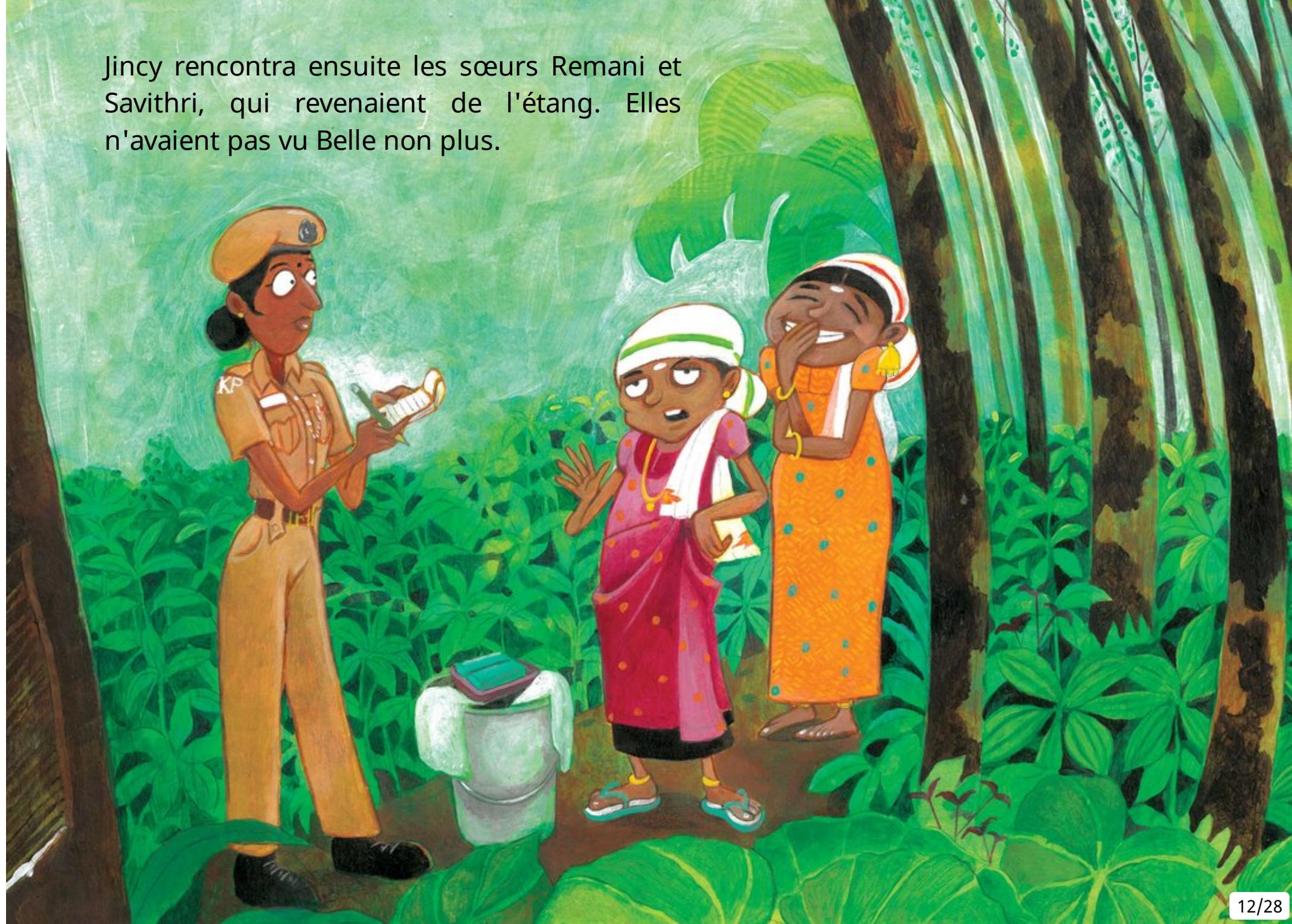
Jincy décida de faire le tour du village pour demander aux habitants s'ils avaient vu Belle.

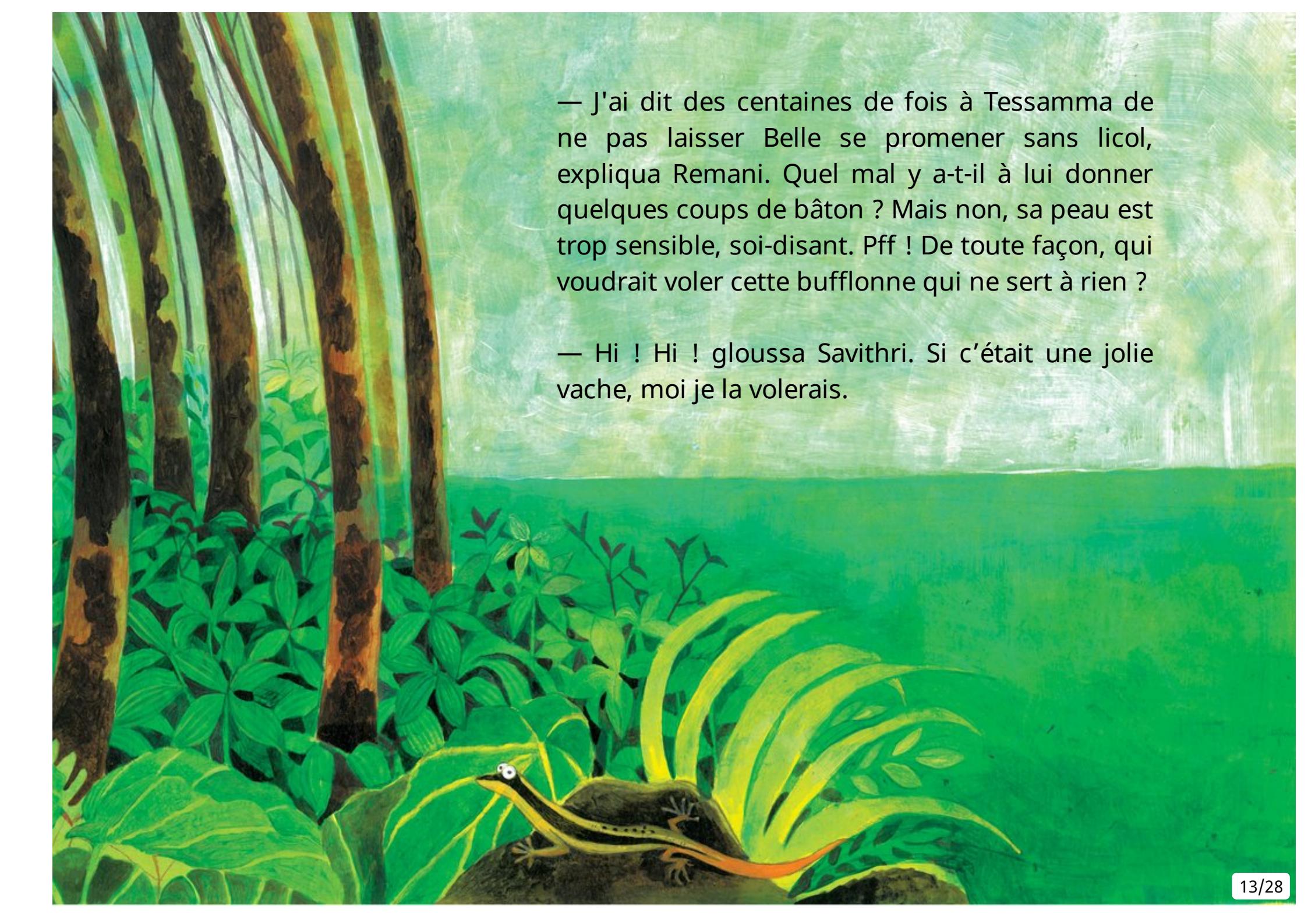
Elle rencontra Thommachan, qui lui dit qu'il ne l'avait pas vue.

— Désolé, je ne connais pas de bufflonne appelée Belle et entre-nous, je n'apprécie pas trop les buffles. Je n'aime que ma vache, Chandanakutty. Elle, au moins, ne se prélasser pas pendant des heures dans la boue !



Jincy rencontra ensuite les sœurs Remani et Savithri, qui revenaient de l'étang. Elles n'avaient pas vu Belle non plus.





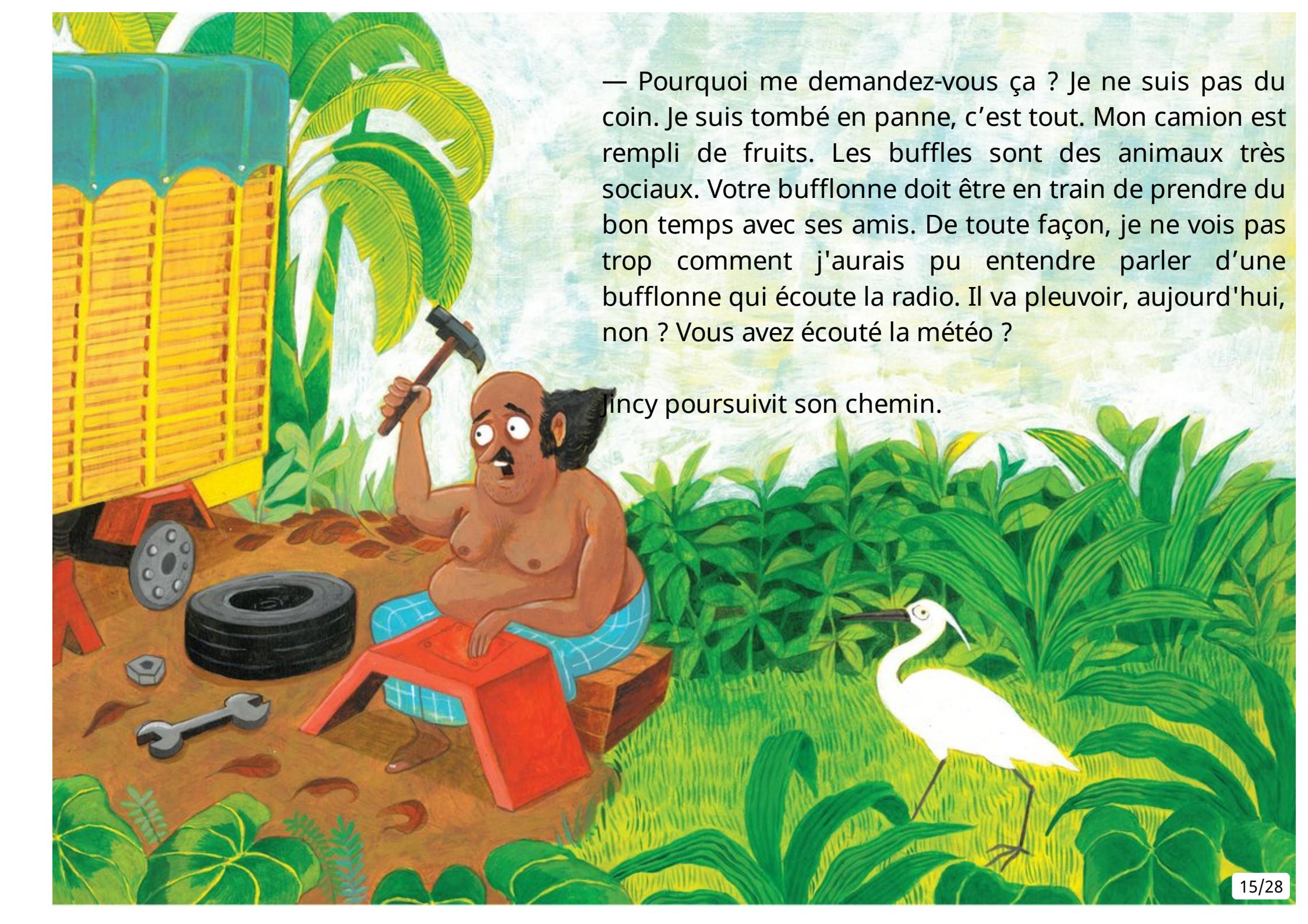
— J'ai dit des centaines de fois à Tessamma de ne pas laisser Belle se promener sans licol, expliqua Remani. Quel mal y a-t-il à lui donner quelques coups de bâton ? Mais non, sa peau est trop sensible, soi-disant. Pff ! De toute façon, qui voudrait voler cette bufflonne qui ne sert à rien ?

— Hi ! Hi ! gloussa Savithri. Si c'était une jolie vache, moi je la volerais.

Un peu plus loin, Jincy croisa un homme qui semblait réparer son camion et faisait beaucoup de bruit. De la musique forte provenait du camion.

— Excusez-moi, vous n'auriez pas vu une très belle bufflonne noire dans les parages, par hasard ? lui cria Jincy.

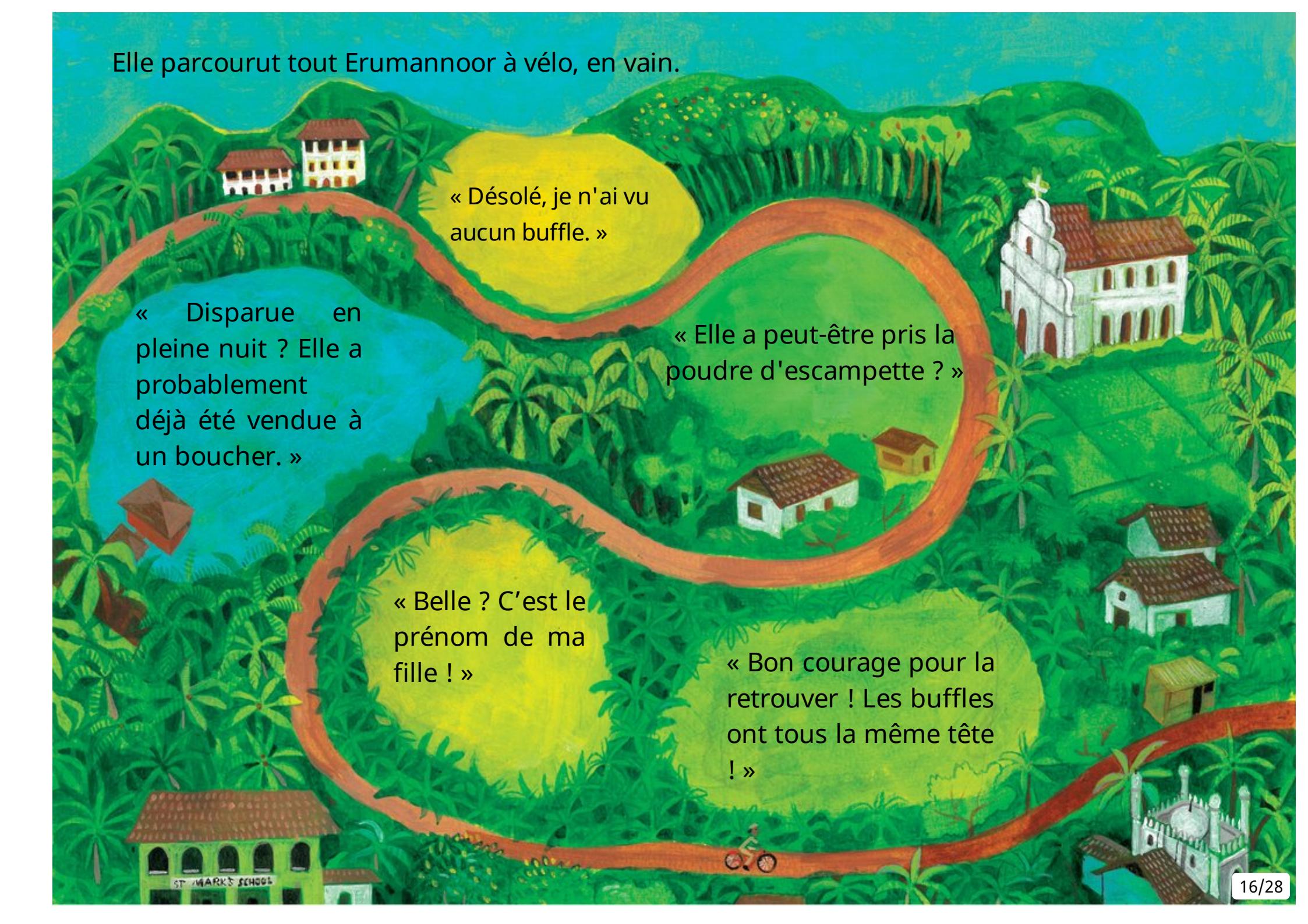


A colorful illustration of a man with a mustache and dark hair, shirtless and wearing blue checkered shorts, sitting on a red stool in a lush green jungle. He is holding a hammer and appears to be working on a yellow and brown truck trailer. A black tire lies on the ground next to him, along with a wrench and a small metal object. In the foreground, a white bird with a long beak stands in the grass. The background shows dense tropical foliage and trees.

— Pourquoi me demandez-vous ça ? Je ne suis pas du coin. Je suis tombé en panne, c'est tout. Mon camion est rempli de fruits. Les buffles sont des animaux très sociaux. Votre bufflonne doit être en train de prendre du bon temps avec ses amis. De toute façon, je ne vois pas trop comment j'aurais pu entendre parler d'une bufflonne qui écoute la radio. Il va pleuvoir, aujourd'hui, non ? Vous avez écouté la météo ?

Jincy poursuivit son chemin.

Elle parcourut tout Erumannoor à vélo, en vain.



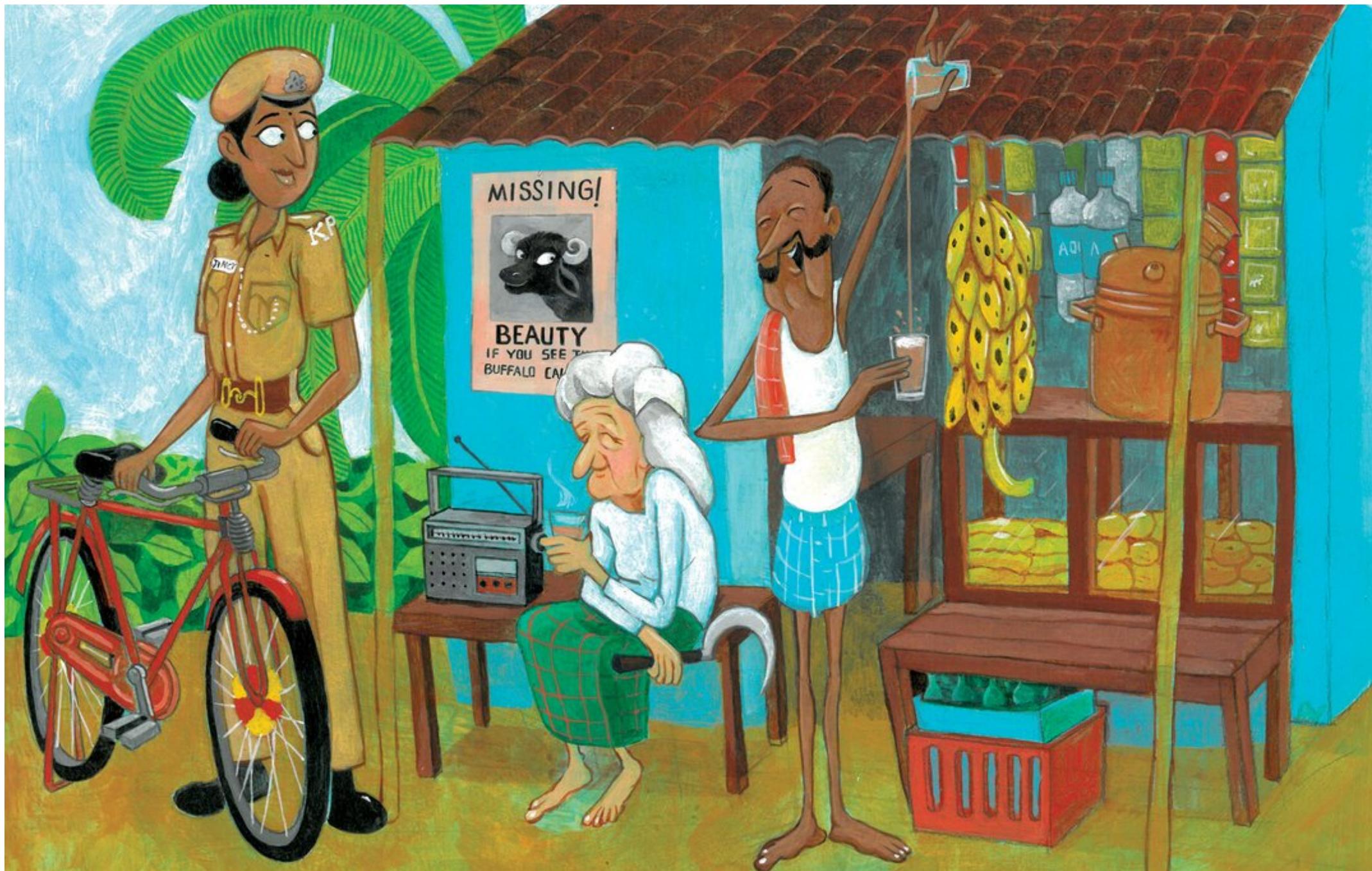
« Disparue en pleine nuit ? Elle a probablement déjà été vendue à un boucher. »

« Désolé, je n'ai vu aucun buffle. »

« Elle a peut-être pris la poudre d'escampette ? »

« Belle ? C'est le prénom de ma fille ! »

« Bon courage pour la retrouver ! Les buffles ont tous la même tête ! »



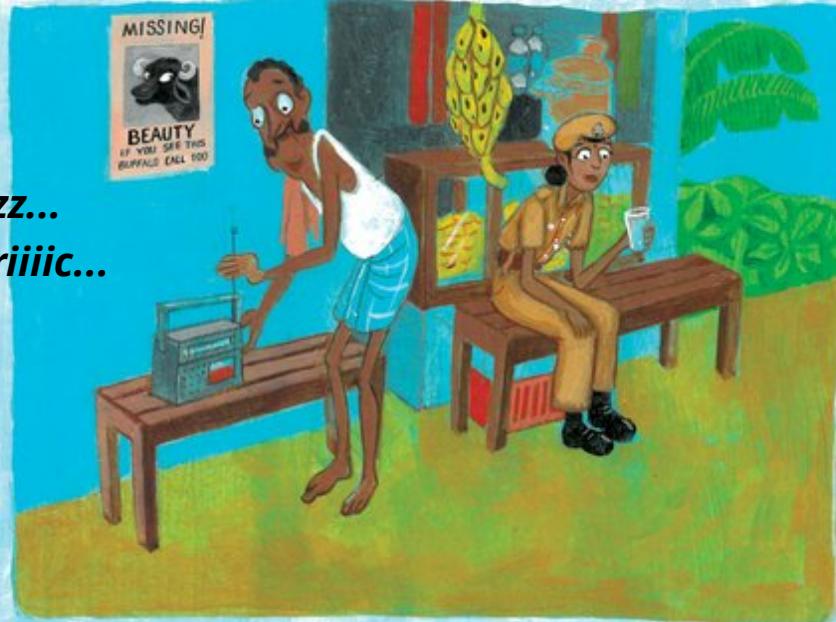
Dulquar Ikka n'avait pas vu Belle non plus, mais il autorisa Jincy à placarder un avis de recherche sur la devanture de son échoppe.

Jincy était fatiguée.

Bzz... Bzz...

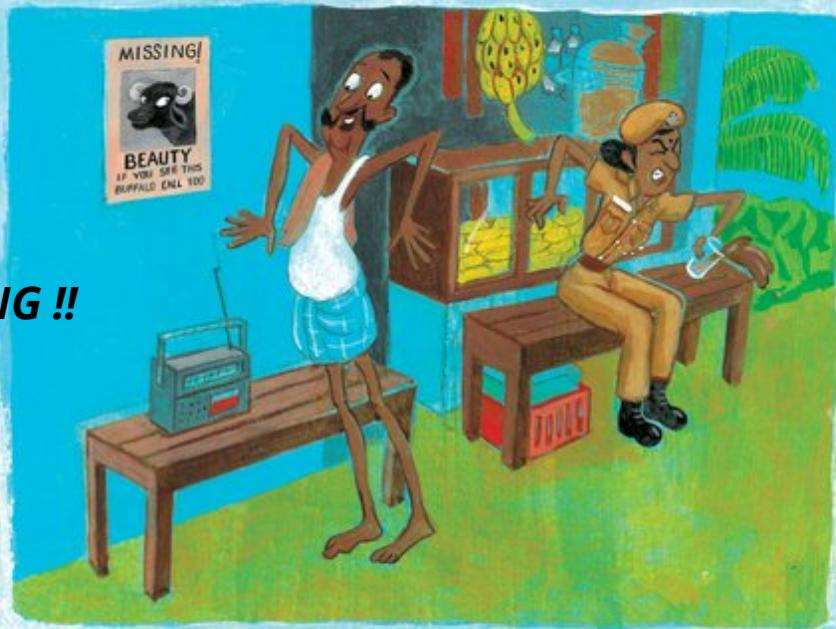
Bzz... Criiiic...

Pfiout !



Quand soudain...

PIIIING !!



Elle eut un éclair
de génie !



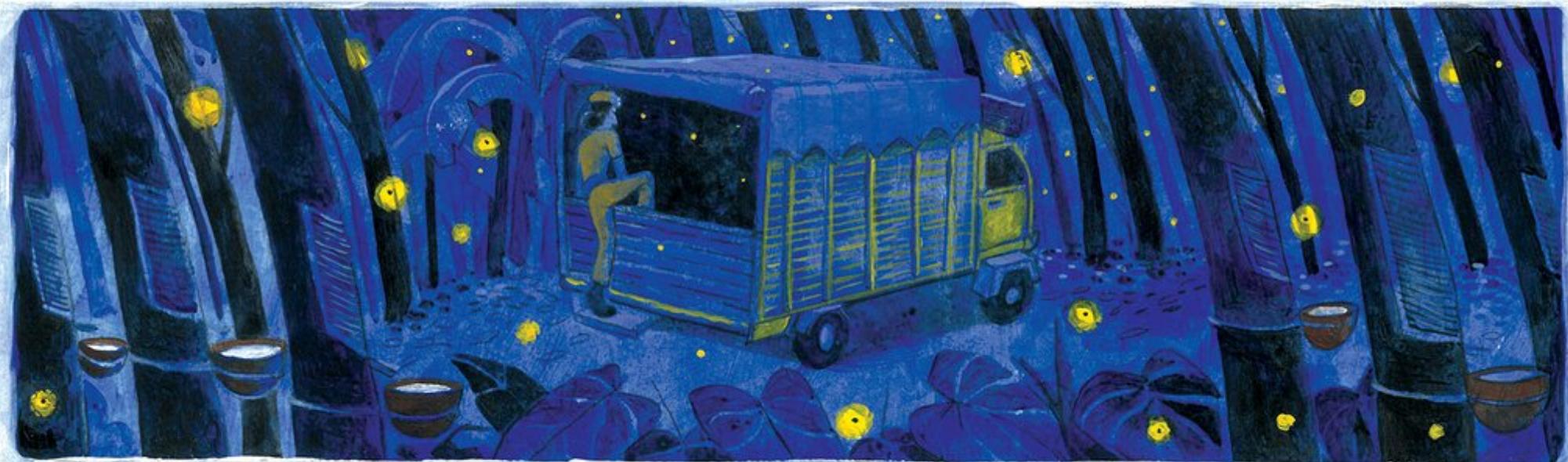
Elle prit ses jambes à son cou et retourna à l'étable de Belle.



Belle n'était pas la seule à avoir disparu...



Le soir venu, Jincy se faufila jusqu'au camion pour en avoir le cœur net.
Il n'y avait pas que les lucioles qui brillaient dans l'obscurité.







OUUUUUUUUUF !!!



Jincy avait enfin retrouvé Belle !



Shaji Kuttappan, le kidnappeur de Belle, fut conduit au poste de police.

— Comment avez-vous deviné que c''était lui, Jincy ? demanda Tessamma.

— C'est facile, il a dit qu'il n'avait jamais vu de bufflonne qui écoutait la radio. Or, je ne lui ai jamais dit que Belle écoutait la radio. Il l'a volée pour pouvoir la revendre à un boucher du village voisin. Mais heureusement les choses ne se sont pas passées selon ses plans.

Shaji avait essayé de faire sortir Belle de son étable, mais celle-ci avait refusé de bouger.

Shaji avait alors décidé de voler la radio aussi.



Belle ne pouvait pas se passer de sa radio.

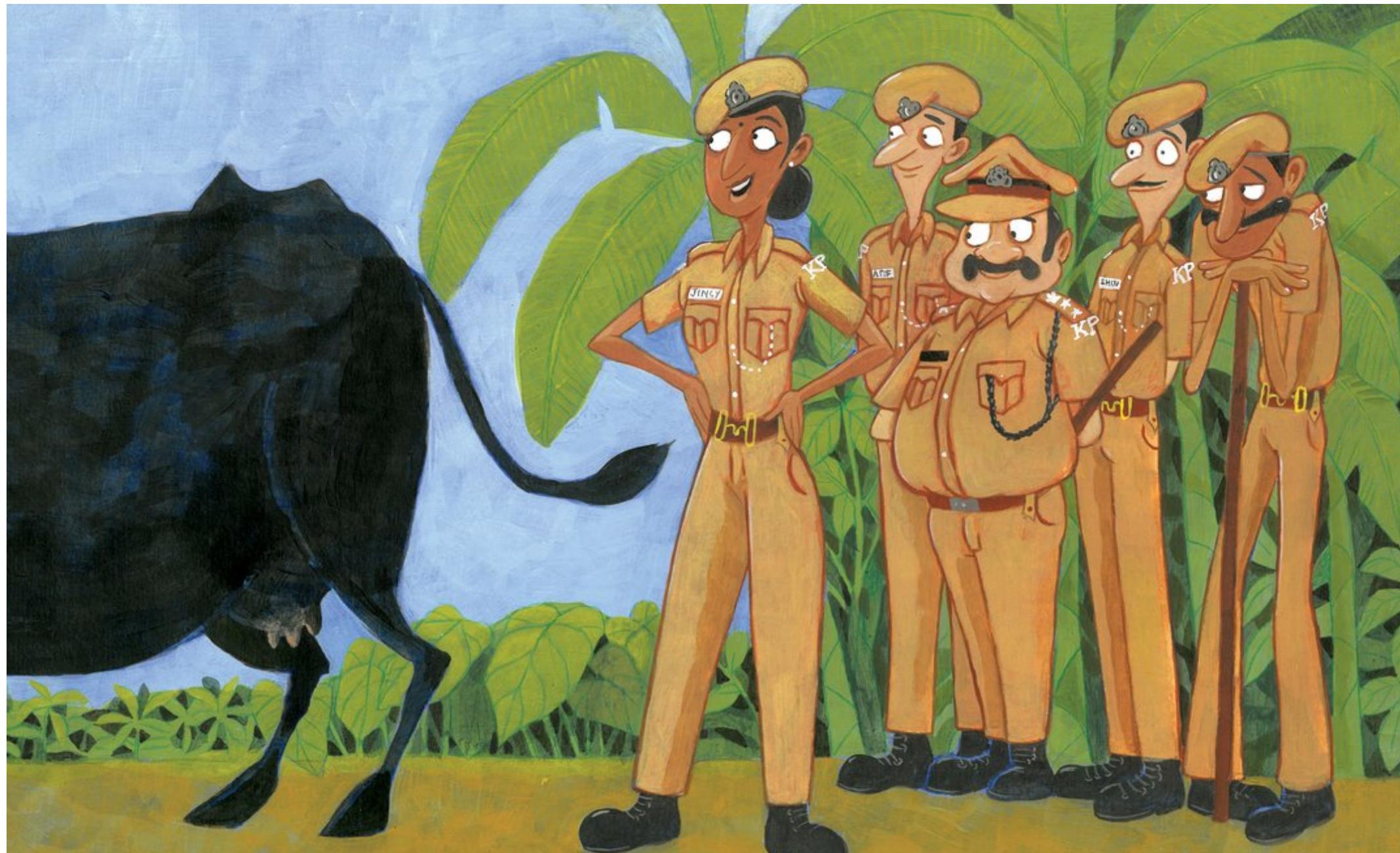


Elle l'avait donc suivi jusque dans son camion, là où il avait prévu de la cacher.

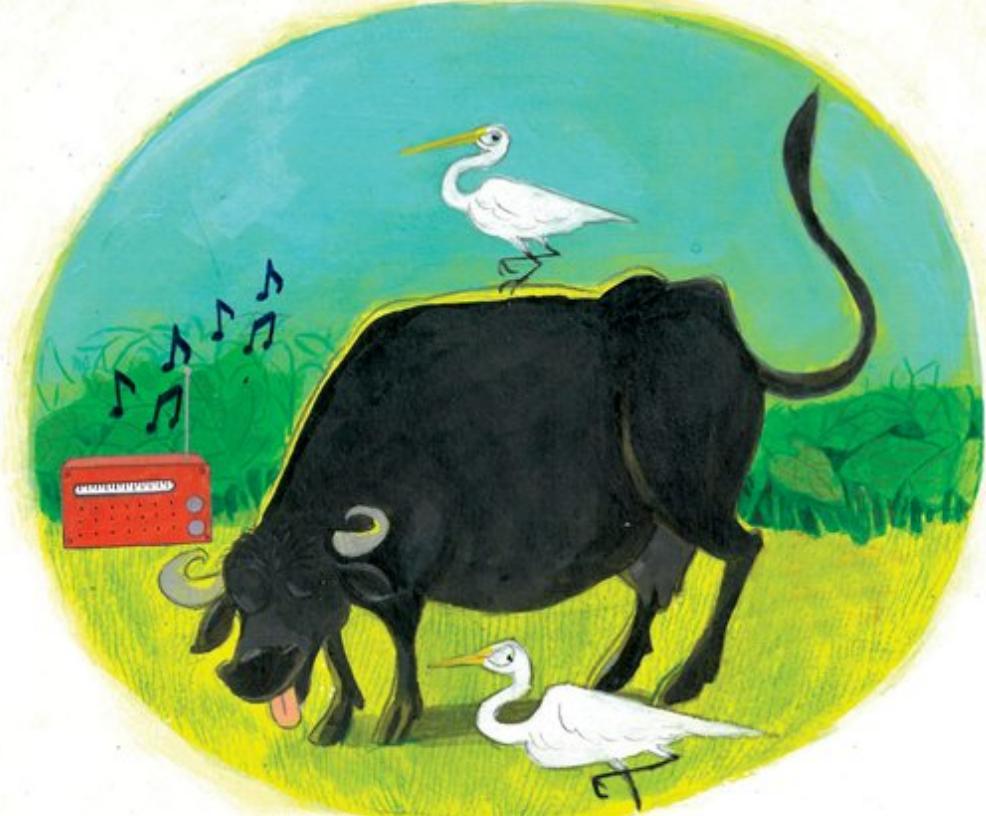


Tessamma était très contente de retrouver Belle, sa bufflonne adorée.





« C'est vrai que Belle porte très bien son nom ! » dit l'inspecteur Gopi.



Belle et les buffles

Les buffles sont des mammifères très intelligents qui aiment fréquenter leurs semblables. Ils adorent se prélasser dans la boue ou prendre des bains de poussière afin de protéger leur peau sensible des coups de soleil et des piqûres d'insectes. Ils aiment brouter dans les champs et vivre au grand air. Des recherches montrent qu'ils aiment aussi écouter de la musique douce. Cela contribue à diminuer leur stress et à les détendre.

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Belle a disparu !

(French)

Belle, la bufflonne adorée de Tessamma a disparu ! Personne ne sait ce qui lui est arrivé. L'agent de police Jincy se lance à sa recherche. Parviendra-t-elle à la retrouver ? Découvre-le dans cette petite histoire de bufflonne passionnée de musique.

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



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