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Penguin Random House India

To my grandmothers and great-grandmother,
Ammi, Nani and Biji.
Rockstars of my childhood!

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BIJI'S IN THE KITCHEN!

NATASHA SHARMA

illustrations by
SONAL GUPTA



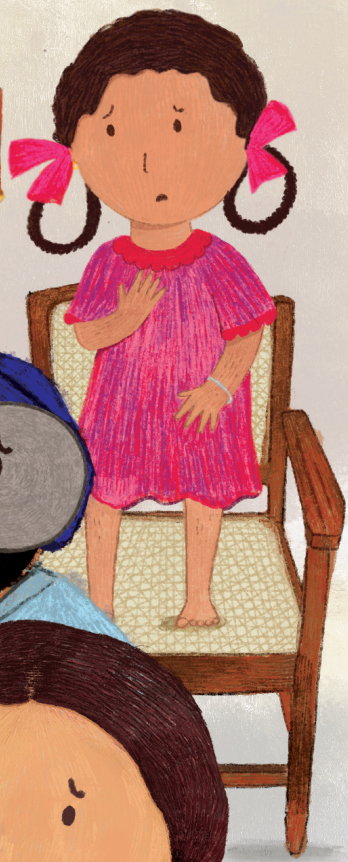
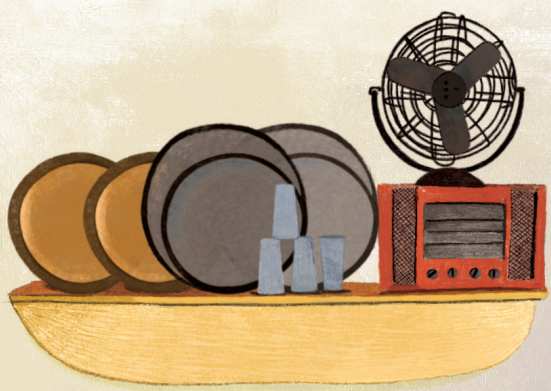
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‘Biji’s in the
kitchen!’
shouts
Bhaiya.

‘Biji’s in the kitchen?’ asks
Mama.

‘Oh! Biji’s in the kitchen . . .’
says Papa, his eyes as big and
round as the plates we eat on.



Should I say I have a tummy
ache? They'll feed me khichdi!



Shall I say my throat is hurting?
They'll give me haldi doodh!

But Biji's in the kitchen!

I need some excuse.

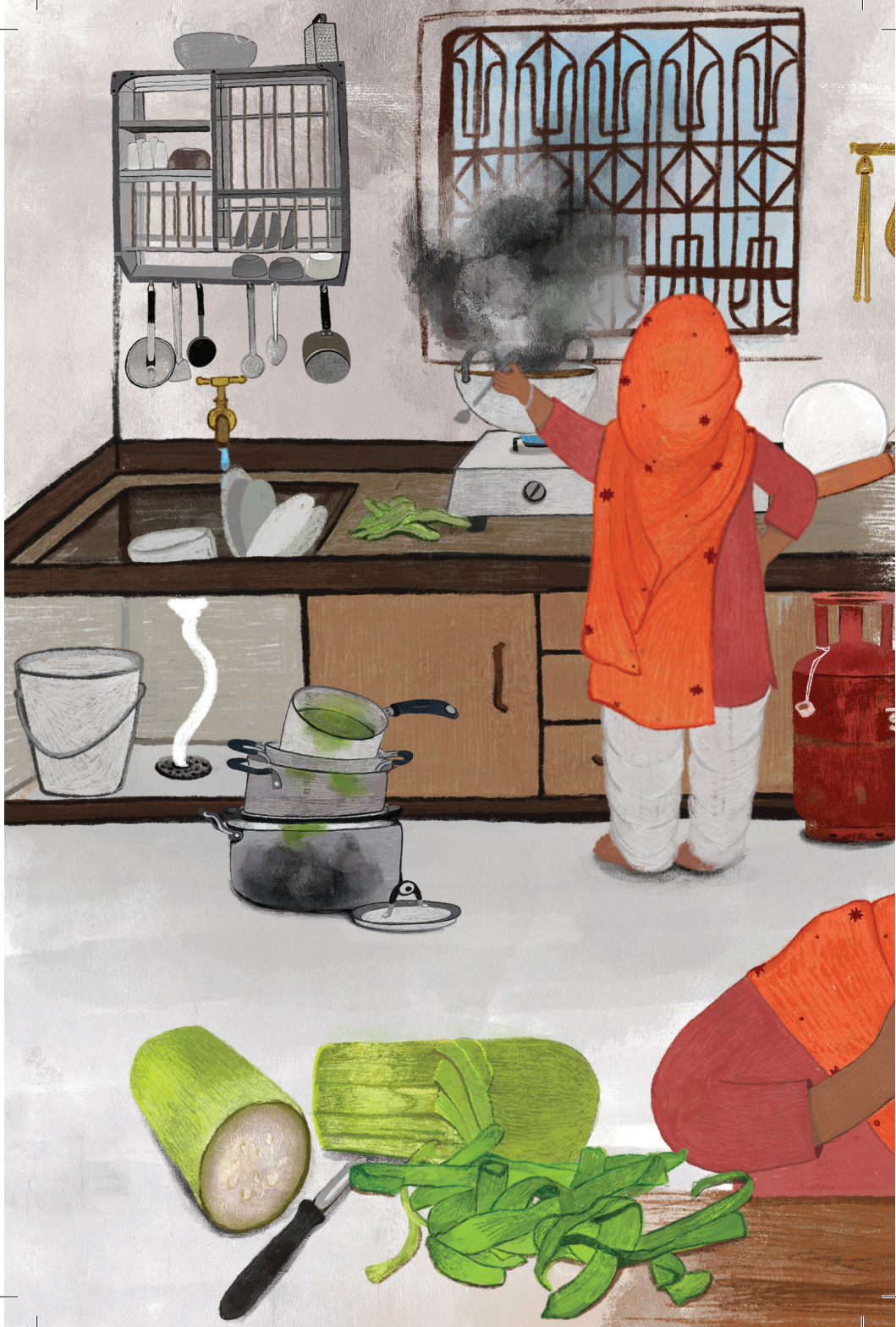


My friends' grandmothers cook yummy things. Suji ka halwa and fluffy pooris. Soft and buttery parathas. Slurpy bowls of sour kadhi and pakodas.

Most of what my Biji makes is hard to swallow.









Last week, Biji had made lauki halwa.

My teeth got stuck to each other because the halwa was so sweet and sticky. I held my breath, tried not to squish my face, swallowed a bite and quickly drank a glass of water.

‘Oh! That was **terrible!**’ said Biji after eating a plateful.

