



Level 3

Forgetful Dida

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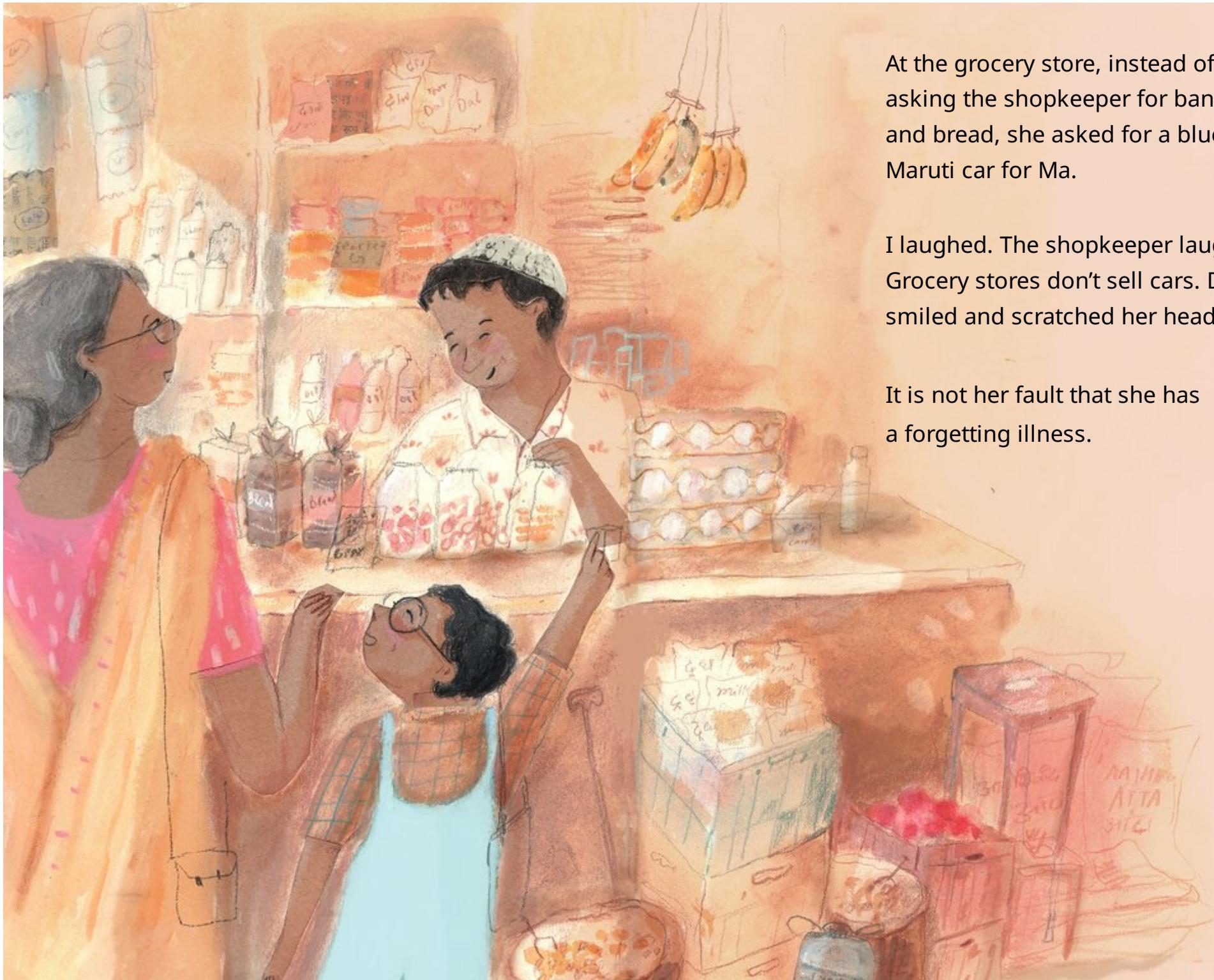
Dida forgets everything.
Ma says she has a forgetting illness.

When Dida and I went to the grocery store, I put on my red sandals. Dida put a sandal on only one foot and walked out of the house. I found her other sandal and helped her put it on.



"How silly I am," Dida said.
"What would I do without you?"
Dida kissed the top of my head.





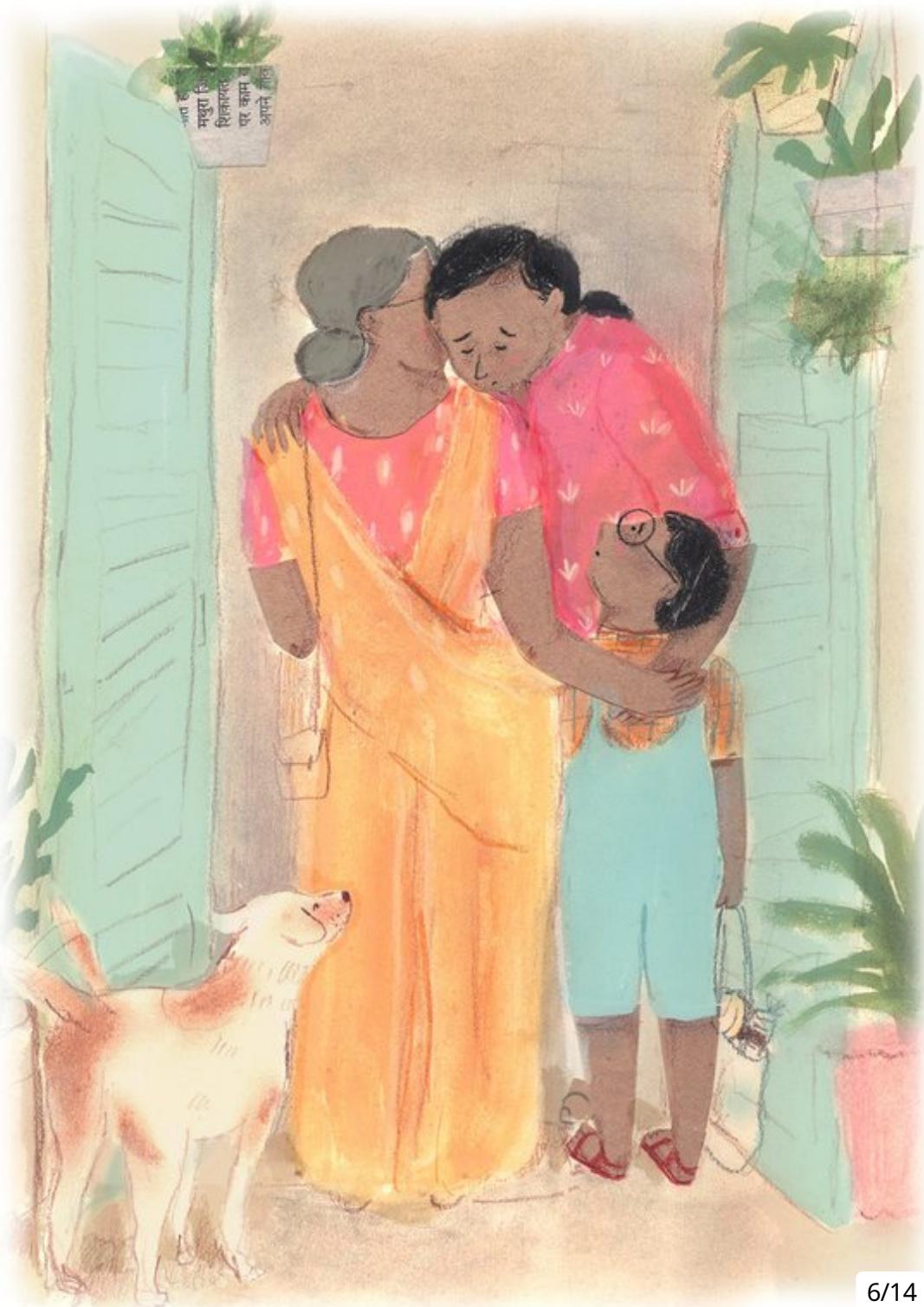
At the grocery store, instead of asking the shopkeeper for bananas and bread, she asked for a blue Maruti car for Ma.

I laughed. The shopkeeper laughed. Grocery stores don't sell cars. Dida smiled and scratched her head.

It is not her fault that she has a forgetting illness.

Ma was waiting at the door when we got home. She was upset. She said we shouldn't go out without telling her.

My mother worries too much.



Like yesterday, when Dida asked Ma what her name was. Ma shook her head and looked at her feet.

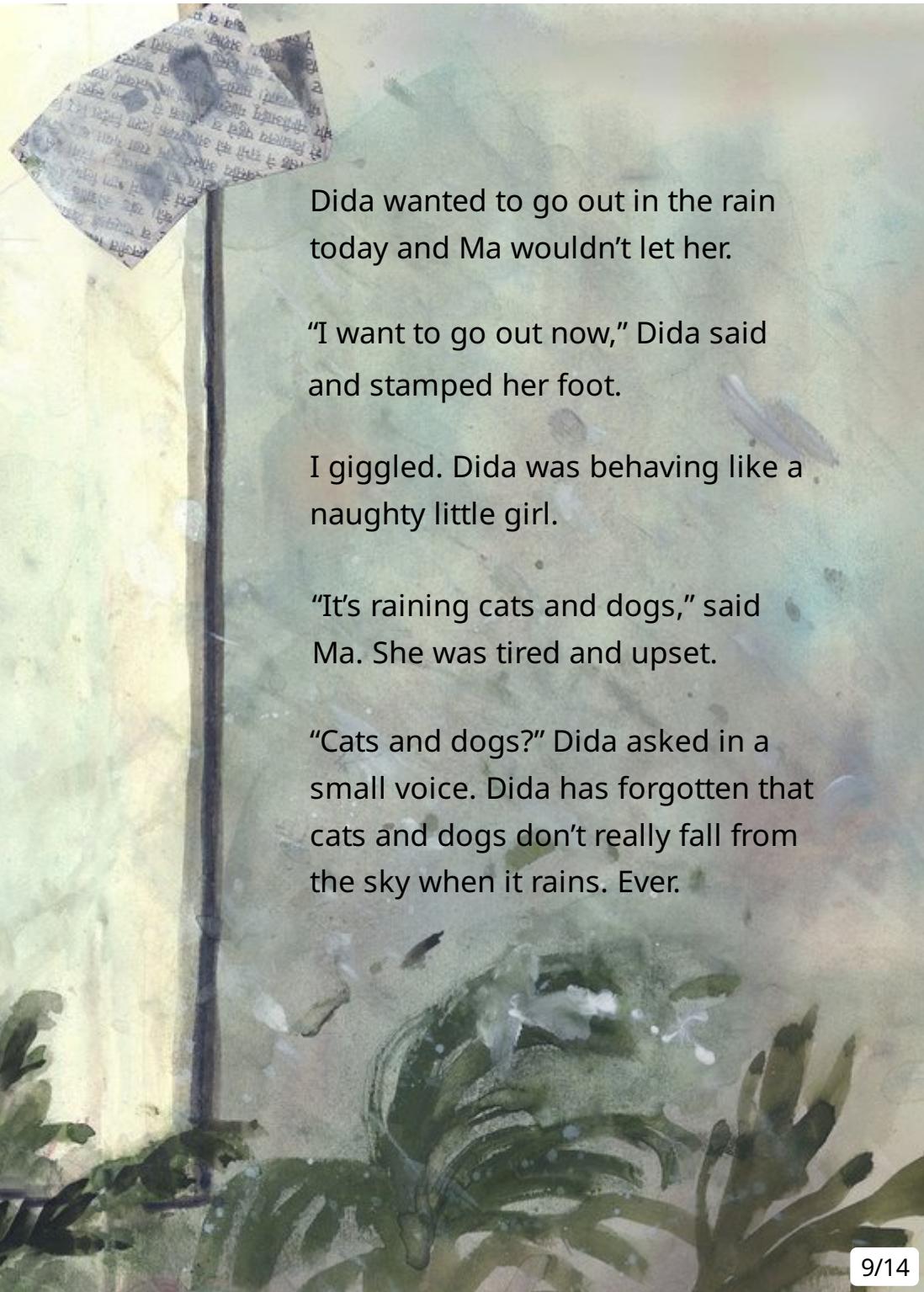
"Don't be funny, Dida," I said. "She is your daughter. How could you forget her name?"



Dida smiled and said, "How silly I am. How can I forget
my daughter's name?"

Dida looked a little sad. If she didn't have a forgetting illness she would never
have forgotten her daughter's name. Never, ever.





Dida wanted to go out in the rain today and Ma wouldn't let her.

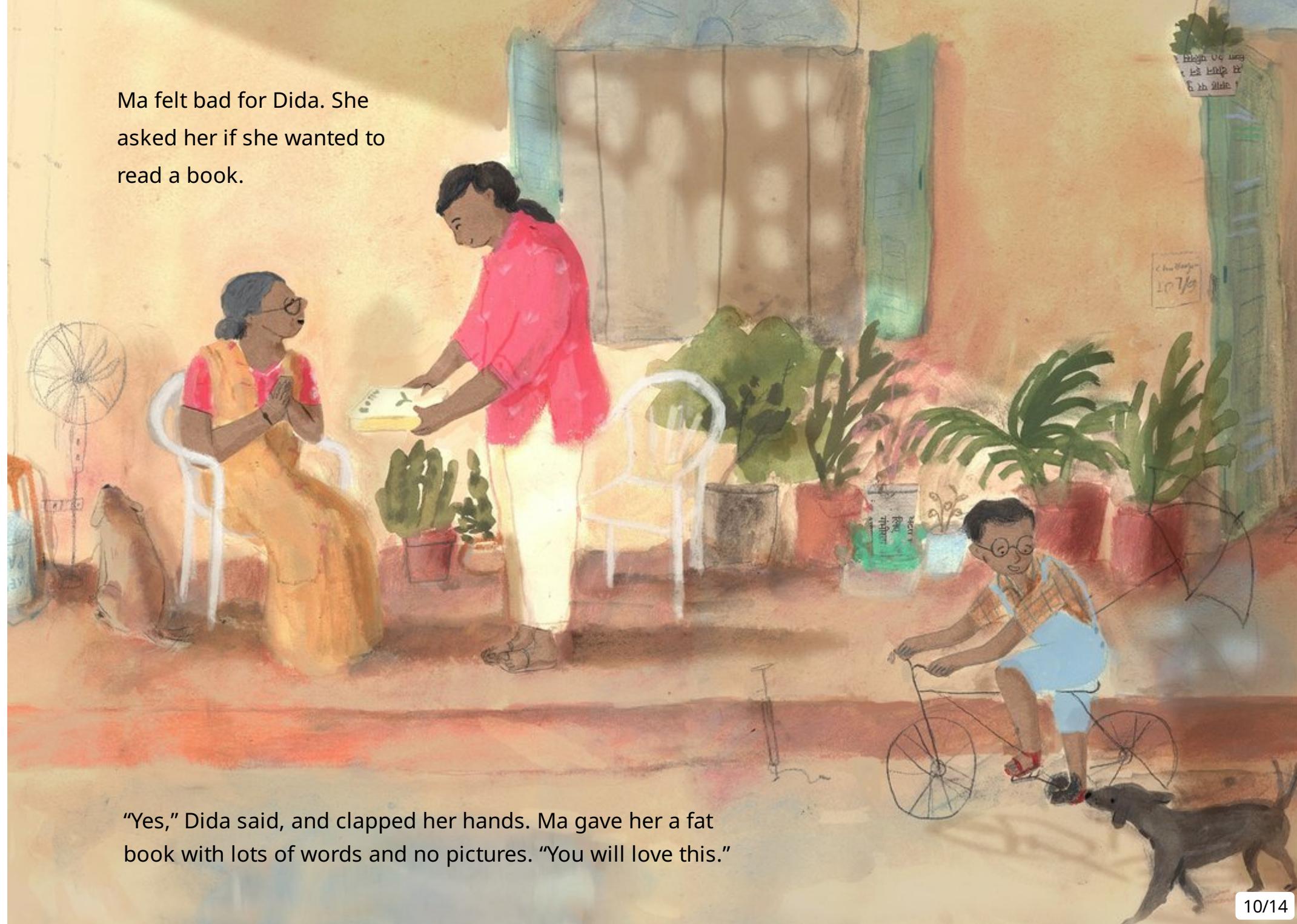
"I want to go out now," Dida said and stamped her foot.

I giggled. Dida was behaving like a naughty little girl.

"It's raining cats and dogs," said Ma. She was tired and upset.

"Cats and dogs?" Dida asked in a small voice. Dida has forgotten that cats and dogs don't really fall from the sky when it rains. Ever.

Ma felt bad for Dida. She asked her if she wanted to read a book.



"Yes," Dida said, and clapped her hands. Ma gave her a fat book with lots of words and no pictures. "You will love this."

Dida opened the book. "La la la," she said.
She turned the page and said "La la la"
again. "Finished," she said.

Dida had forgotten how to read.





I looked at Ma, who looked as worried as she had that time when I put a crayon up my nose.

"She used to love reading so much," Ma said.

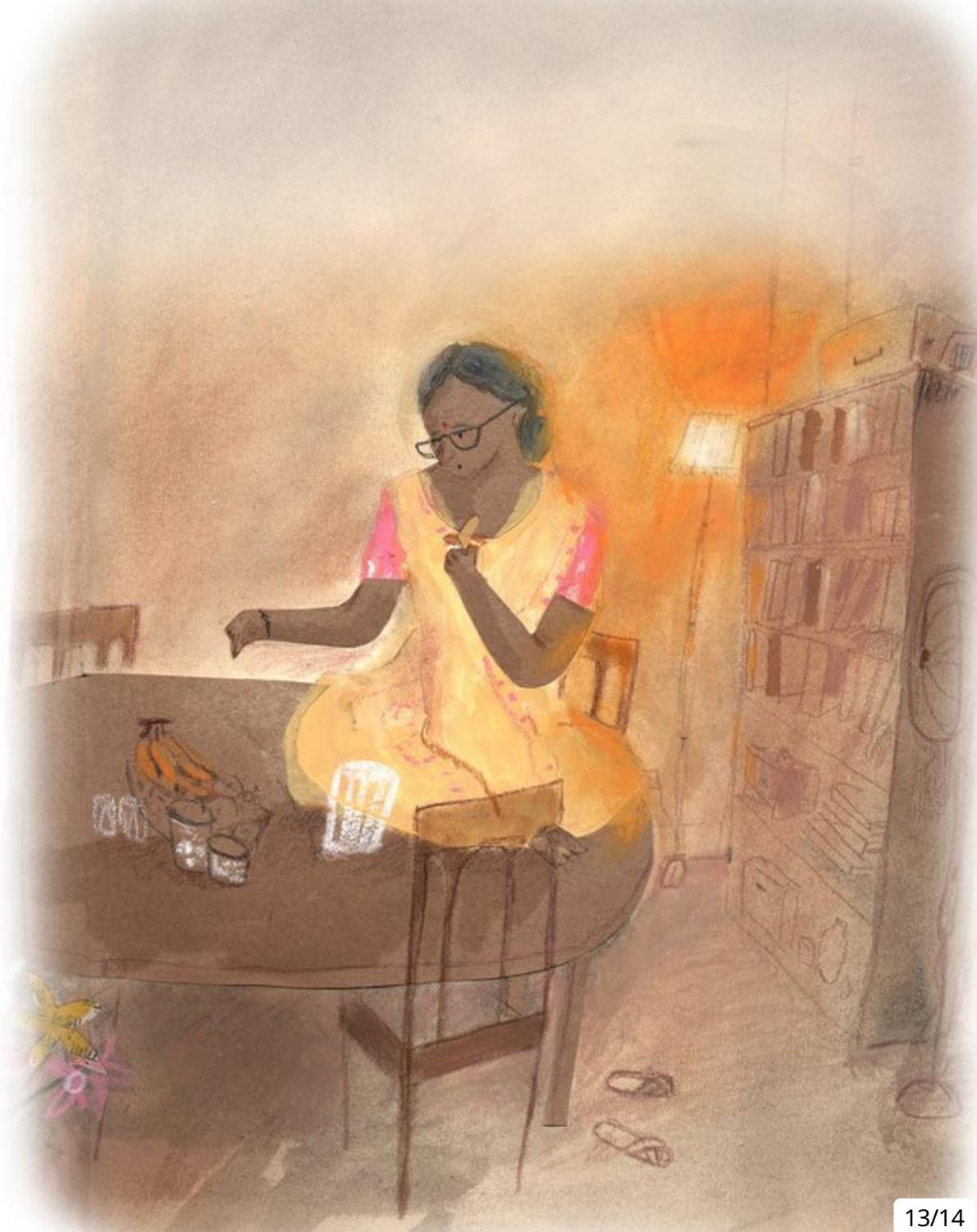
"She is not well.

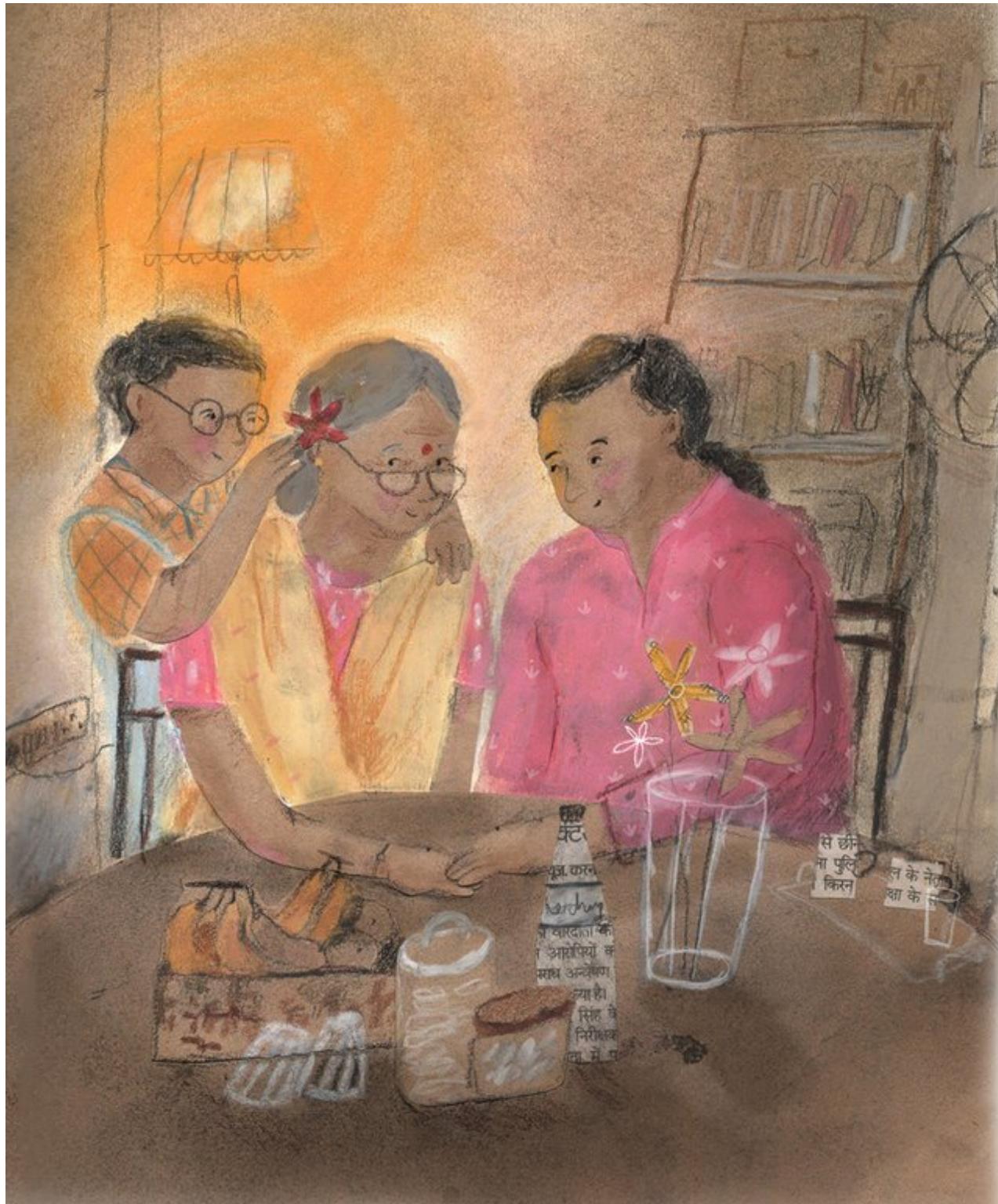
"She is becoming a difficult person.

"She is forgetting everything."

Ma looked at Dida, who was counting the bunch of bananas on the dining table, "One-three-ten!"

"She will forget all of us one day," Ma said.





"So what if she forgets us,"
I said.

"We will never forget her,
Ma, will we?"

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Forgetful Dida (English)

Dida has a forgetting illness. She almost went to the grocery store wearing just one sandal, instead of both, and she forgot the numbers between three and ten. What will Dida forget next? A tender story of memory told by a young girl about her grandmother.

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



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