

A Bundelkhandi Folktale

# The Jackal Who Lied



eKlavya



Manoj Sahu 'Nidar' Illustrations Karen Haydock

एक लड़ैया थो। बो दिन भर  
इतै-उतै घूमत-फिरत थो।





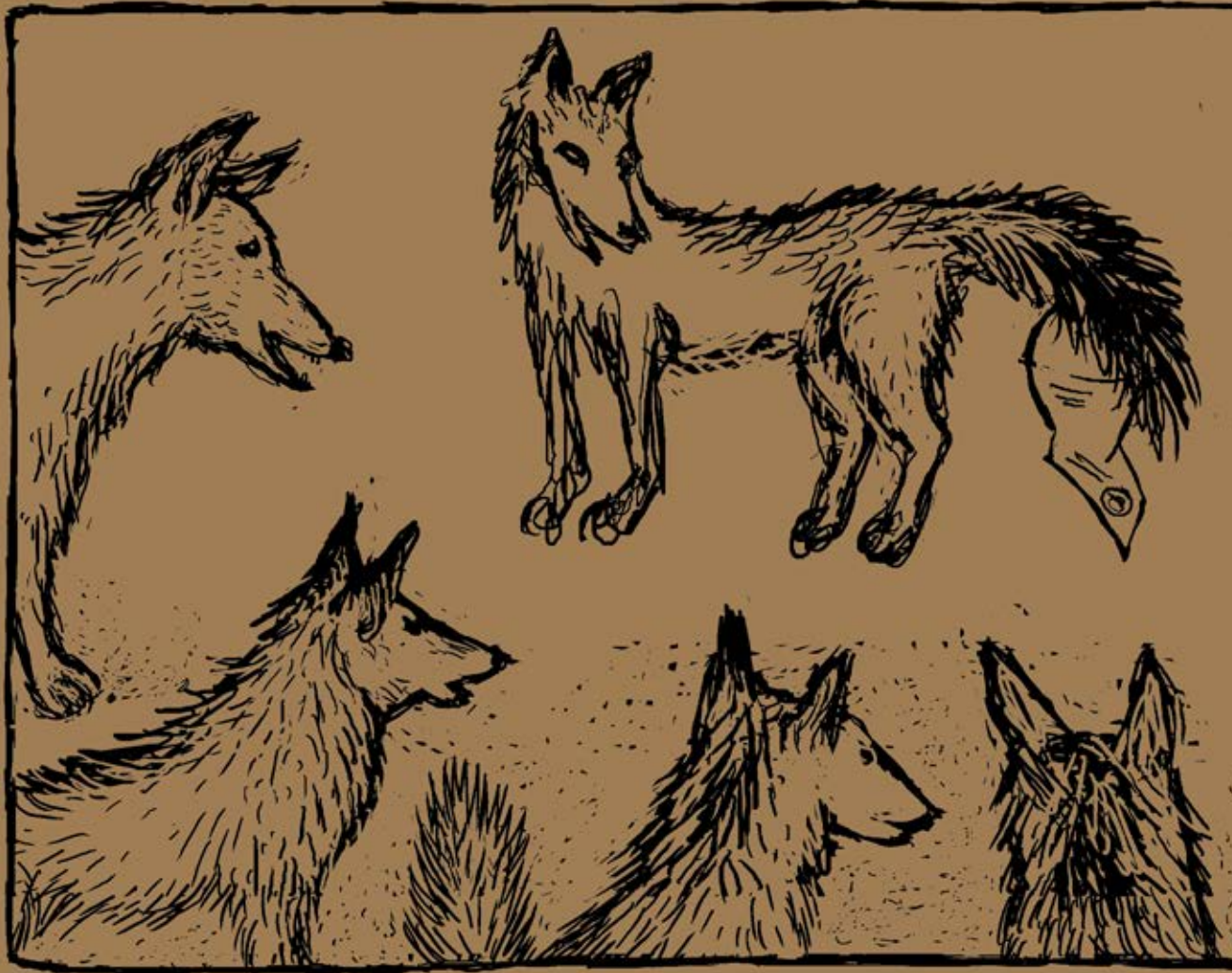
One day, he wandered  
into the village. It was  
hot, he sat down on  
a heap of garbage to rest.

A few pages  
were stuck to  
some cow dung.



A page got stuck  
to his tail with  
cow dung.







Startled, the jackal fled, running till he reached his mates.

One of them asked, “Bhaiya, what is that stuck to your tail?!”

The jackal replied loftily, “Arre! That’s my Sarpanch Certificate. Today onwards I am your Sarpanch! We can now go anywhere we want, and no one can say anything to us.”

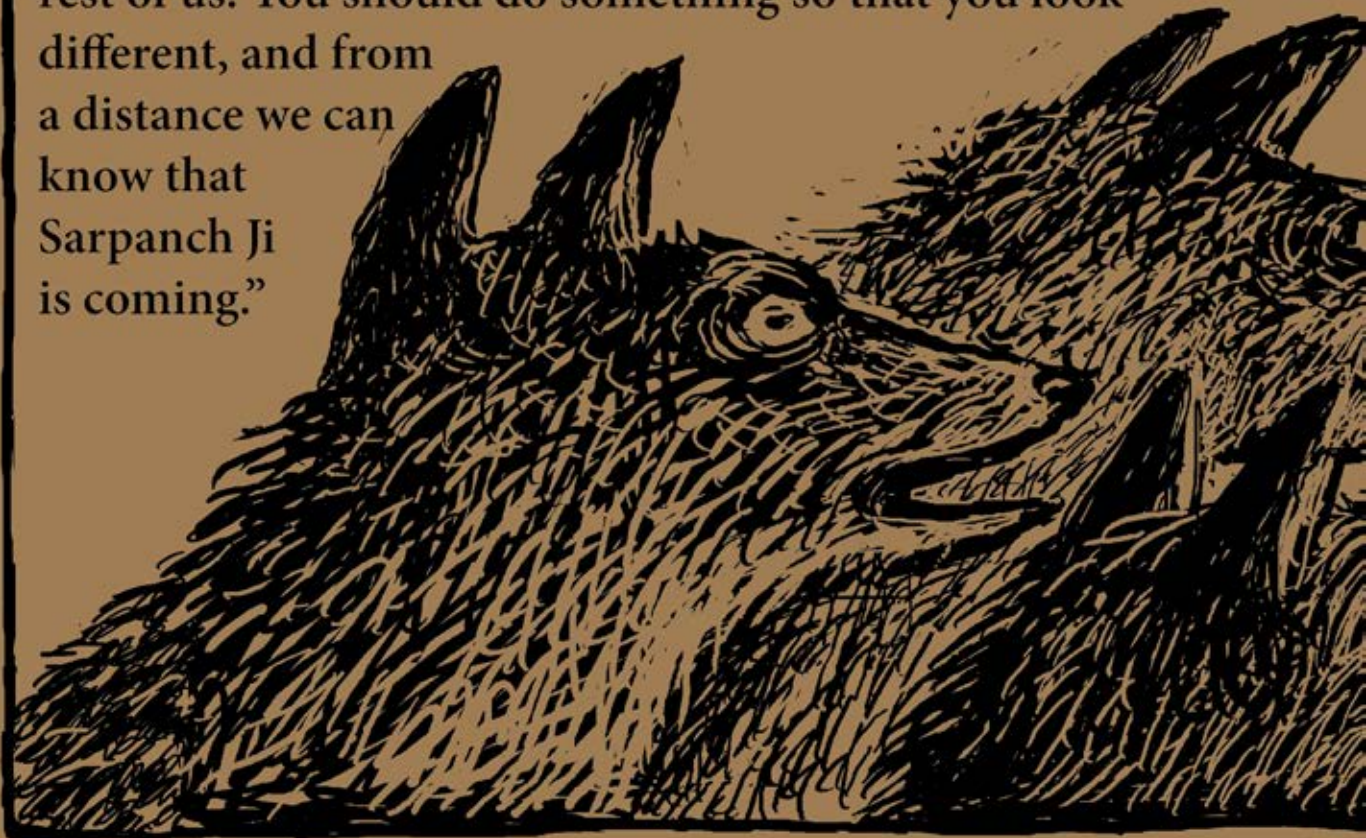
Hearing this news, all the jackals were very happy. They distributed prasad in honour of Sarpanch Ji.





Now, wherever the new Sarpanch would go, everyone would stand up to greet him with a Ram-Ram. Seeing this made the jackal swell up with importance.

However, one jackal said, “Sarpanch Ji, looking at you, there is not much of a difference between you and the rest of us. You should do something so that you look different, and from a distance we can know that Sarpanch Ji is coming.”



Sarpanch Ji readily agreed with this suggestion.





They all put their heads together and got a stick that was 3-4 feet long. They tied this stick to their Sarpanch Ji's tail.

जा देख के लड़ैया भैया फूल के कुप्पा हो गए। अब तो बे जितै से भी निकरें  
खड़-खड़ की आबाज आन लगे।

आबाज सुनके सब लड़ैया खड़े होके राम-राम करन लगे। ऐसई दिन बीतत रये।



One day, a few jackals got together and asked their Sarpanch Ji, “Dadda, we feel like going to the village today. Please take us around the village.”

Sarpanch Ji felt uneasy on hearing this.

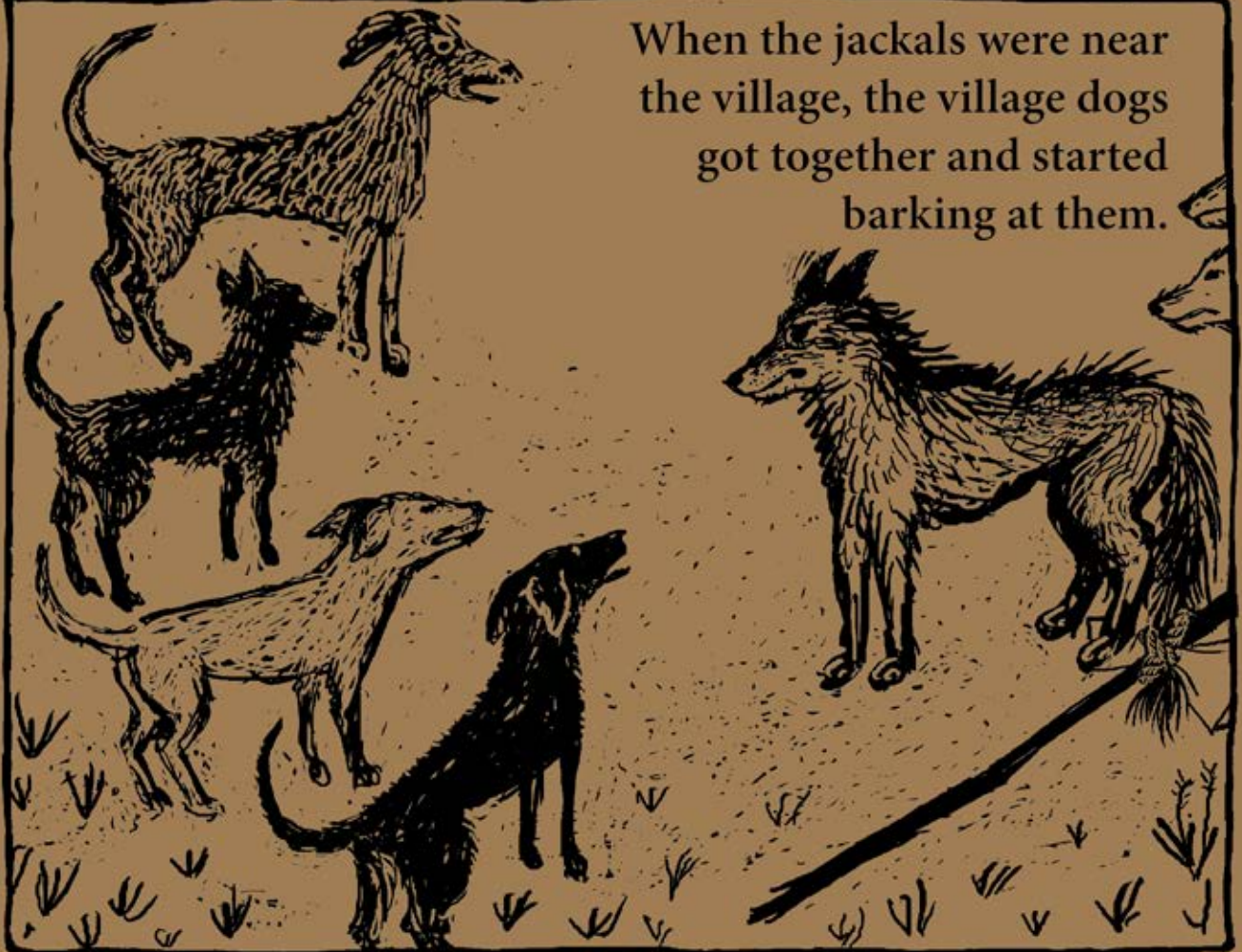
Seeing this, one of the jackals said, “Why are you worried now? We now have a certificate in writing with us.”

Sarpanch Ji didn't say anything, and reluctantly went with them.





When the jackals were near  
the village, the village dogs  
got together and started  
barking at them.

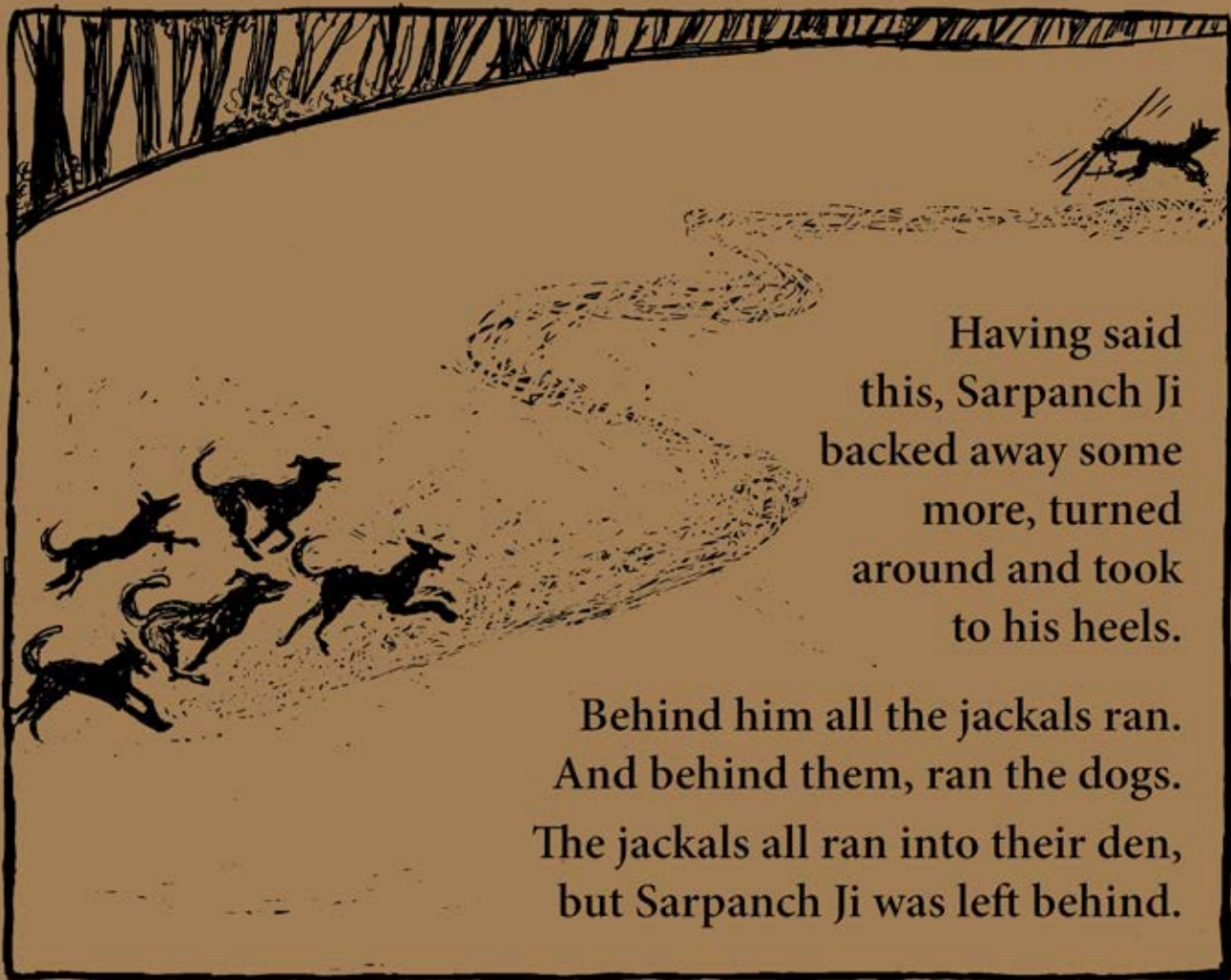


Faced with the barking dogs,  
Sarpanch Ji started backing  
away slowly.

Seeing him do this,  
all the jackals shouted,  
“Dadda, there’s no  
need to be scared,  
show them your  
certificate!”

Sarpanch Ji was nearly in tears,  
“What’s the use of showing these  
villagers the certificate? Do they  
know how to read and write?  
There’s no point in getting into an  
argument with them.”



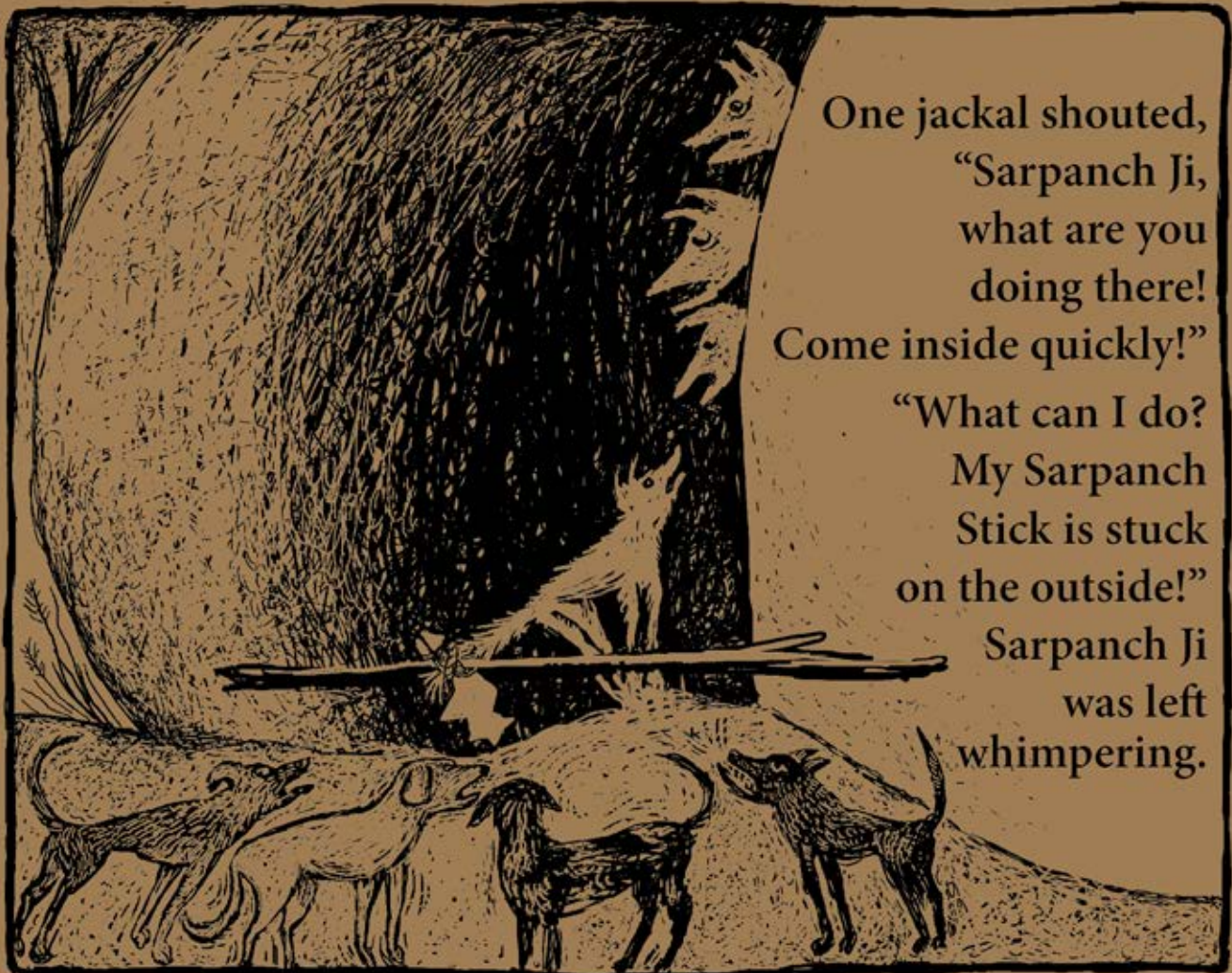


Having said  
this, Sarpanch Ji  
backed away some  
more, turned  
around and took  
to his heels.

Behind him all the jackals ran.  
And behind them, ran the dogs.  
The jackals all ran into their den,  
but Sarpanch Ji was left behind.

The stick tied to his tail  
was getting stuck at the  
entrance of the den.  
Try as he did, he could  
not go into the den.

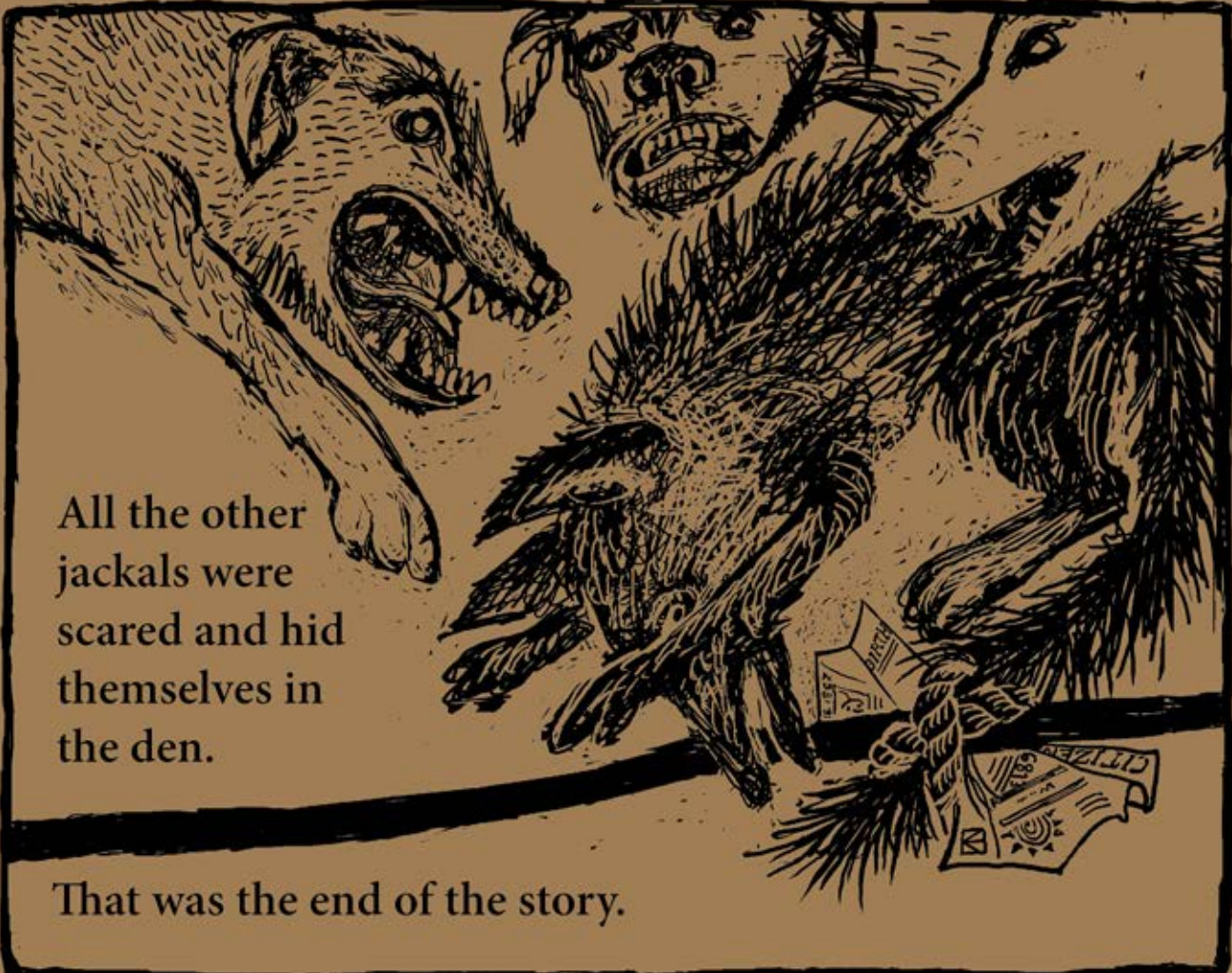




One jackal shouted,  
“Sarpanch Ji,  
what are you  
doing there!  
Come inside quickly!”

“What can I do?  
My Sarpanch  
Stick is stuck  
on the outside!”

Sarpanch Ji  
was left  
whimpering.



All the other  
jackals were  
scared and hid  
themselves in  
the den.

That was the end of the story.

# The Jackal Who Lied

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## **Karen Haydock**

Karen Haydock has been working in India since 1985 in art, science, and education, after completing her PhD in biophysics in the USA. She has illustrated and written numerous storybooks and textbooks for children. See her website: [www.khaydock.com](http://www.khaydock.com)



“What is that stuck to your tail, Bhaiya?!”

“Arre! That is my Sarpanch Certificate.  
Today onwards I am your Sarpanch!”

Now, wherever the Sarpanch Ji went, all the  
jackals would stand up and say Ram-Ram  
to him. In this way, many days went by.

But one day...



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