



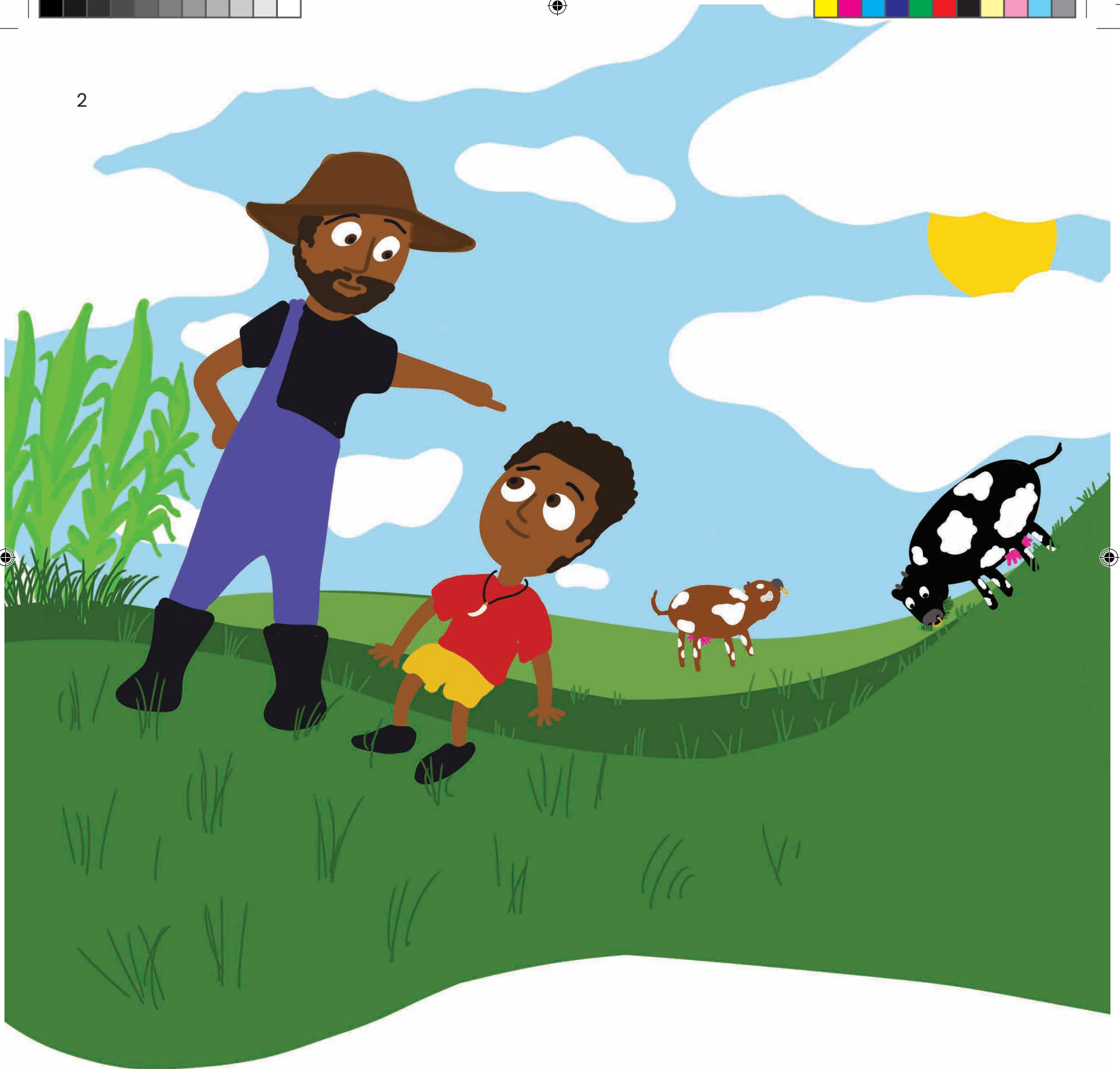
# The Promise

This book was originally written in isiZulu by Mandla Ndlovu  
Illustrated by Subi Bosa    Designed by Jennifer Jacobs





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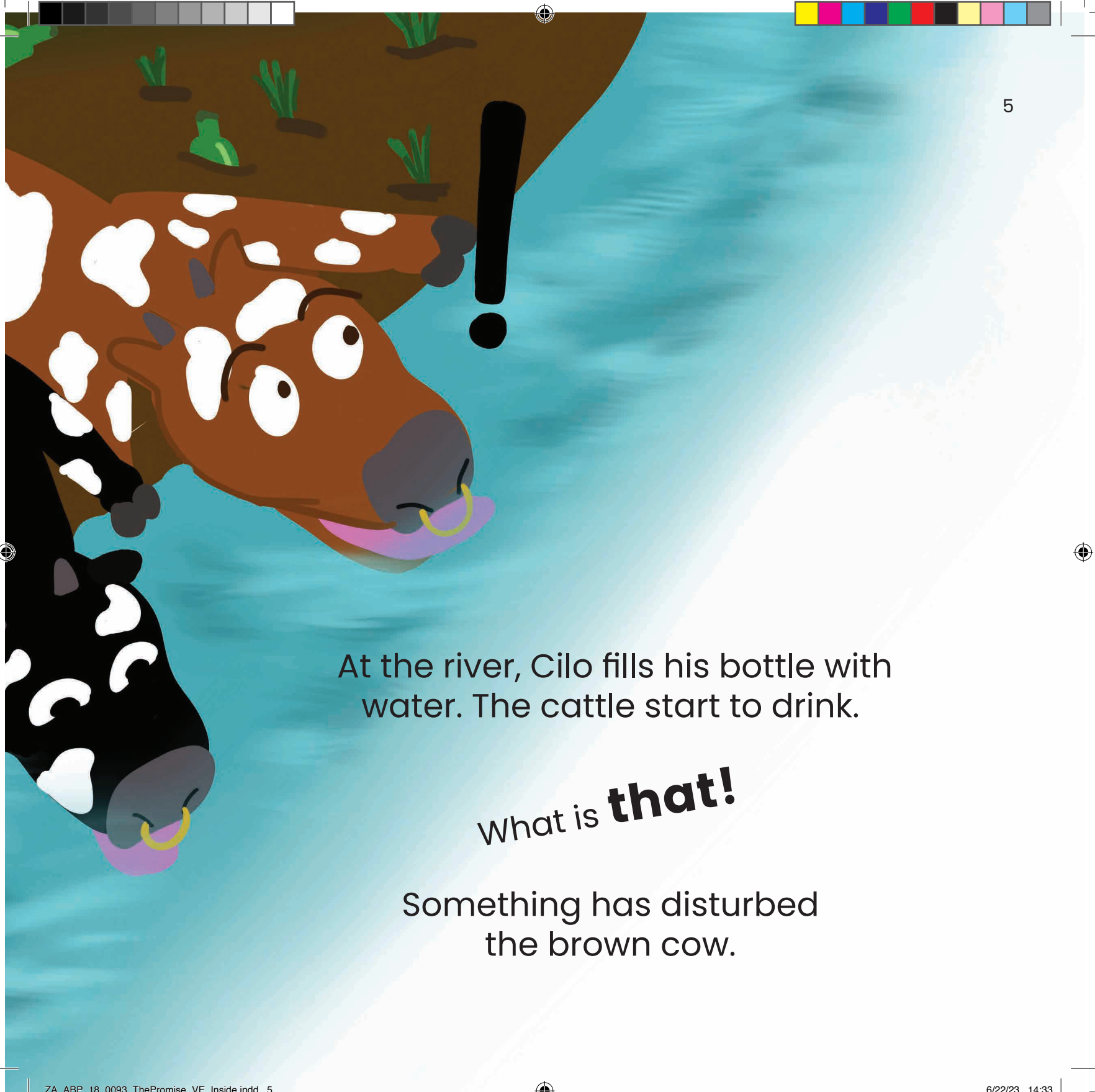
Cilo is a responsible herdboys.

Every day his father warns him about  
the dangerous River Nanda.

“Daddy just wants to scare me,” thinks Cilo.

“But today the cattle are thirsty! I must  
go down to River Nanda,” thinks Cilo.





At the river, Cilo fills his bottle with water. The cattle start to drink.

What is **that!**

Something has disturbed the brown cow.



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**“Oh no!”** shouts Cilo.  
“A wave is washing two of  
Daddy’s cows away.”



River Nanda seems angry.  
Cilo jumps in to save the cows.





River Nanda pulls Cilo and his two cows to the other bank. "It is too far for me to swim back!" cries Cilo.







“What am I going to do?”  
Just then he hears the **crash** of thunder.





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After the storm,  
Rainbow appears.

“What are you doing  
here?” Rainbow asks.





“River Nanda washed me away,” Cilo cries.

“Oh dear,” Rainbow says. “Tell me.  
What is that necklace for?”

Cilo proudly replies, “King Nkanyezi gave it to  
me for being the best shooter in Nanda.”

“Show me then. If you can sling a stone  
to the other bank, I will help you across,”  
promises Rainbow.





Cilo picks up a stone. He puts it into his sling.  
He throws it with all his power.

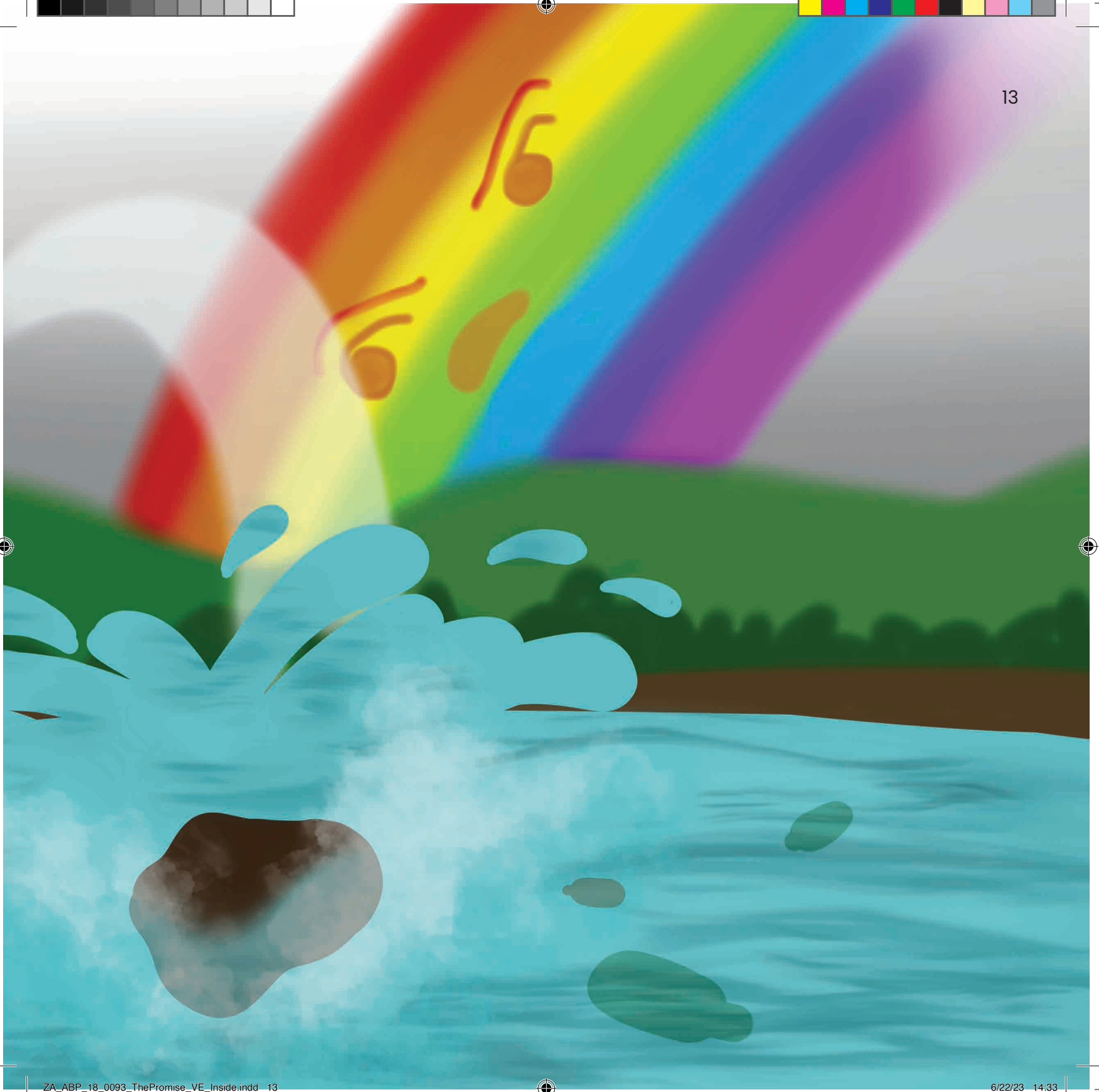
**“Oh no!”** shouts Cilo.

**Plop!** The stone falls into the middle of  
the river.



“Not good enough,” says Rainbow  
and vanishes.







Cilo begins to cry again. Suddenly he hears a voice from the river.





“I can help you, but your people are troubling me,” says River Nanda.

“What do you mean?” asks Cilo.

“I have served your people for many, many years. I give you water. I give you food. But all you do is litter and pollute me.”





“How can I help you?” asks Cilo. “That is easy,” says River Nanda. “Give me your cattle!”

“But... but... but... they belong to Daddy,” cries Cilo.







"Then I will

**swallow  
you up**

instead!"

"Please don't swallow me," begs Cilo.

"I promise I will help to clean up the litter.  
I promise I will tell the villagers not to pollute you."

"I don't believe you, young man!"  
says River Nanda.

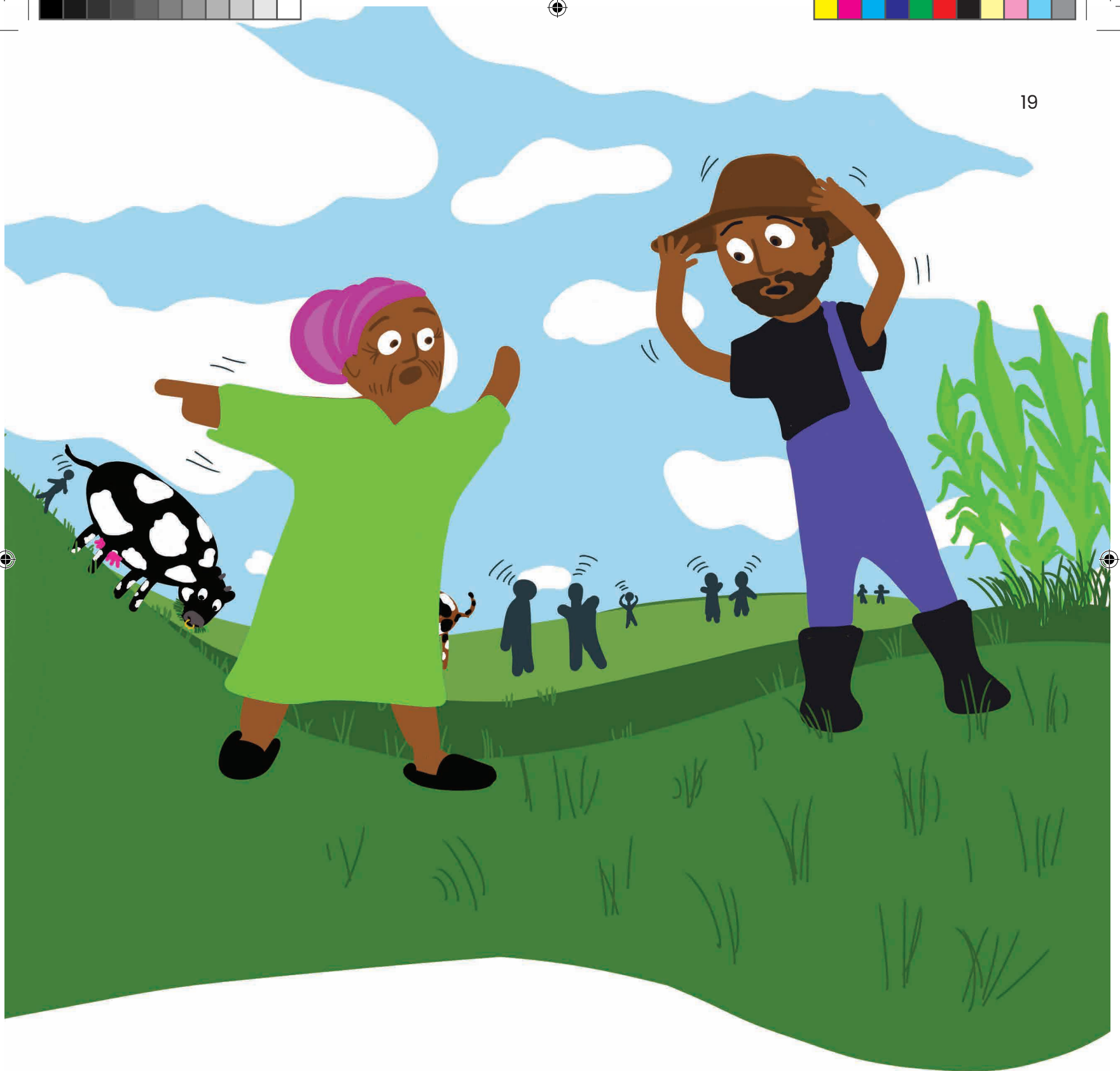


Meanwhile, back in the village,  
everyone is looking for Cilo.

"I saw your son down at River Nanda."  
The old woman points.

They all run down to the river bank.

A rumbling noise rises from the river.  
River Nanda is growing even more angry.

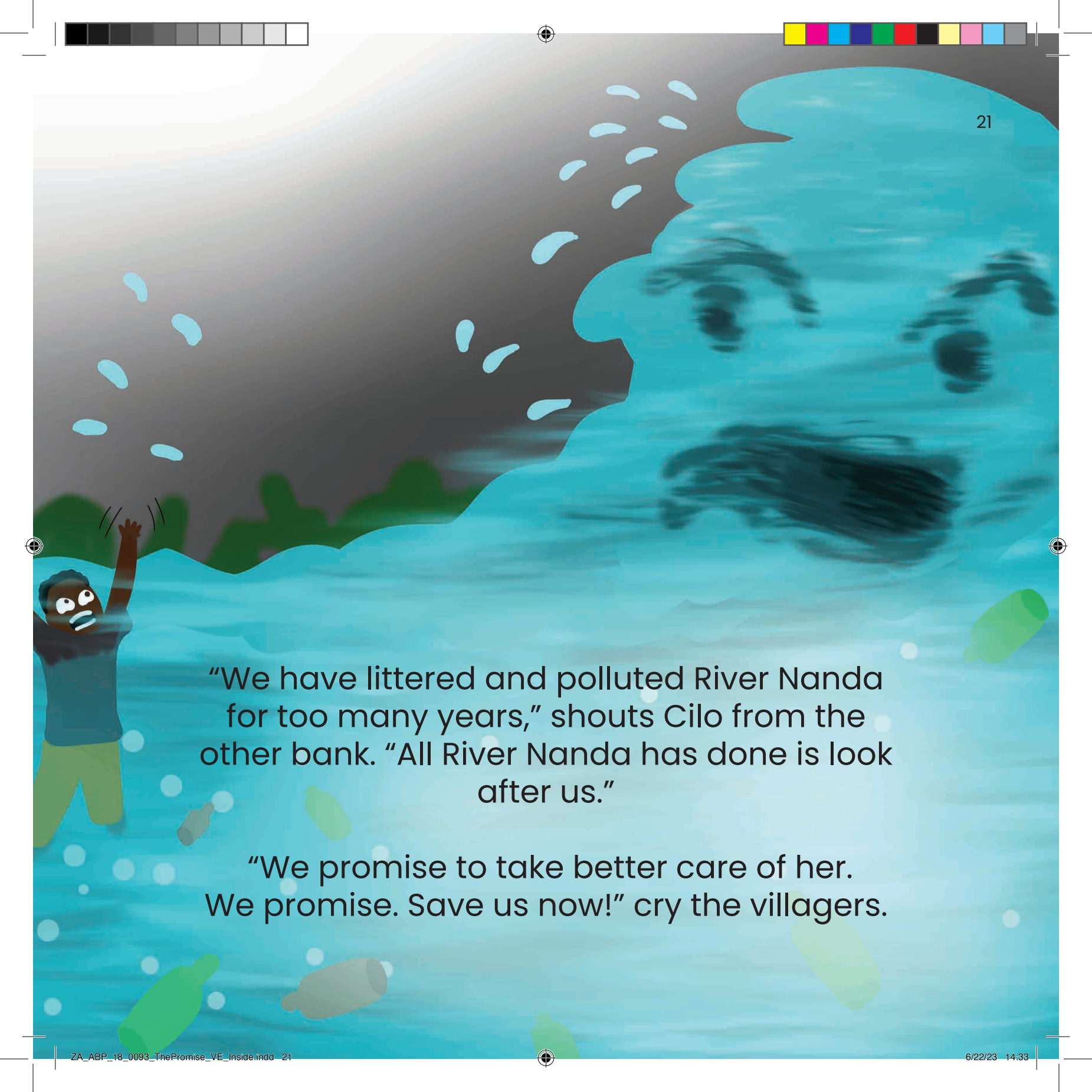




River Nanda floods towards them.  
She sucks them all into her deep water.

**“Help us!** Please do not swallow us!” the  
villagers beg. “Why are you so angry with us?”





“We have littered and polluted River Nanda for too many years,” shouts Cilo from the other bank. “All River Nanda has done is look after us.”

“We promise to take better care of her. We promise. Save us now!” cry the villagers.







Since that day, the villagers have kept their promise.





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