

JOURNEY TO NEW KALAPA

Vol 1, Issue 3





Welcome to our third issue of
Journey to New Kalapa!

In case you missed our first two issues, you can
download your free copies at our website at

<https://www.journeytonewkalapa.in>

There are also colouring pages and you can
even read our comic book online.

We're also on Facebook. Just search for us at
"Journey To New Kapala".

We would love to hear from you and see your posts.

Come join us!

JOURNEY TO NEW KALAPA



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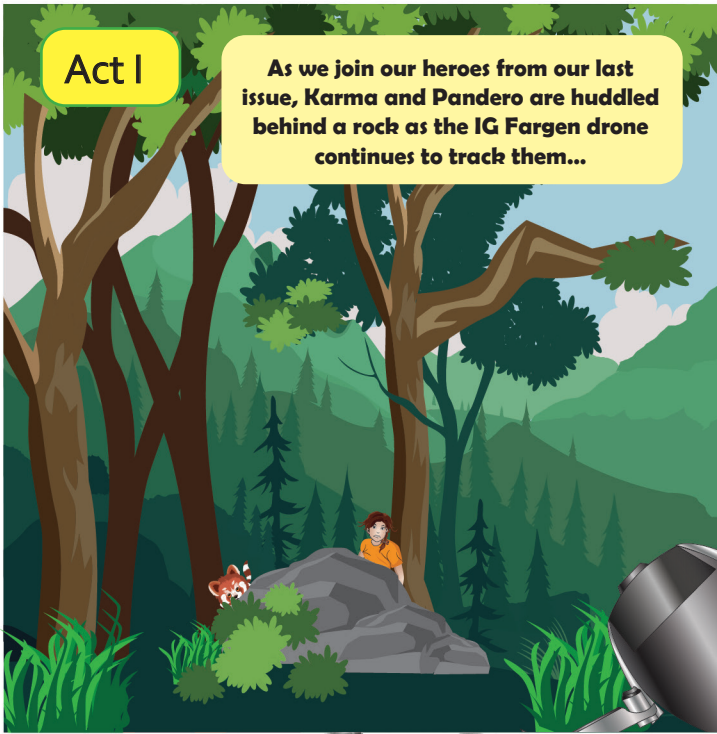
Original characters created by: Ugen Lepcha

*Special Thanks to Alessandra Nadudvari, Tim Loncarich
and the rest of the Sustainable Sikkim team*

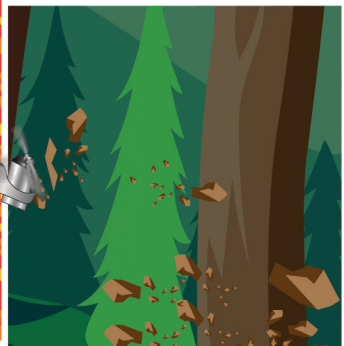
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Act I

As we join our heroes from our last issue, Karma and Pandero are huddled behind a rock as the IG Fargen drone continues to track them...



I told you not to worry. Typical humans – not very good shots.



They don't look like such bad shots to me.



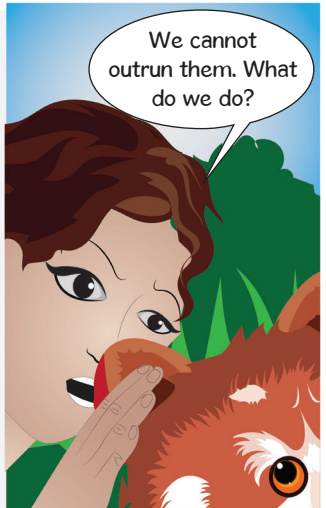
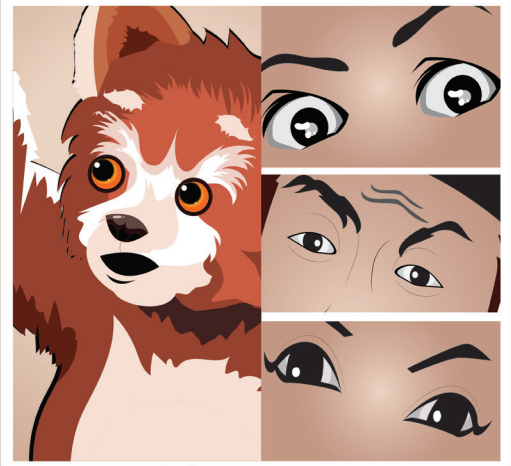


Just dumb luck on their parts. There is a saying. Even a stopped clock is right twice a day.

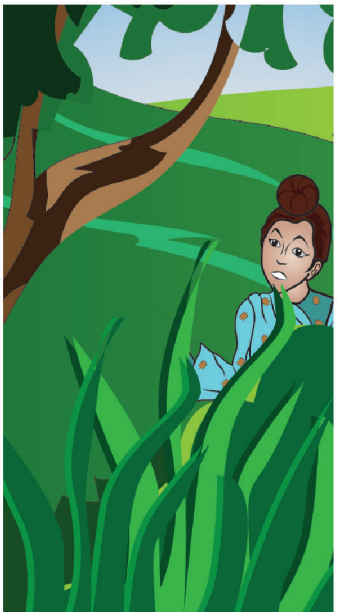
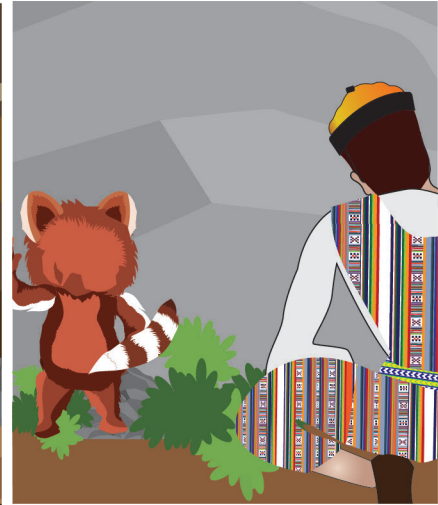
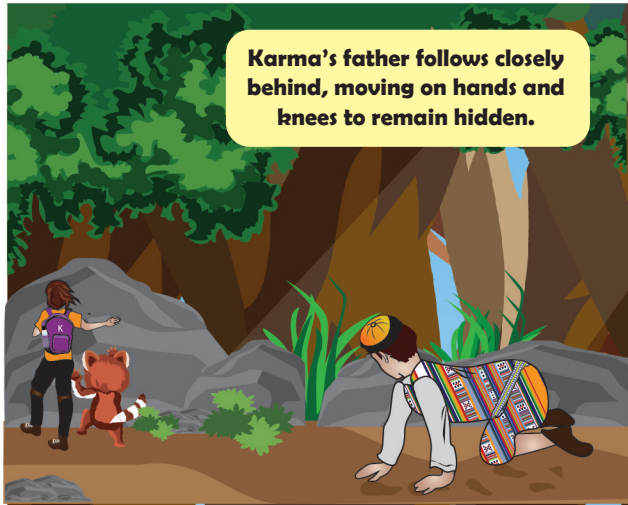
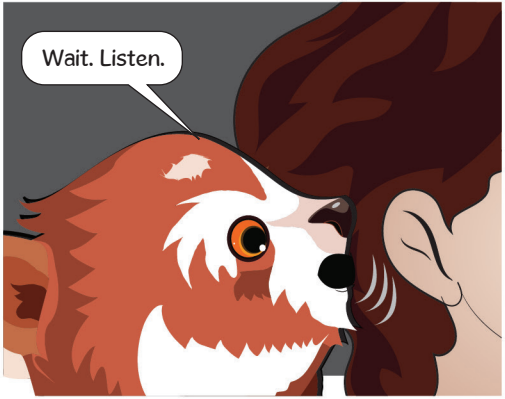


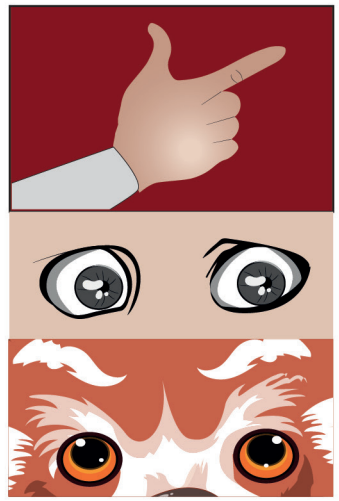
We know you are from New Kalapa. You are ordered to stop now.

That was just a warning.

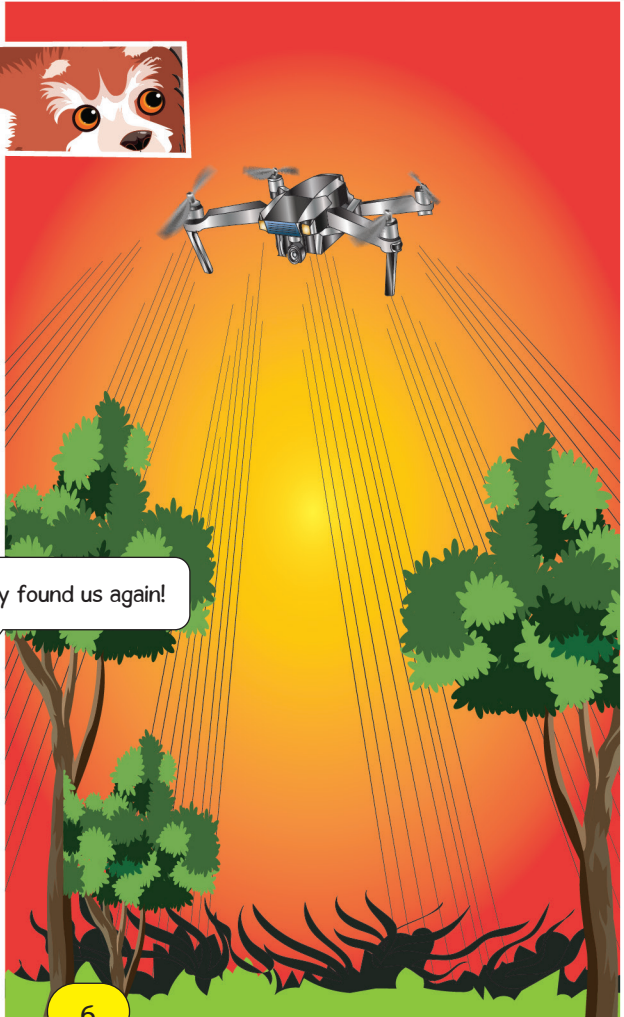
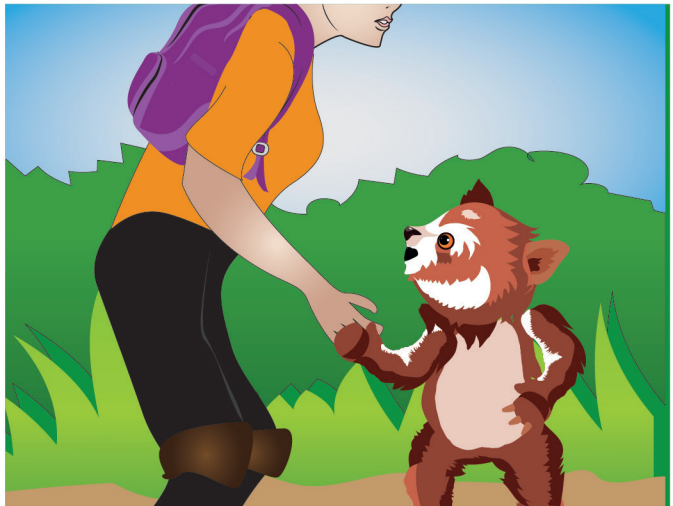


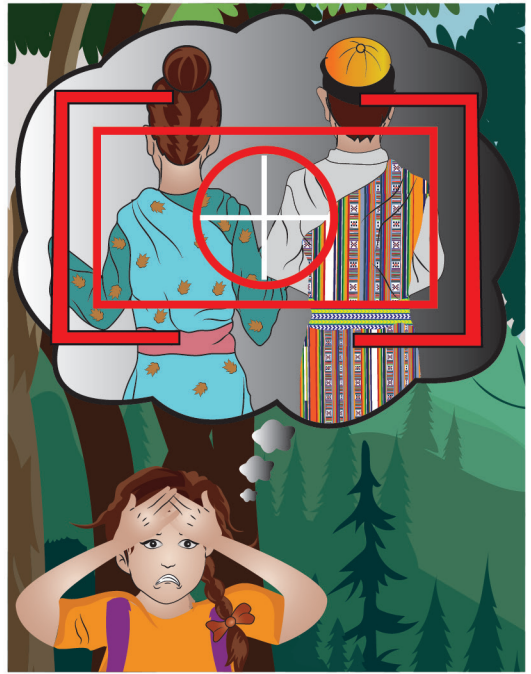
We cannot outrun them. What do we do?

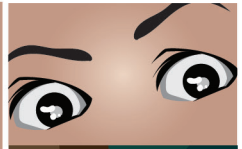




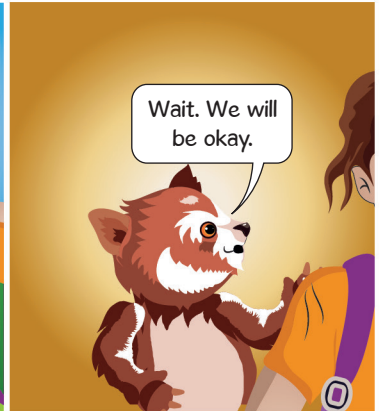
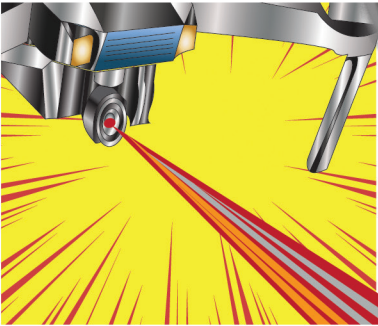
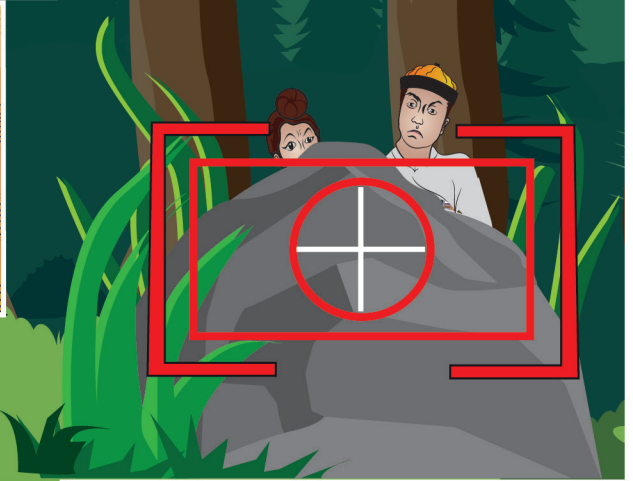
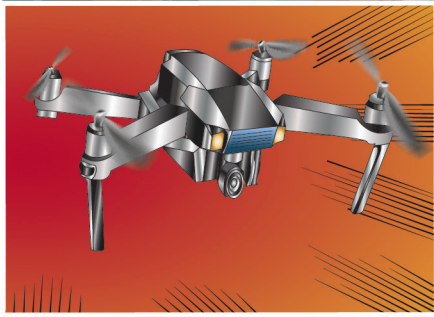


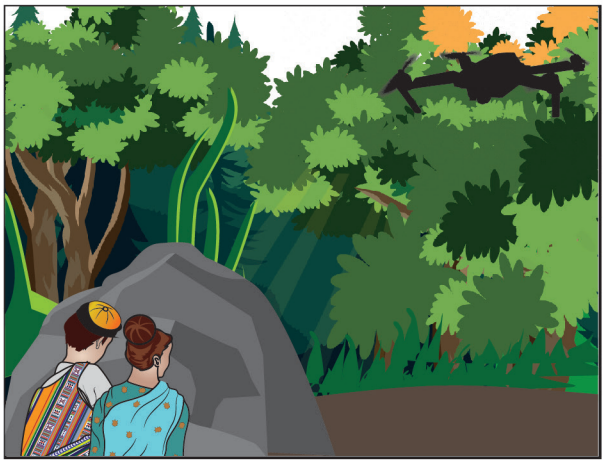




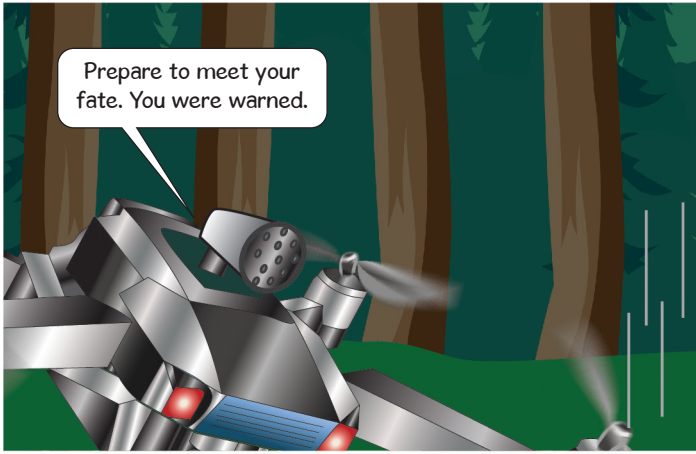


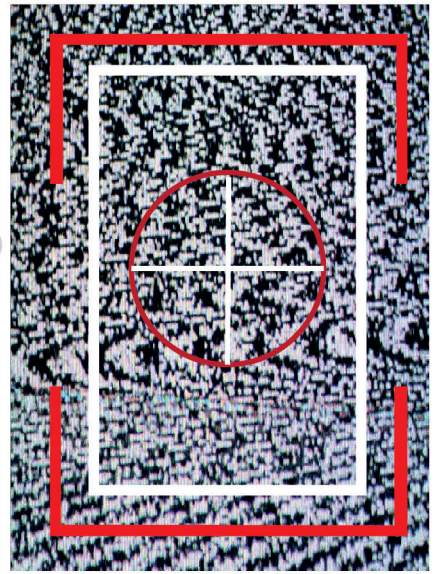
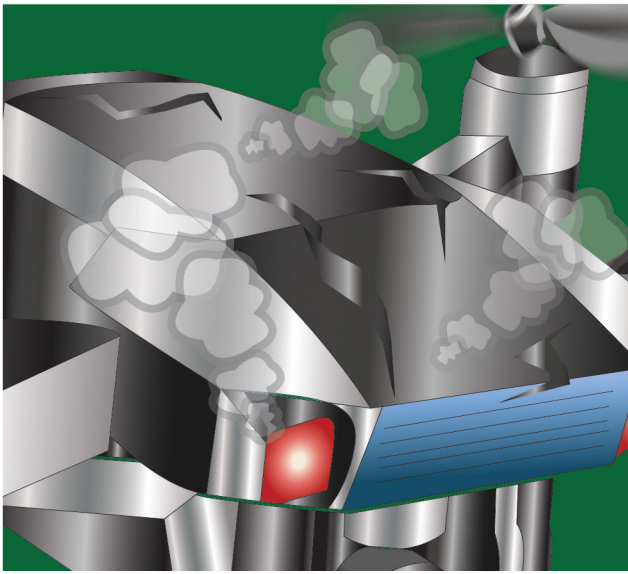
Pandero looks up into the trees above him...











We do not have much time. We have to run.

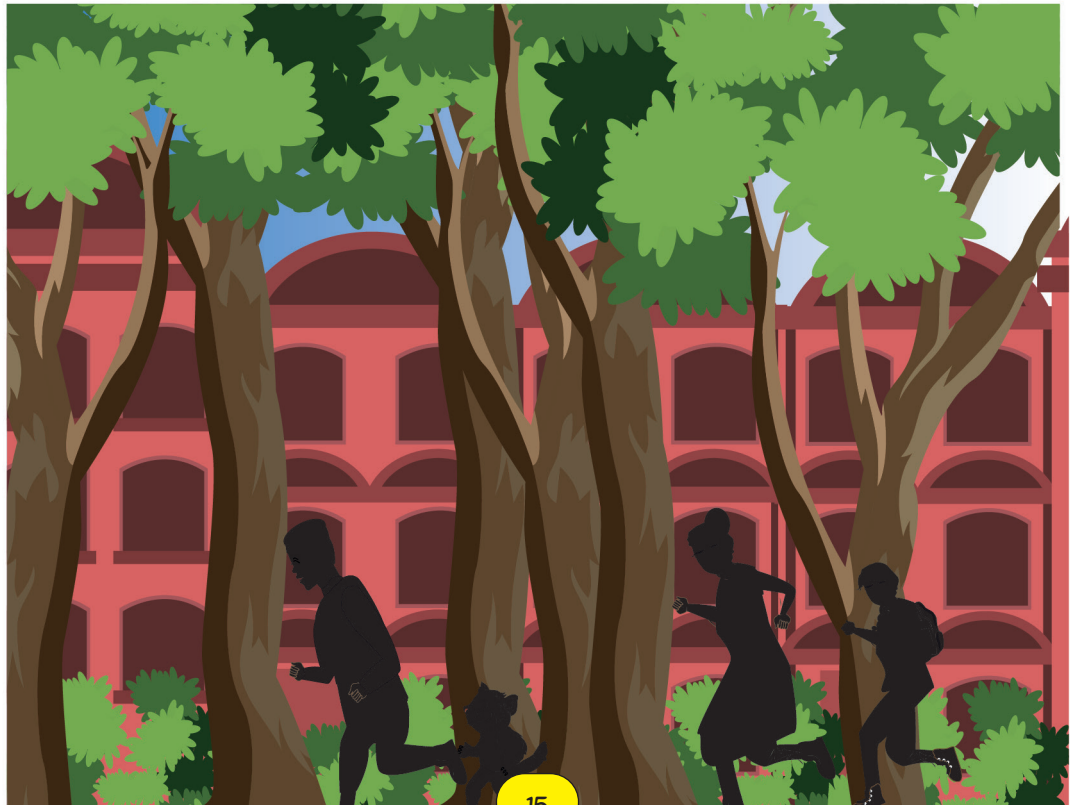


I do not understand. Is there another drone? You already knocked this one out.



Just run, dear. No time to explain.







At the control room.



I do not know.

As soon as we torched the branches, we scanned above. There was nothing.



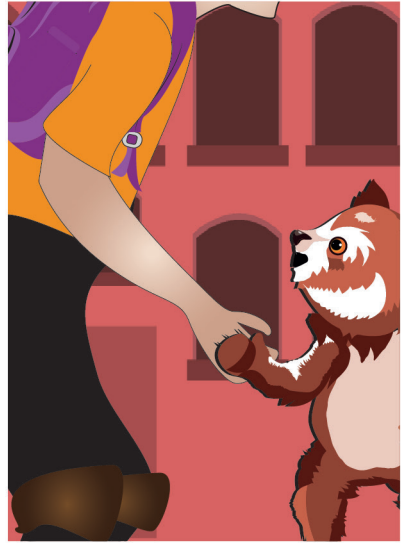
The drone rises but the ones it searches for are now long gone.

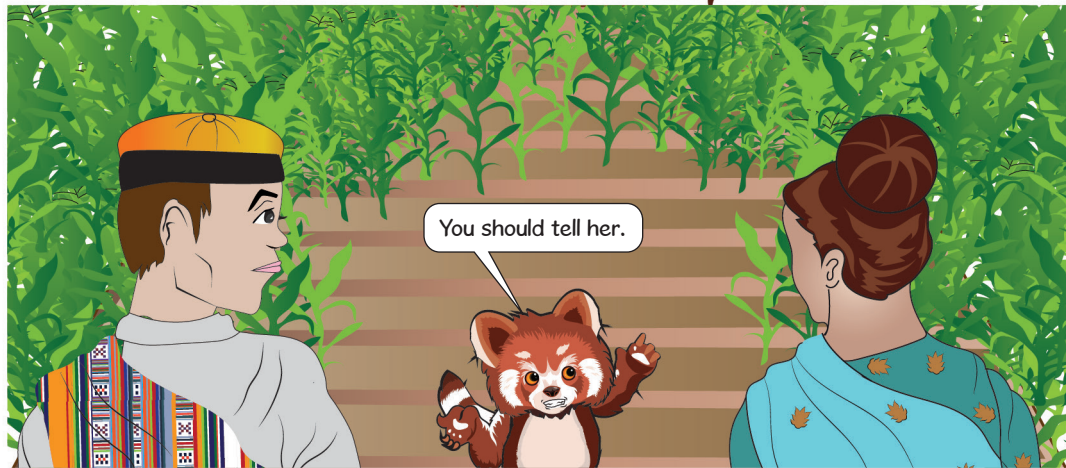
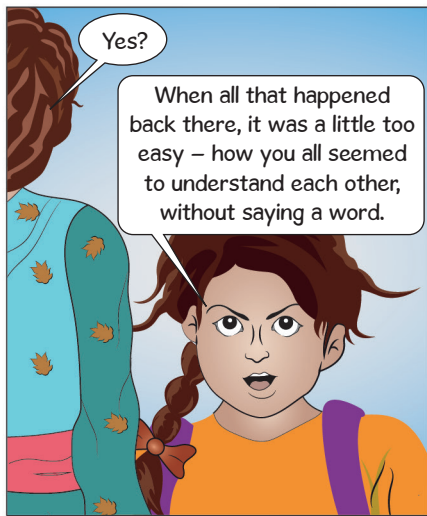


Act II

Just outside New Kalapa...







The Central Atrium of New Kalapa.



This time I really don't get you.

You helped – do what?



You need to be a little quieter, dear one.



It seems you and Babba have been the ones being quiet. For a long time.

We had to. To protect you.



Much as I love standing here letting the whole rest of New Kalapa in on what are national secrets, could we just go sit somewhere and talk quietly?

That would be a very good idea.







Hmmm.

Yeah. 150 years ago.
I already knew that.

Yes. You were studying...
economics and politics.

You went to work for the
government. But I don't remember
what it was you did.

We had to.

Let me explain.
You know I was born
here in Gangtok.

And you remember I went
to University in Delhi, right?

That's right.



I was recruited by the government.
For intelligence work.



Intelligence?
You were a spy?



Not exactly. But when I
did graduate, they had me
working with computers to
do research. Tracking China
and other possible threats
to the country.



He never did field work, dear one. Just in office.



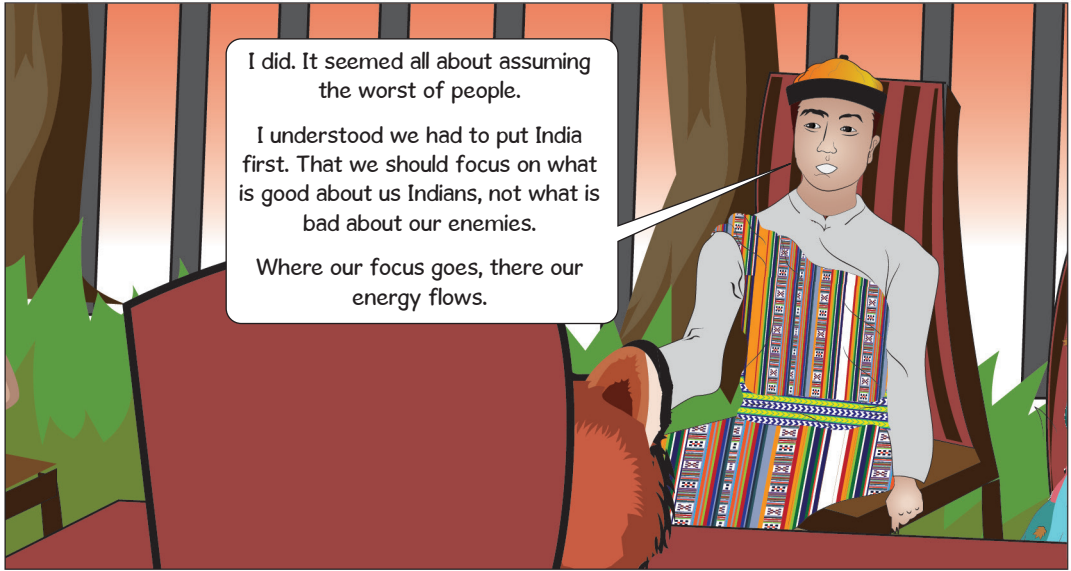
I am getting to that.

I did work for the government but I was – disillusioned after just a few years.

He hated it.



But what does that have to do with ... New Kalapa?



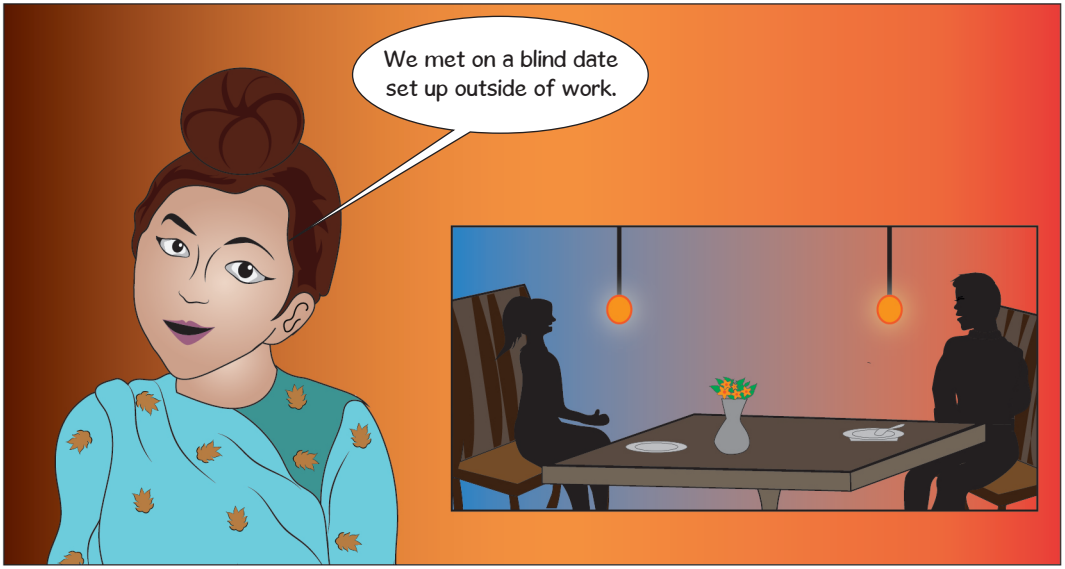
I did. It seemed all about assuming the worst of people.

I understood we had to put India first. That we should focus on what is good about us Indians, not what is bad about our enemies.

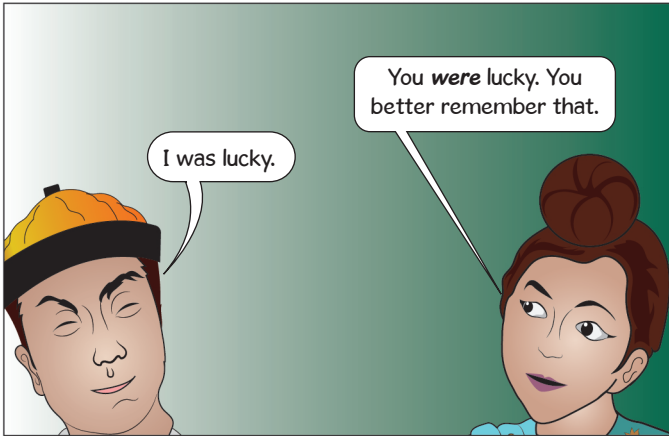
Where our focus goes, there our energy flows.



I might have stayed in the government. But then I met your mother.



We met on a blind date set up outside of work.



I was lucky.

You were lucky. You better remember that.



Are you saying you were not a little lucky too?

It's hard for me to admit it but yes, I was lucky.



Your father was a kindhearted man. He could not deal with the negativity and suspicion that permeated his work environment.



That's awful.



It was unfortunately the way of the world then.

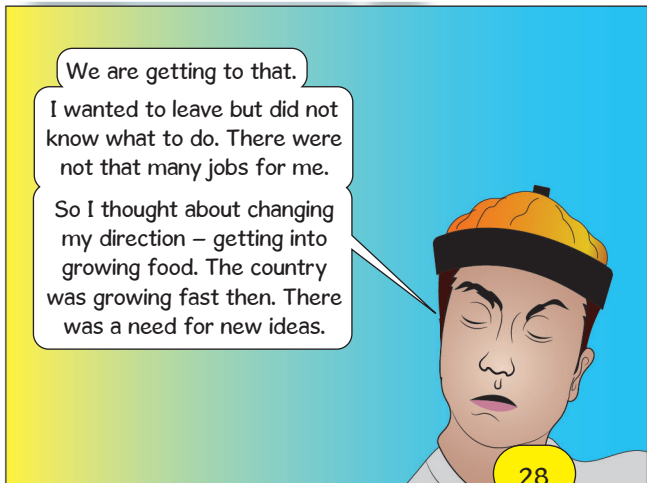


Now too, mostly.



So Amma helped convince you to quit the government?

And what does this have to do with New Kalapa?



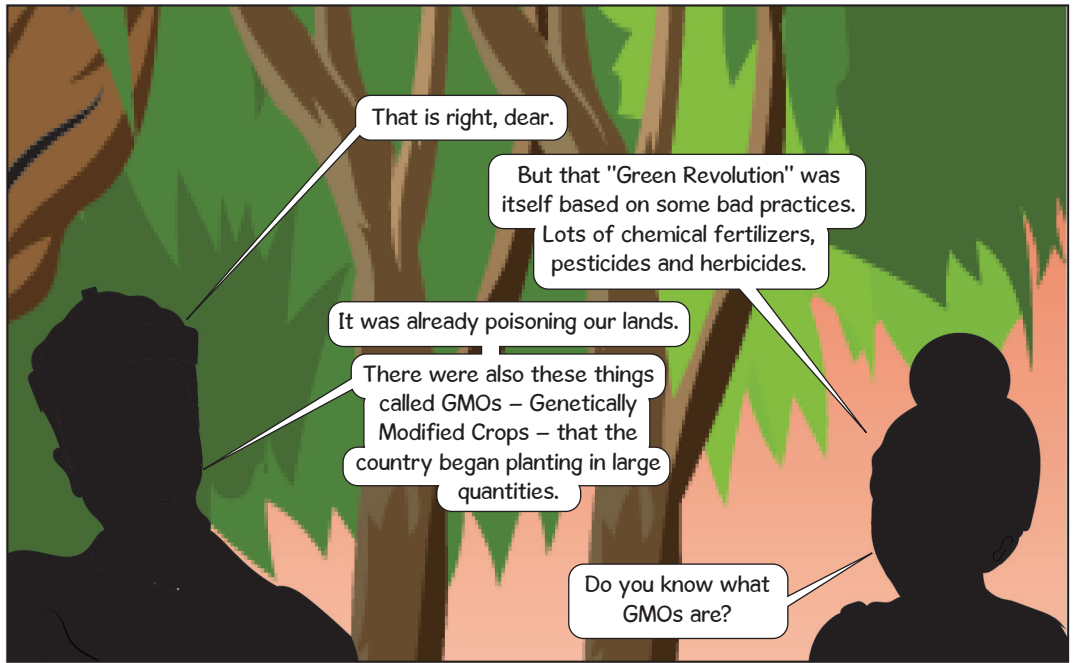
We are getting to that.

I wanted to leave but did not know what to do. There were not that many jobs for me.

So I thought about changing my direction – getting into growing food. The country was growing fast then. There was a need for new ideas.



I remember. They called it the "Green Revolution", right?



That is right, dear.

But that "Green Revolution" was itself based on some bad practices. Lots of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides.

It was already poisoning our lands.

There were also these things called GMOs – Genetically Modified Crops – that the country began planting in large quantities.

Do you know what GMOs are?



Not really.

They are plants which are created by scientists. They change the genetic structure of the plants.



That's crazy. To do what?


Sometimes they change the DNA so it produces more rugged plants, so they can be shipped at long distances and not be damaged.

But there are other kinds of GMOs too. Some involving combining the genes of healthy food – like corn – with the genes of special bacteria which are toxic to certain insects, ones which ordinarily would feed on the food crops.


In the Bt corn they planted in India, the genes included ones from what the makers called Bt delta endotoxin.

The "Bt" in the name is for *Bacillus thuringiensis*.

The combination produces higher yields of the corn, because the pink bollworm that infests corn fields will die if it eats this GMO corn-toxin hybrid crop.



It also means when people eat the corn, they also eat the bacteria "part" of the food too.



It also does not really work that well.

When it was tried on a large scale in India, with a version of corn that included the same type of protection against bugs, the bugs simply evolved so the poison would not kill them.

The same thing happened when the same company that made the GMO Bt Corn also made Bt Cotton.

The larvae that ordinarily chewed up the cotton was first repelled by the GMO toxins. Then it too just evolved.



Wow. Then – ?



Farms were wiped out across the country. Farmers were ruined financially. Worse things happened too.



I don't think you need to say any more about that, dear.



That was a very stupid thing to do, using those GMO crops.

It was stupid.

There is also another kind of GMO.


This kind is bio-engineered to withstand the spraying of herbicides.



The chemicals they use to kill weeds and such?




That's right.




For these types of GMOs, the crops could withstand large quantities of herbicides sprayed on them and still live.

The weeds around the crops would die.


But the food crops also absorbed the herbicides.



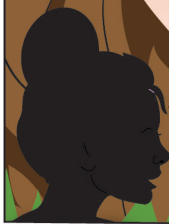
And people then eat that poison?



The herbicide included something called glyphosate. It turns out it makes people very sick, even causes cancer.



Do we eat any of these GMO crops?




Not here in Sikkim.

It is against the law to grow anything other than organically.




I get it.

I am still lost about how you were able to afford to go back to school again. It was still a second degree.



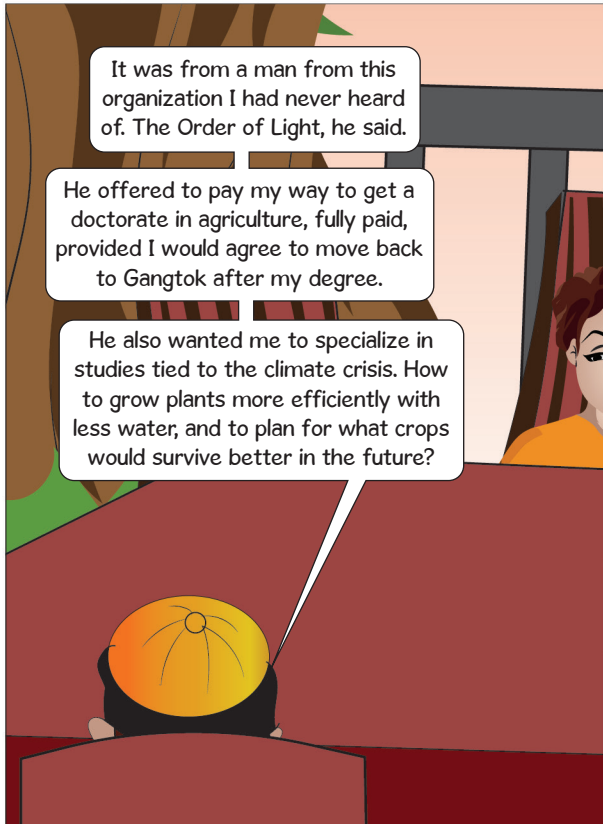
It was all a little mysterious. I was already working myself –




She was a structural engineer. Expertise in advanced construction technology.




I know all that.






I know that one. Non-Governmental Organization. I don't know much about what they are. Just heard about it.



It was a non-profit organization called The Order of Light. It was planning something very big in the future, he said. In Sikkim.

He had heard something about my work in government.

He also had heard I wanted to do something good for the world, but knew I needed more education to do it.



And he just – gave you the money for your doctorate in agriculture?

Not exactly. I had to agree first to take two jobs when I graduated.

Two jobs?

Yes. One at university in Sikkim, as a professor in Agriculture.

But that's what you're doing now.

It is only part of what I am doing now – and also only part of what I started doing once I graduated.

What was the other part?



Your father became one of the early planners and designers for this.



You designed all this?



He did not design all of it. He had some help.



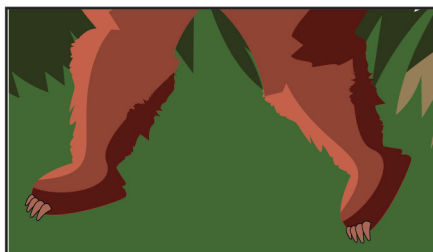
Yes, sure, I get it. There was more than just you.



I was. But there was somebody else who helped too.



Who – Pandero? And the rest of the red pandas?



Did you miss me?

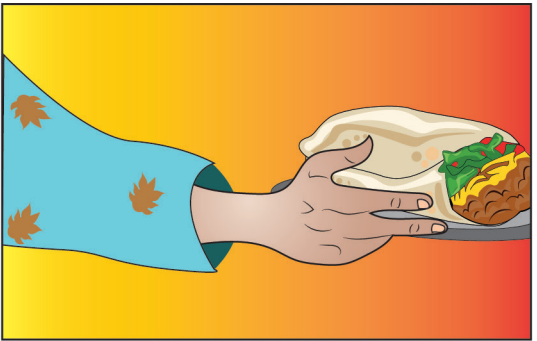


Were you here the whole time, listening?



No, no, no. I was waiting by the kitchen for our order.

What were you all talking about?



Thank you for getting our food.

Yum. Burritos. I love these.



Enough with the food! What is going on?



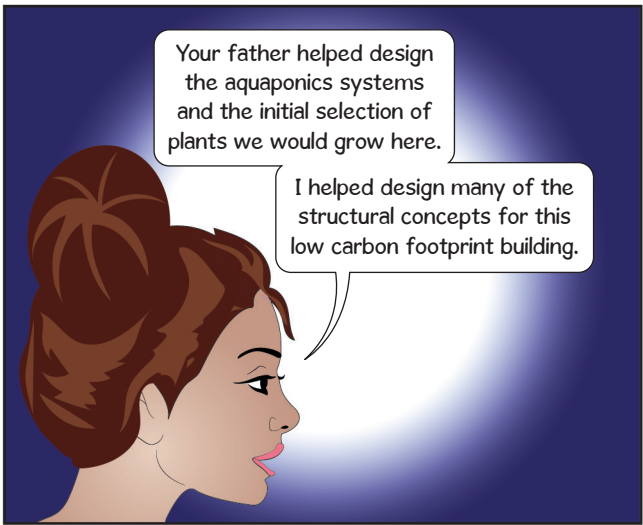
We were explaining about how we helped design New Kalapa.



That must have been fun.



We? What do you mean "we"?



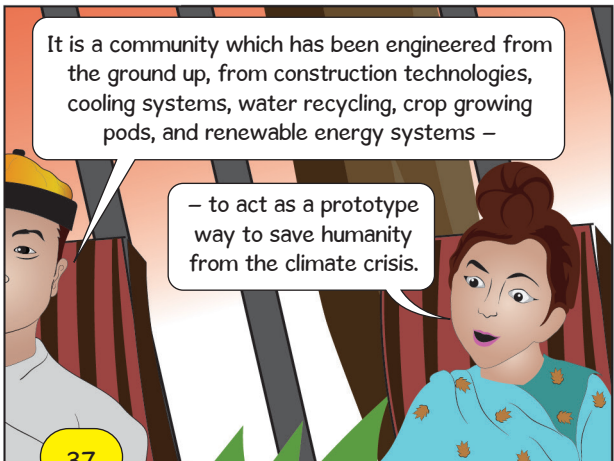
Your father helped design the aquaponics systems and the initial selection of plants we would grow here.

I helped design many of the structural concepts for this low carbon footprint building.




You were in on it too?

So what exactly is this place, anyway? Not the name, but what is it for? Nobody told me.



It is a community which has been engineered from the ground up, from construction technologies, cooling systems, water recycling, crop growing pods, and renewable energy systems –


– to act as a prototype way to save humanity from the climate crisis.




No way. That is impossible. This is just a place in the forest. A nice place but just a place. It can't be –




But it is.




We are telling you the truth.




Don't look at me to say anything else. Remember I'm just a red panda.




Yeah. Right. And I'm just a little girl –



You are far more than just a little girl, dear. You may prove to be the key that helps New Kalapa really change the world.



I don't think I can talk much more about this right now. This is – too much.



Maybe you should just have something to eat. These vegetarian burritos are good for you.





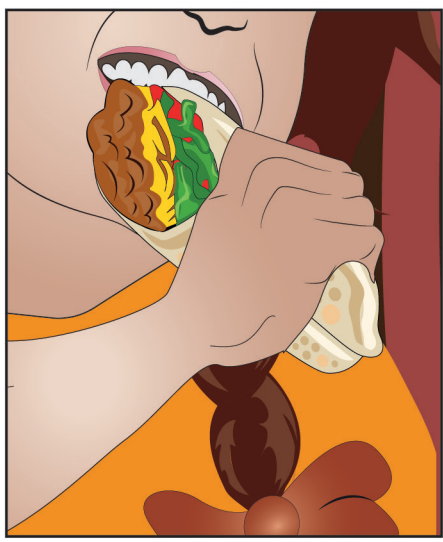
Okay. Now don't tell me you came up with the recipe for this too, on top of everything else?

No, we did not. Someone special came up with this one.

Okay. Now don't tell me you came up with the recipe for this too, on top of everything else?

Well, they did. But that's not where this recipe came from.

Then who?



Remember that man I told you about, who walked with me in the forest years ago, and told me so much about the climate crisis?



Tim-o?

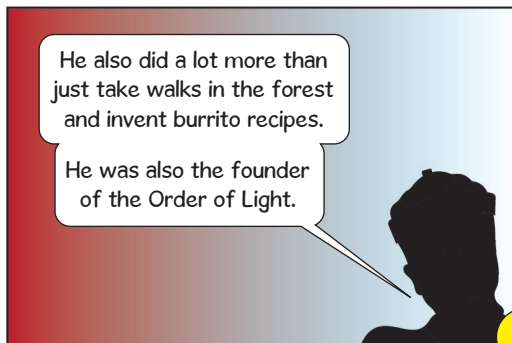
That's the one.



You are joking with me.



No I am not. It is the same person.



He also did a lot more than just take walks in the forest and invent burrito recipes.

He was also the founder of the Order of Light.



Okay. Now you are going to have to tell me everything.





Over an hour later...

And this is the AllTree.



I know about that already.



Oh.

It is pretty amazing, right? All these different kinds of plants from a single trunk?



It is.

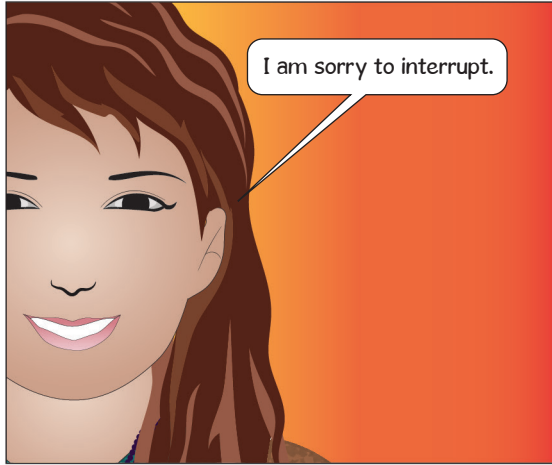


Did you know it was your mother's idea?



It was?

You both continue to have so many surprises for me.

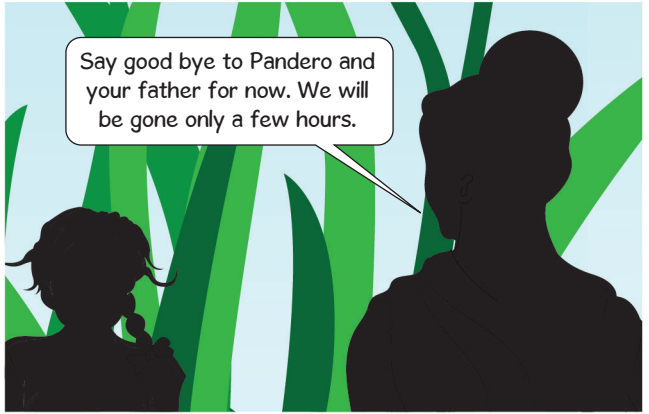




All right. So where...?



I will explain as we go. I think we have a flight to catch.



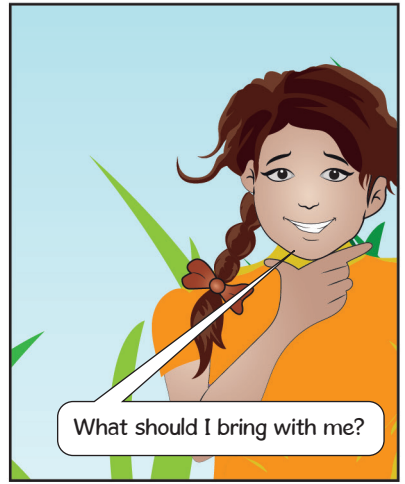
Say good bye to Pandero and your father for now. We will be gone only a few hours.

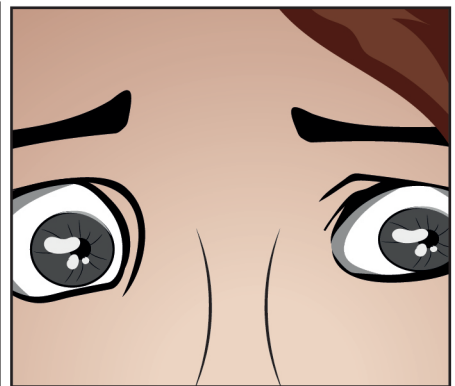
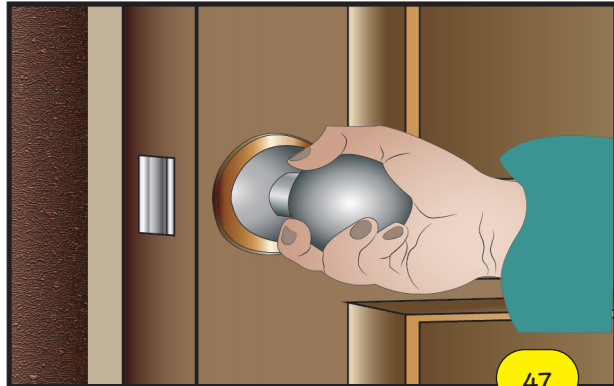
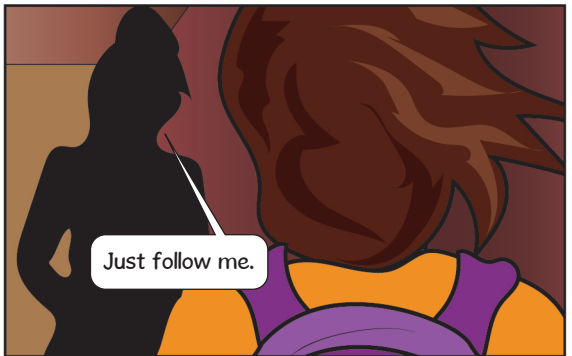
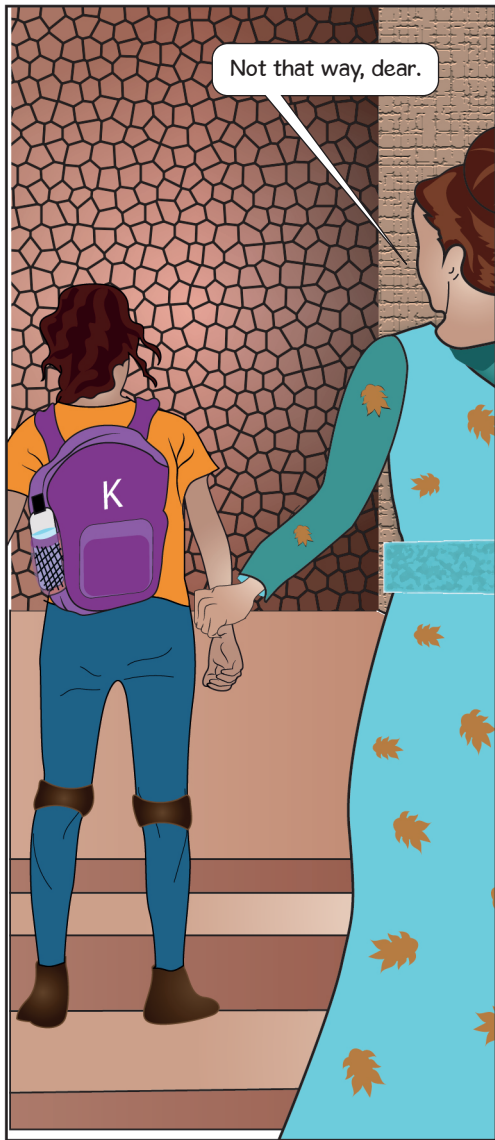


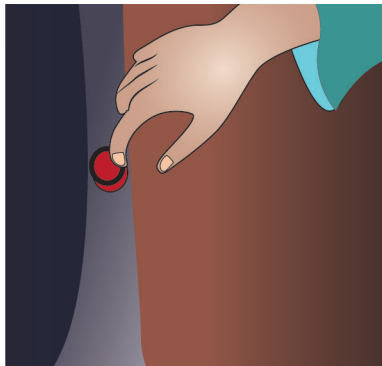
Karma gives a little wave.

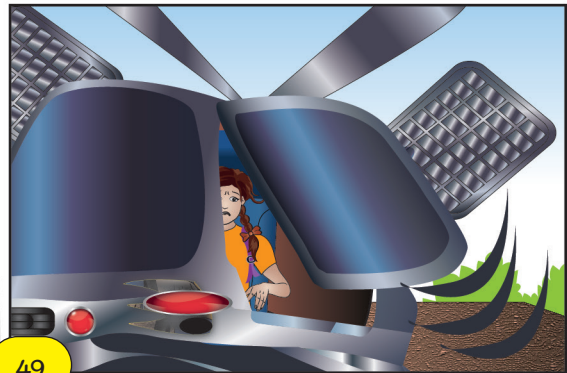


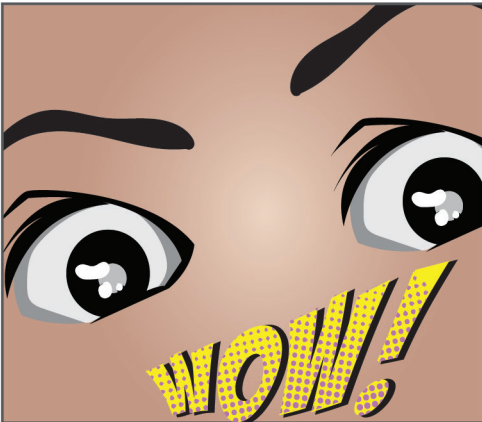
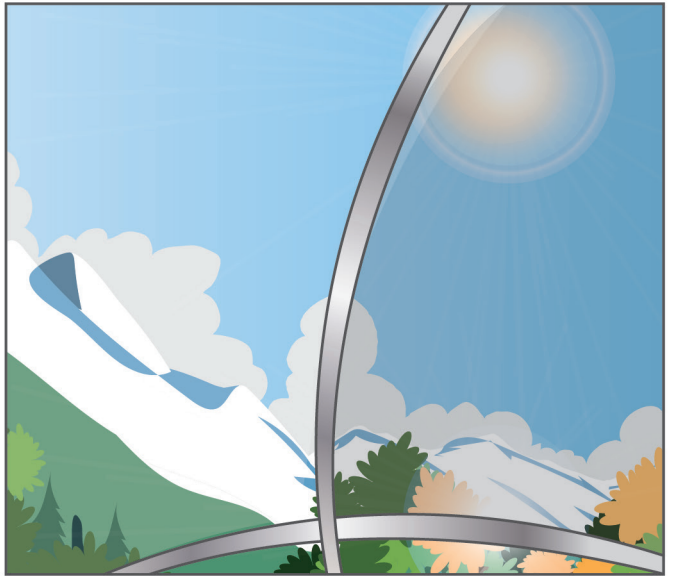
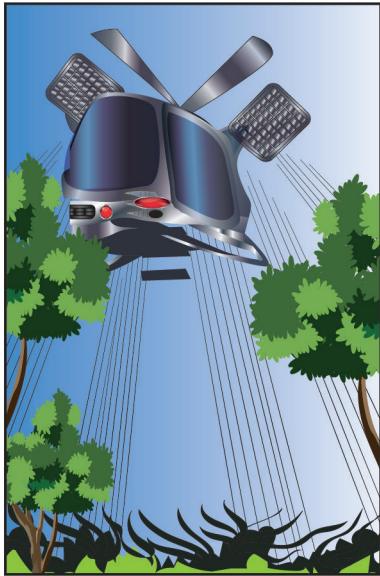
Pandero and Babba walk back into the place.

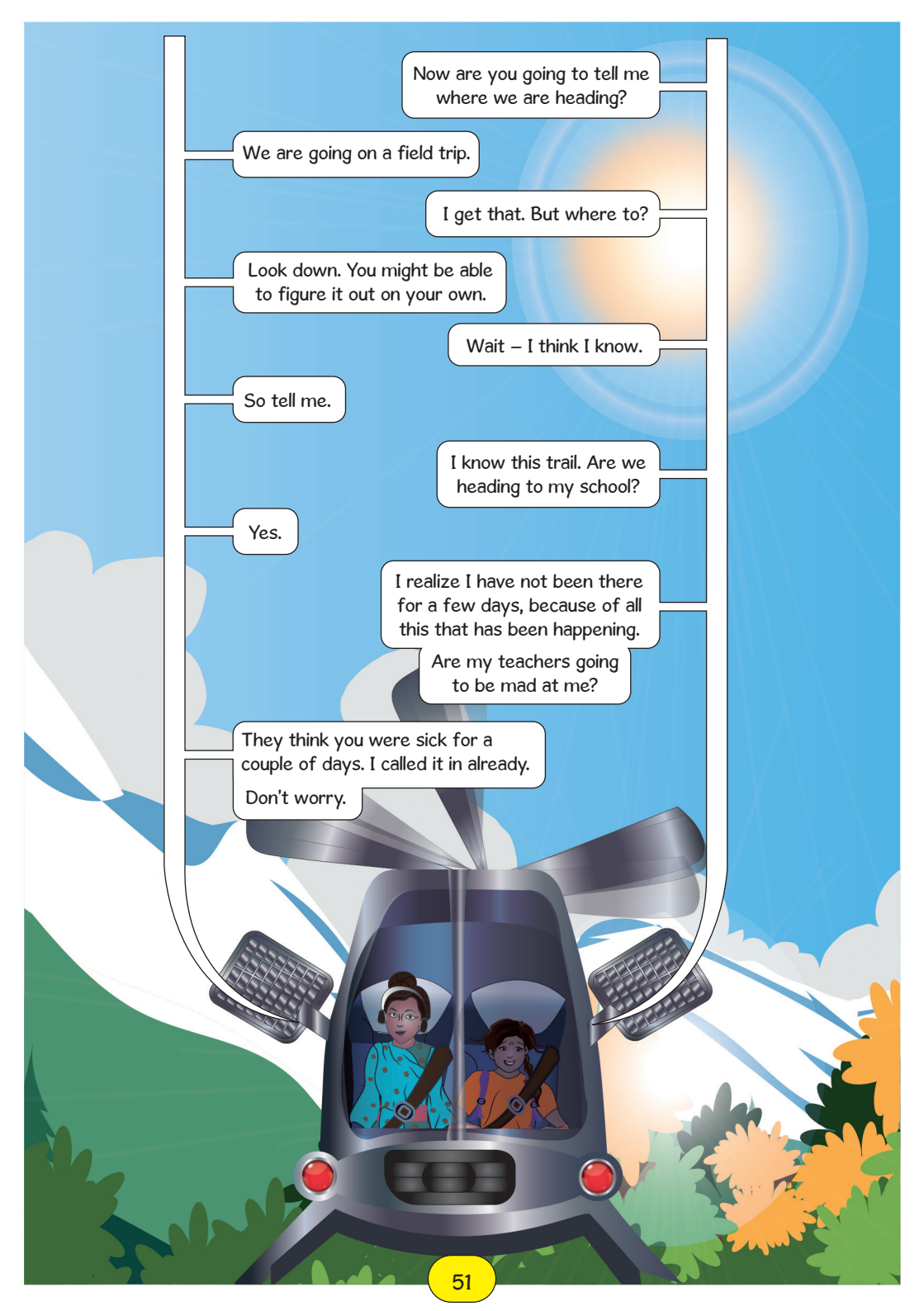












Now are you going to tell me where we are heading?

We are going on a field trip.

I get that. But where to?

Look down. You might be able to figure it out on your own.

Wait – I think I know.

So tell me.

I know this trail. Are we heading to my school?


Yes.

I realize I have not been there for a few days, because of all this that has been happening.


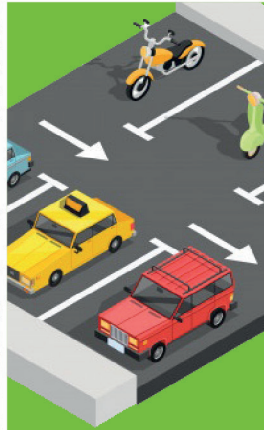
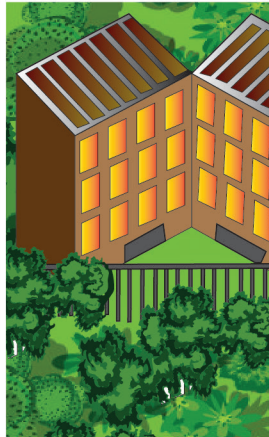
Are my teachers going to be mad at me?

They think you were sick for a couple of days. I called it in already.

Don't worry.



Hey – wait a minute. It isn't a school day anyway. It is Saturday.



Notice anything?

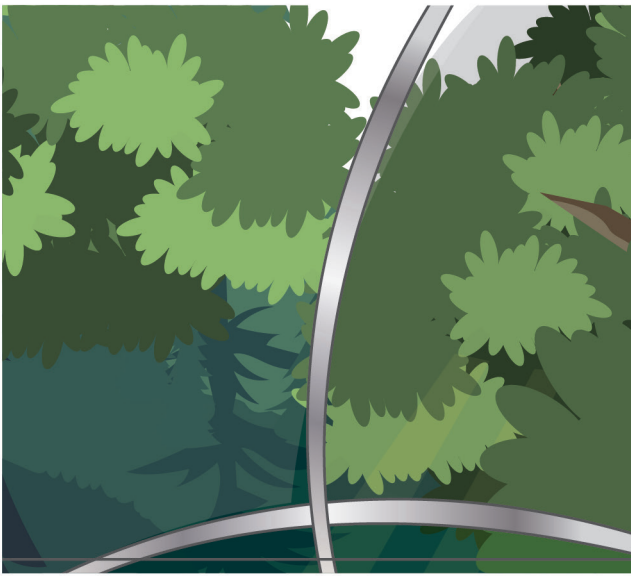
There are a lot of cars for a Saturday. What is going on?

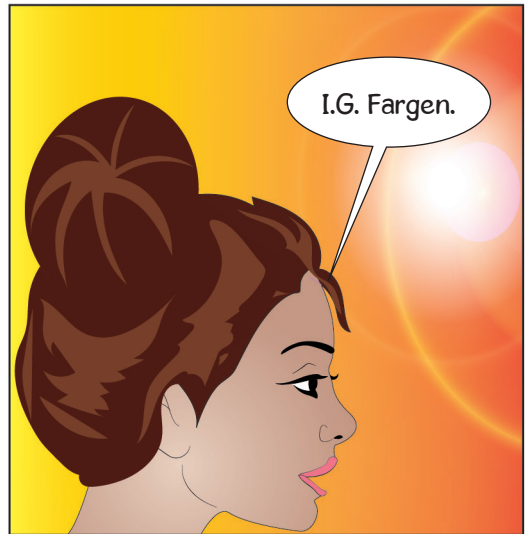
They are having a science fair today.

A science fair? I had completely forgot –

It is okay. You were a little distracted.

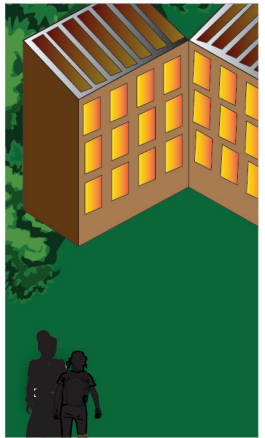
And don't forget when you get in. You have been feeling a little sick.







Here, in case you want to touch up your hair.



Want to Make Burritos the New Kalapa Way?

Ingredients needed for a burrito: 2 cups of cooked beans (black beans or pinto beans), 2 cups of cooked rice (white rice or brown rice), 1/2 cup diced onion, 2 cloves of garlic (diced or minced), fresh cilantro, 1–2 table spoons of oil, a pinch of salt. Optional: grated cheese, sour cream, chili powder, hot sauce and lime juice, to taste. The quantities of the spices and hot sauce will depend on each person's preferences.

Steps:

1. In a frying pan, warm up the oil and add onions to it. Once they are sauted, add the garlic. Cook until both onions and garlic are soft.
2. Add the beans and season them with spices or hot sauce. Cook the bean mixture for a few minutes.
3. Add the rice mixed with cilantro and lime juice. If you don't like lime or cilantro, just add plain rice. Salt it if necessary.
4. In a separate pan or skillet, warm up the tortilla. You can sprinkle grated cheese on it and let it melt. Once the tortilla is warm, remove it from the skillet and put it on a plate.
5. Place some of the bean mixture onto the tortilla. You can add some sour cream to it, or more cilantro.
6. Wrap the tortilla. You must tuck at least one end in. Some people tuck both ends in. Finally, roll it up.
7. Serve the burrito with corn chips and salsa, or guacamole.

Burrito Recipe





HEY! Was that Pandero back down there?

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