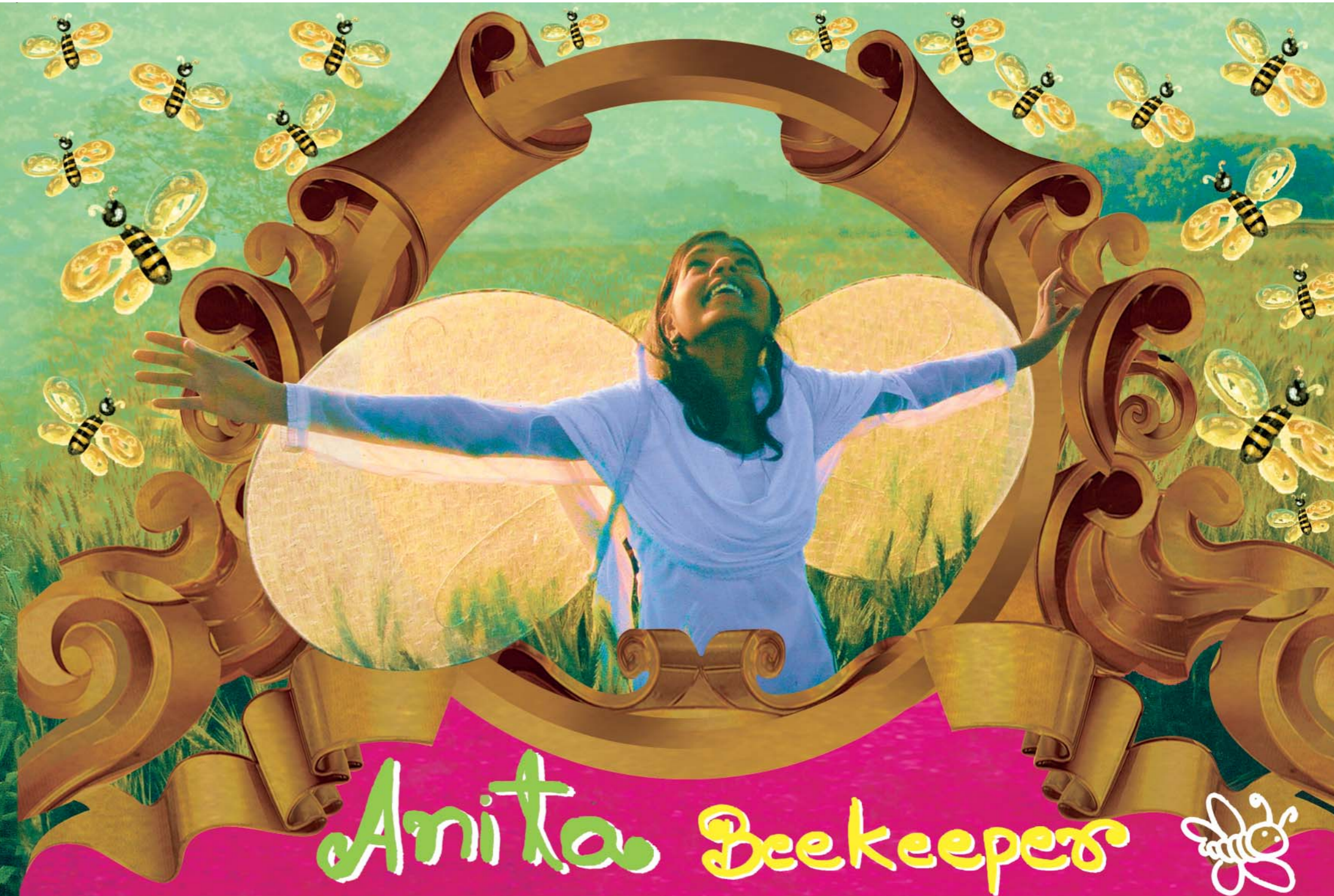


GIRL STARS

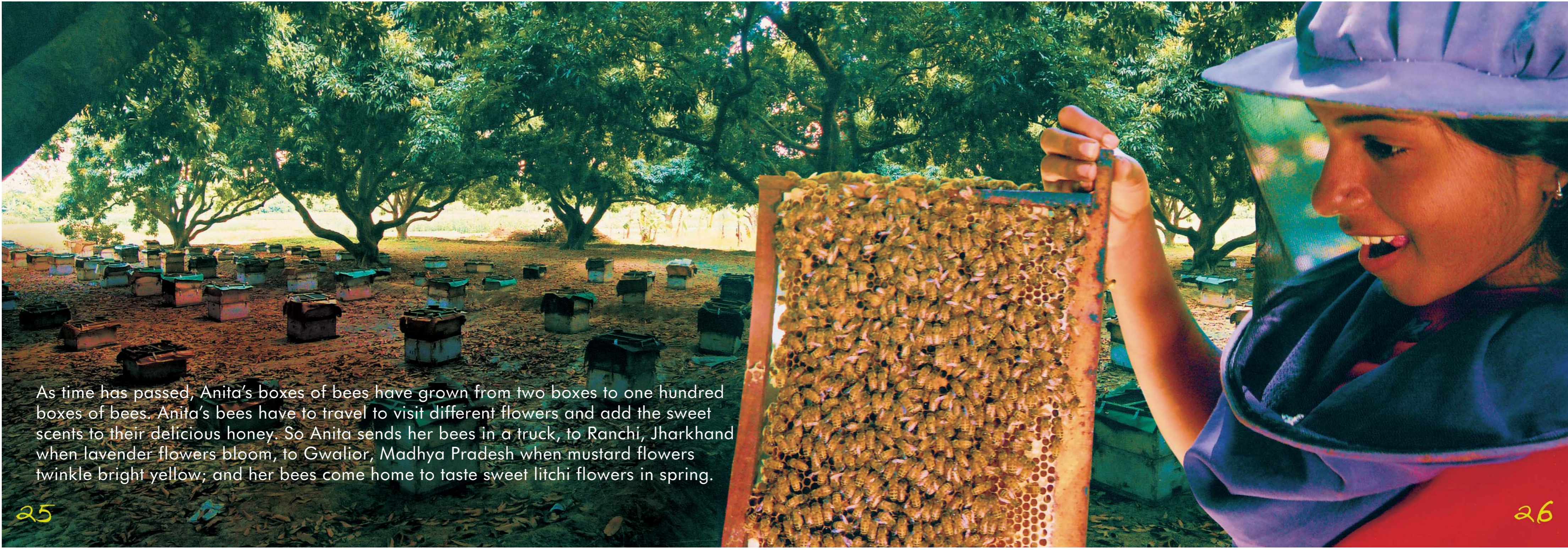


Anita Beekeepers

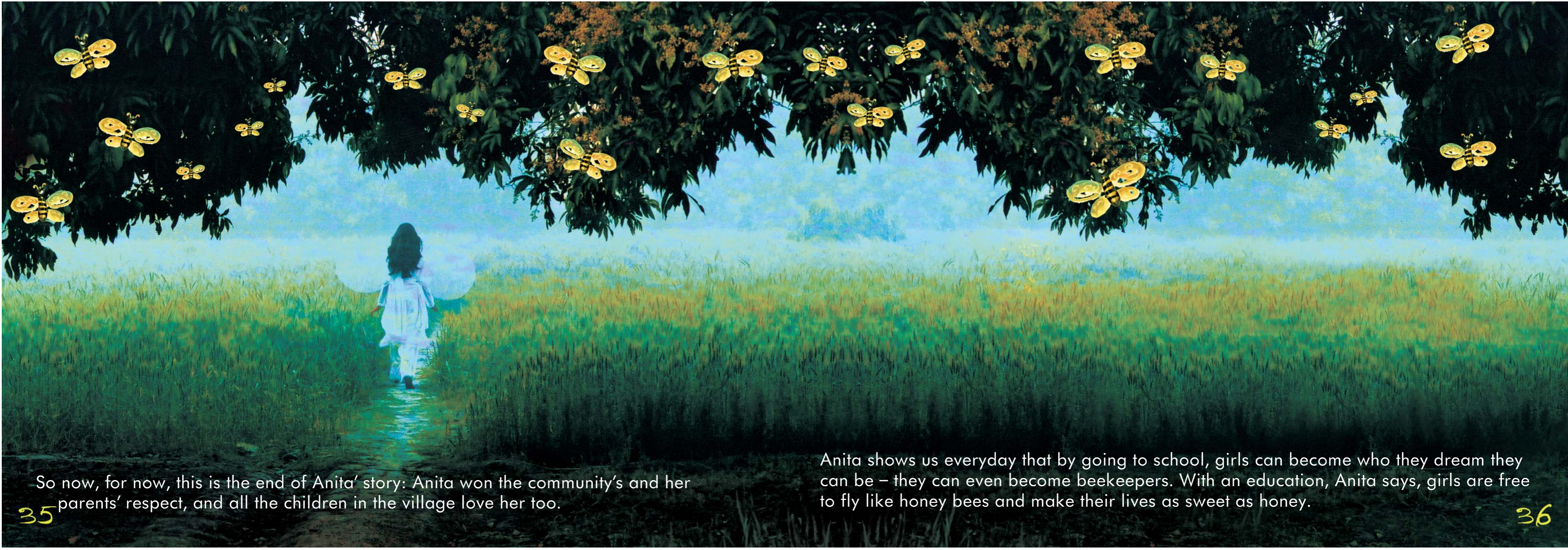




Then one day, a day that happens to many girls, Anita's parents tried to talk to her about getting married. Anita was 17 years old and she did not want to get married: she wanted to stay in school and continue making honey. So, to let her parents know just how she felt, she went on a hunger strike. For four days Anita pretended not to eat, while her parents went out to work in their fields. And, after a while Anita's parents could not bear to see Anita so sad. Anita won! She made her parents promise not to talk of marriage until she was 23 years old and had completed her post-graduation. After all, it is Anita's dream to get a college degree. At college, Anita is studying English literature and she is practising saying and writing big words.



As time has passed, Anita's boxes of bees have grown from two boxes to one hundred boxes of bees. Anita's bees have to travel to visit different flowers and add the sweet scents to their delicious honey. So Anita sends her bees in a truck, to Ranchi, Jharkhand when lavender flowers bloom, to Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh when mustard flowers twinkle bright yellow; and her bees come home to taste sweet litchi flowers in spring.



So now, for now, this is the end of Anita's story: Anita won the community's and her parents' respect, and all the children in the village love her too.

Anita shows us everyday that by going to school, girls can become who they dream they can be – they can even become beekeepers. With an education, Anita says, girls are free to fly like honey bees and make their lives as sweet as honey.



