

A Bundelkhandi Folktale

The Jackal Who Lied



eklavya



Manoj Sahu 'Nidar' Illustrations Karen Haydock

Once upon a time, there was a jackal.
He would roam all day long.





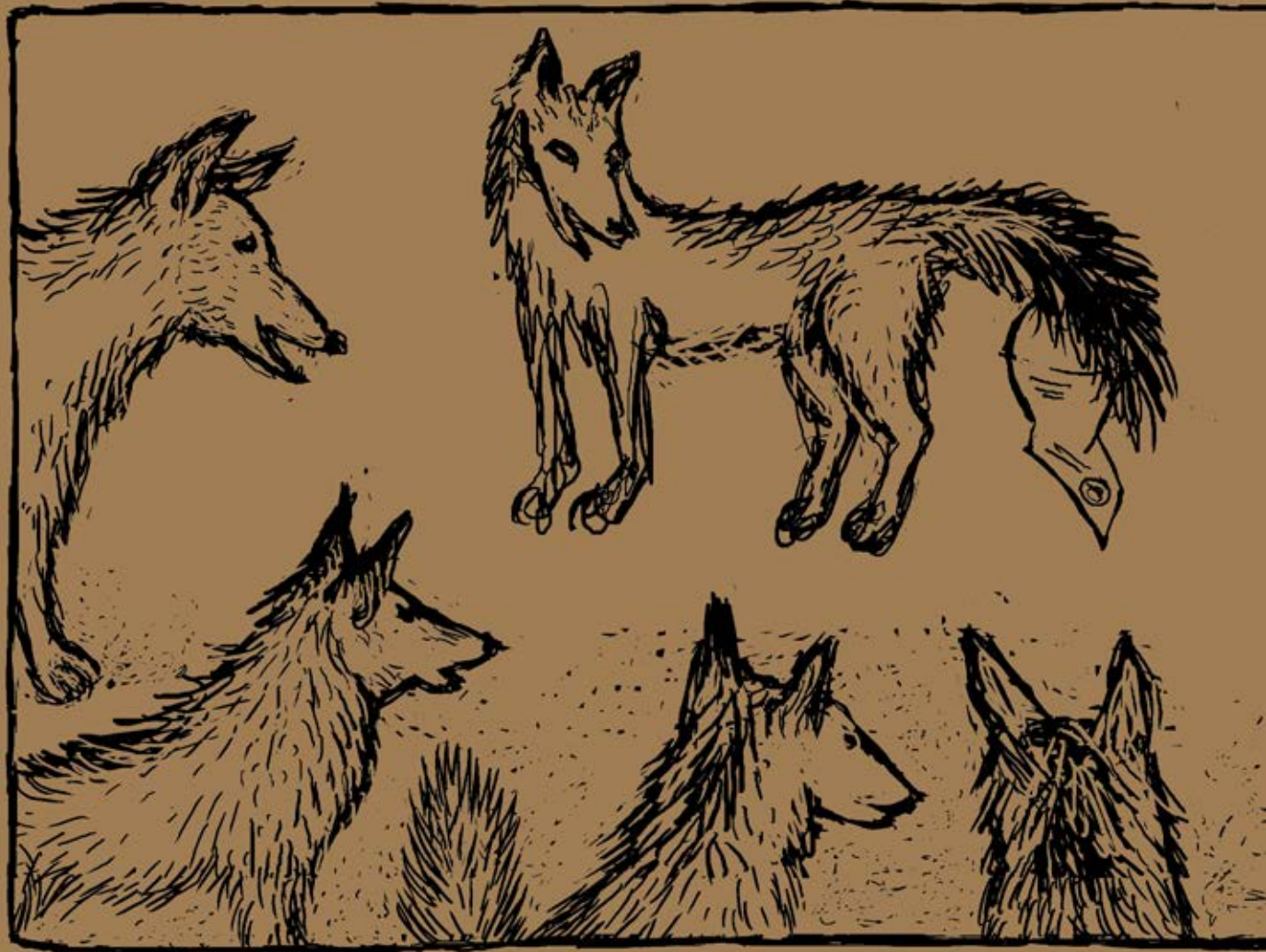
One day, he wandered
into the village. It was
hot, he sat down on
a heap of garbage to rest.

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.”

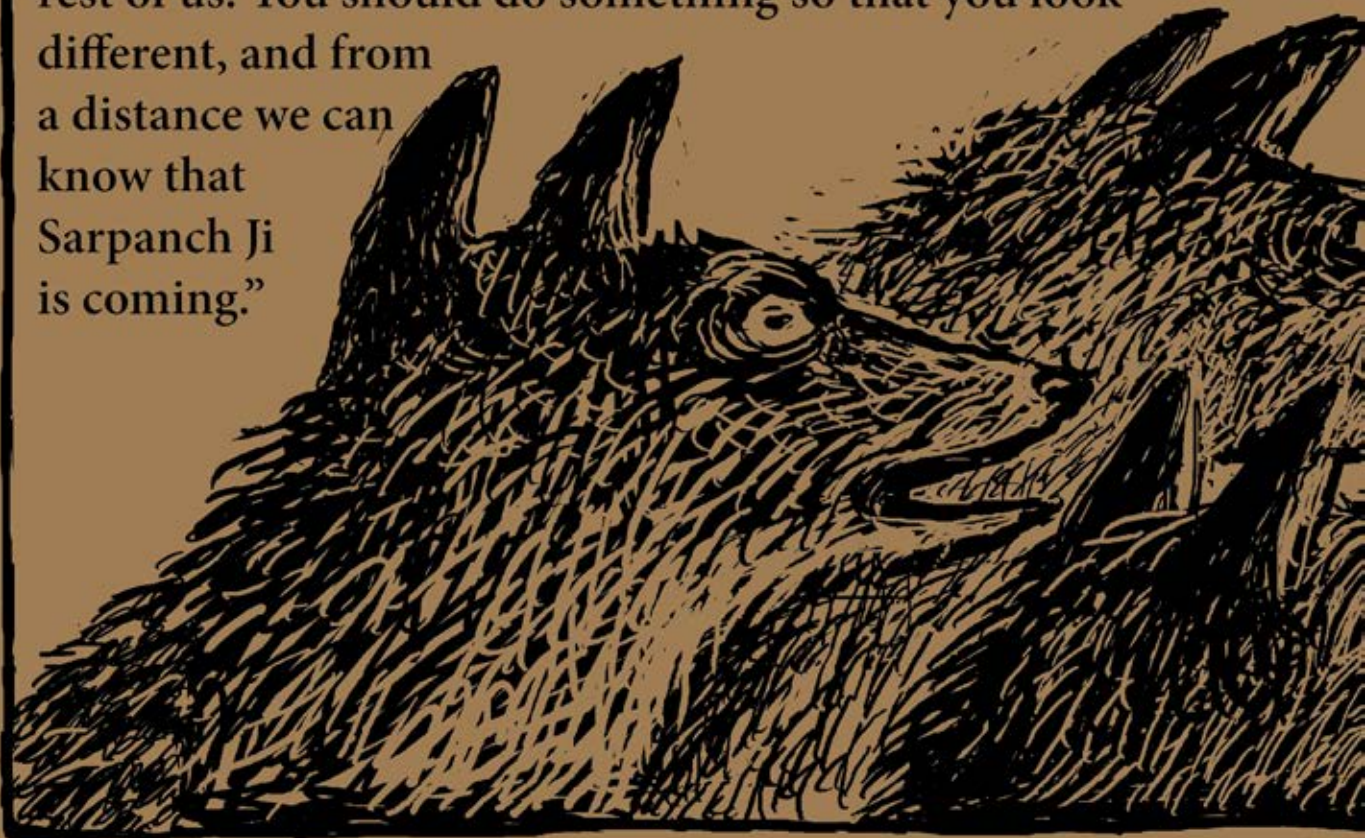
Hearing this news, all the jackals were very happy. They distributed prasad in honour of Sarpanch Ji.





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.

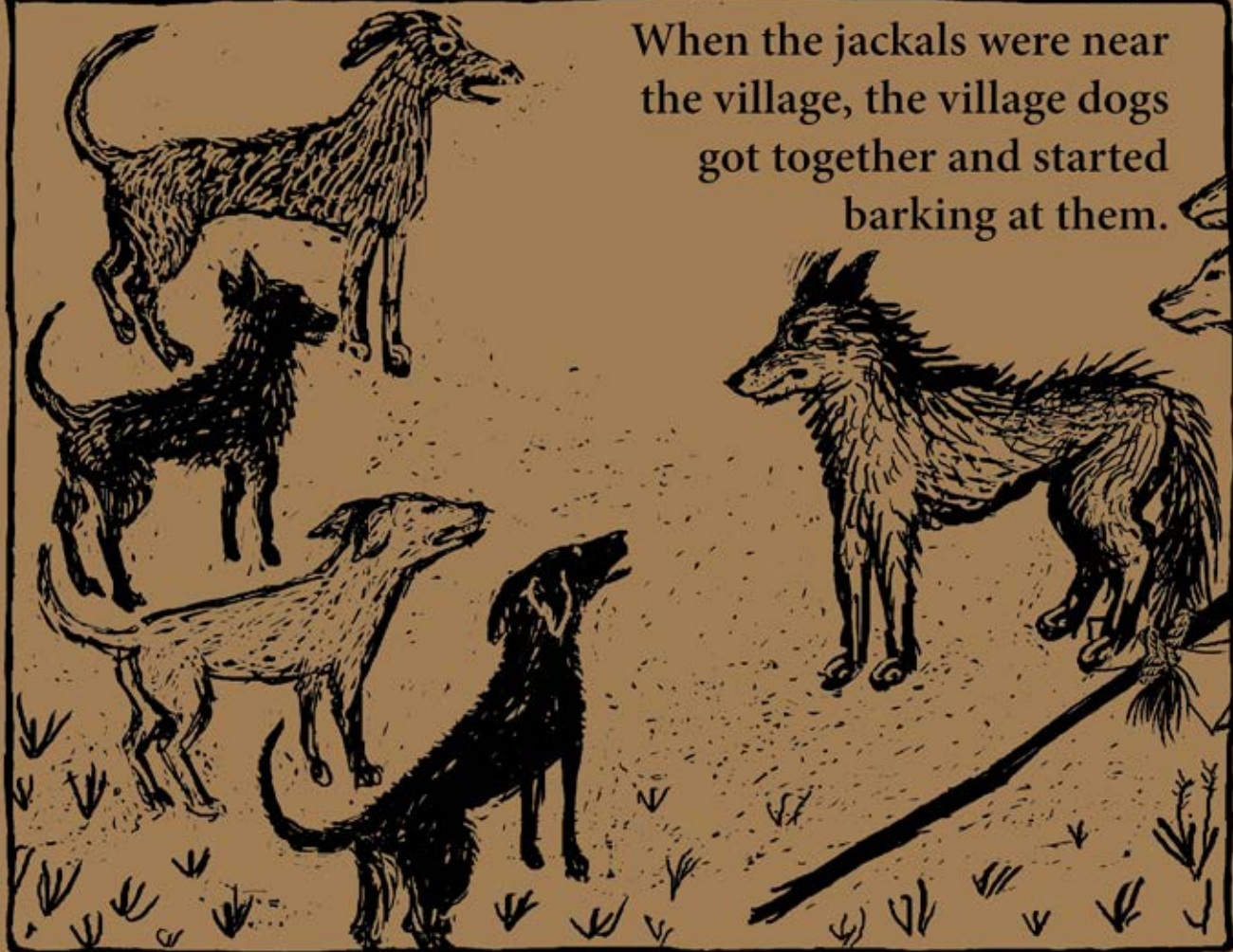
Seeing this, one of the jackals said, “Why are you worried now? We now have a certificate in writing with us.”

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.

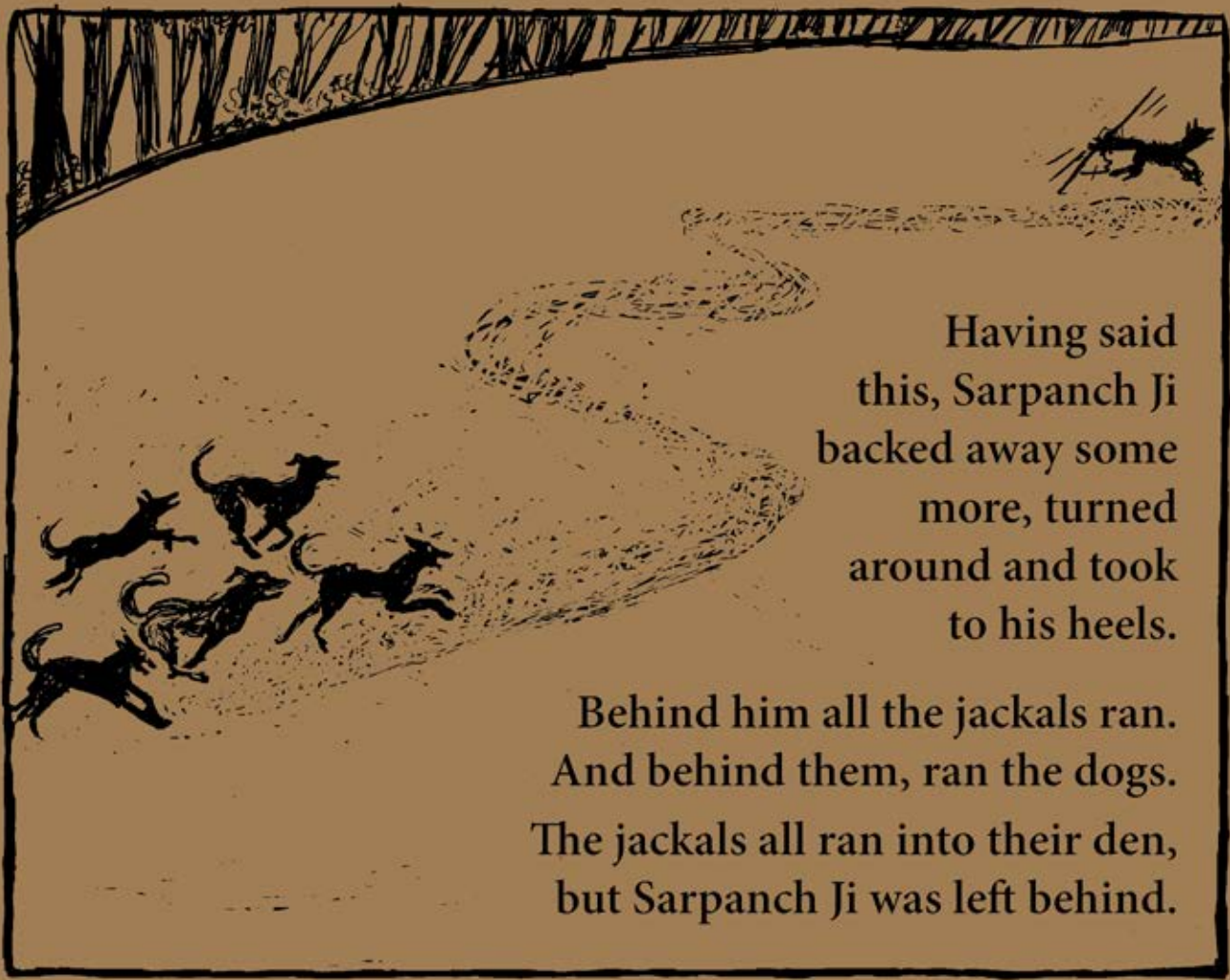


Faced with the barking dogs,
Sarpanch Ji started backing
away slowly.

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.”



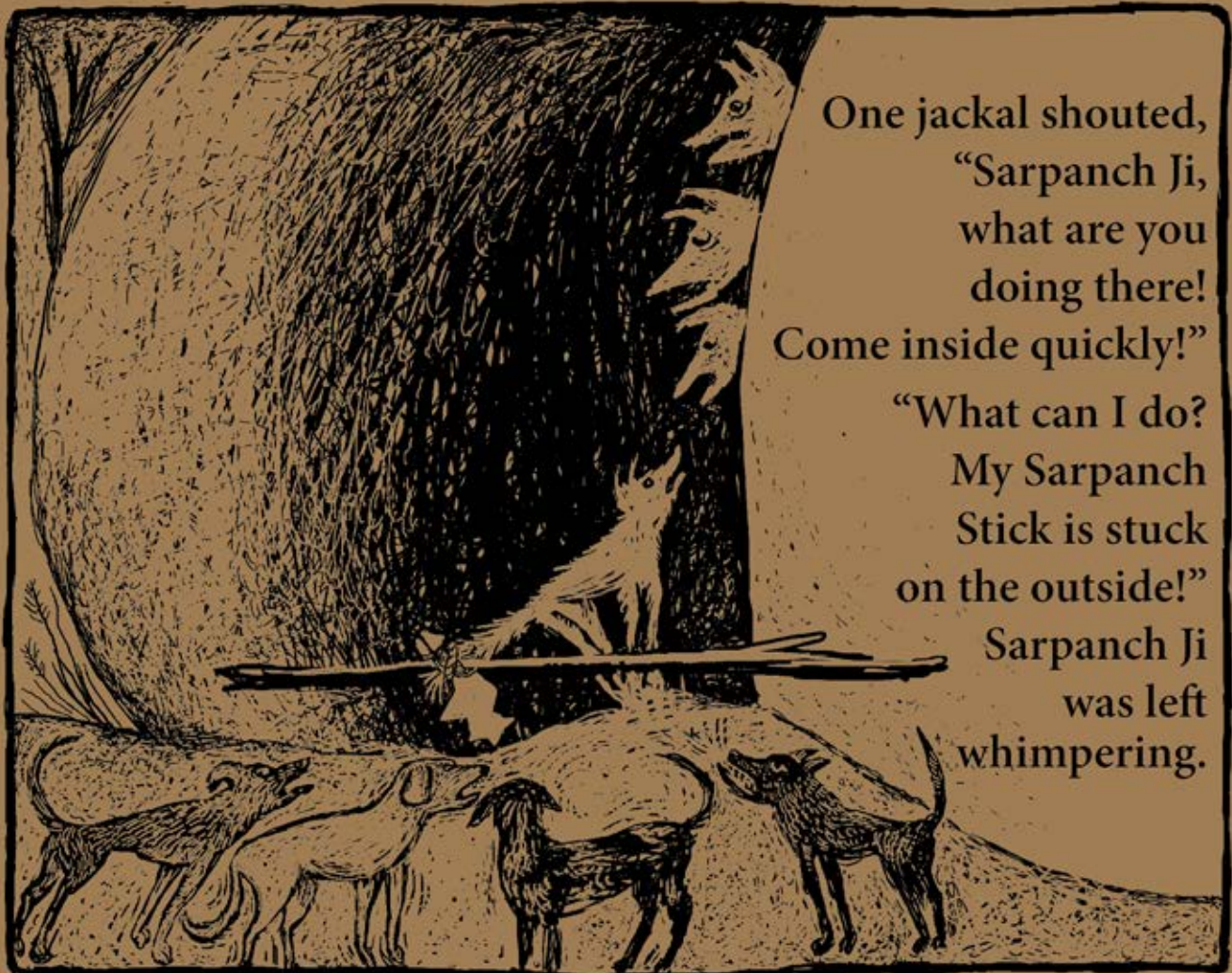


Having said
this, Sarpanch Ji
backed away some
more, turned
around and took
to his heels.

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.

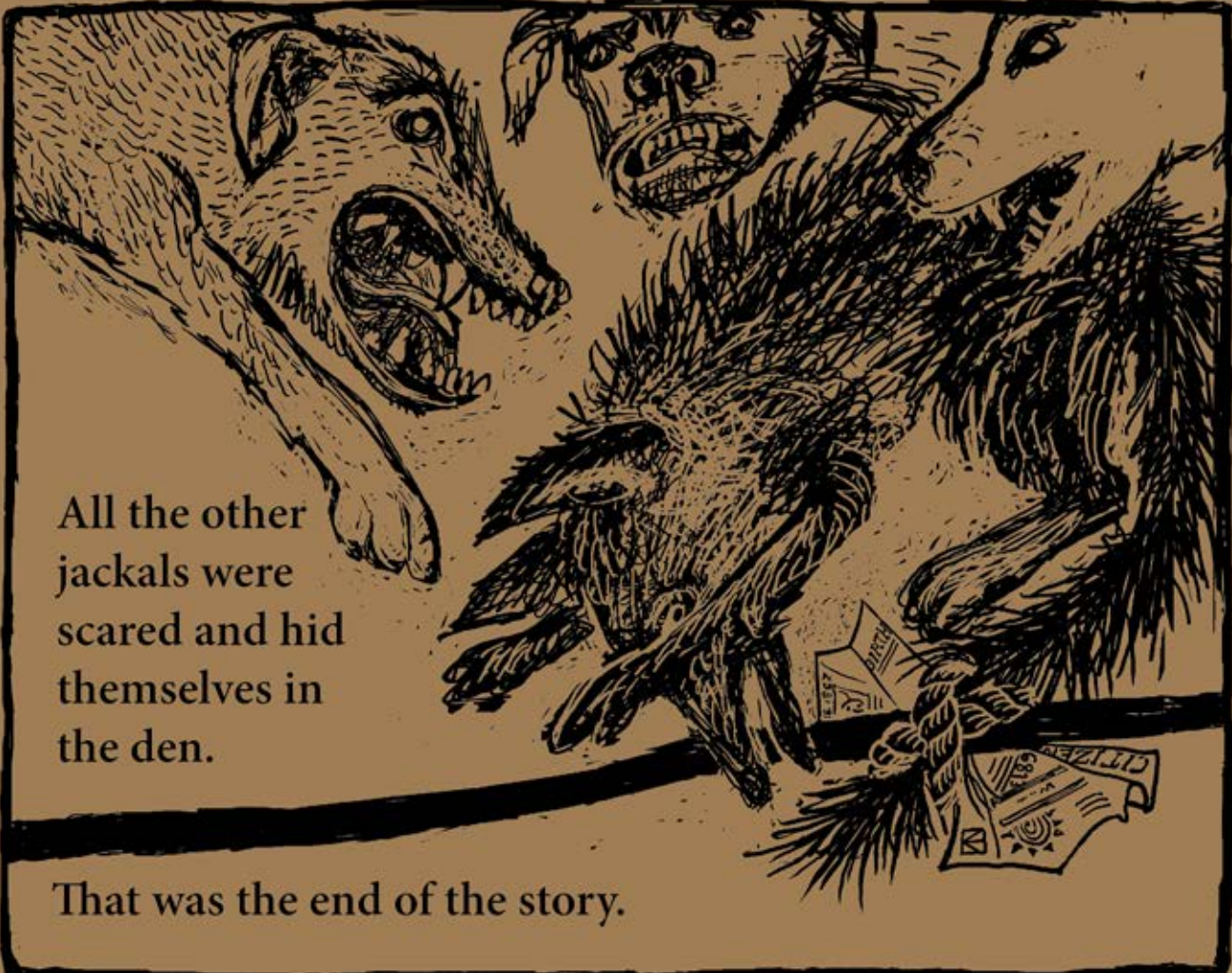




One jackal shouted,
“Sarpanch Ji,
what are you
doing there!
Come inside quickly!”

“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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English text: Eklavya Foundation, August 2025

Illustrations: Karen Haydock, August 2025

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August 2025/2000 copies

Paper: 140 gsm brown craft paper

ISBN: 978-93-48176-84-4

Price: ₹ 45.00

This book is also available in Hindi – *ढोंगी लडैया*

Published by: Eklavya Foundation

Jamnalal Bajaj Parisar, Jatkhedi, Bhopal (MP) 462 026

Phone: +91 755 297 7770-71-72

Website: www.eklavya.in; Email: books@eklavya.in

Printed at: R K Secuprint Pvt Ltd, Bhopal, Phone +91 755 268 7589

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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



“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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Price: ₹ 45.00



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