

By Chandrama Paul

A Graphic Novel

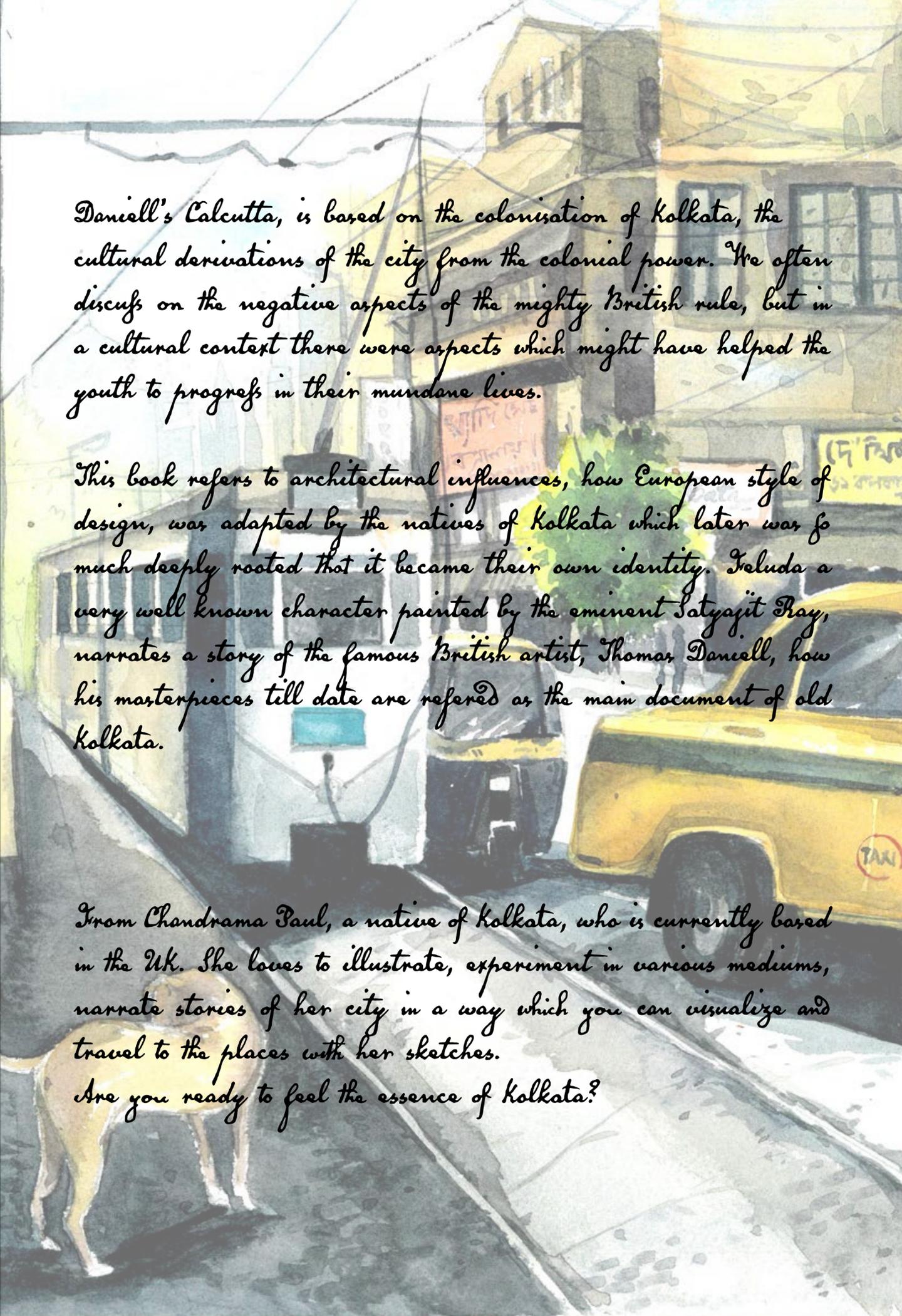
Daniell's Calcutta

Daniell's Calcutta, is based on the colonisation of Kolkata, the cultural derivations of the city from the colonial power. We often discuss on the negative aspects of the mighty British rule, but in a cultural context there were aspects which might have helped the youth to progress in their mundane lives.

This book refers to architectural influences, how European style of design, was adapted by the natives of Kolkata which later was so much deeply rooted that it became their own identity. Includes a very well known character painted by the eminent Satyajit Ray, narrates a story of the famous British artist, Thomas Daniell, how his masterpieces till date are referred as the main document of old Kolkata.

From Chandrama Paul, a native of Kolkata, who is currently based in the UK. She loves to illustrate, experiment in various mediums, narrate stories of her city in a way which you can visualize and travel to the places with her sketches.

Are you ready to feel the essence of Kolkata?



Daniell's Calcutta

by

Chandrama Paul

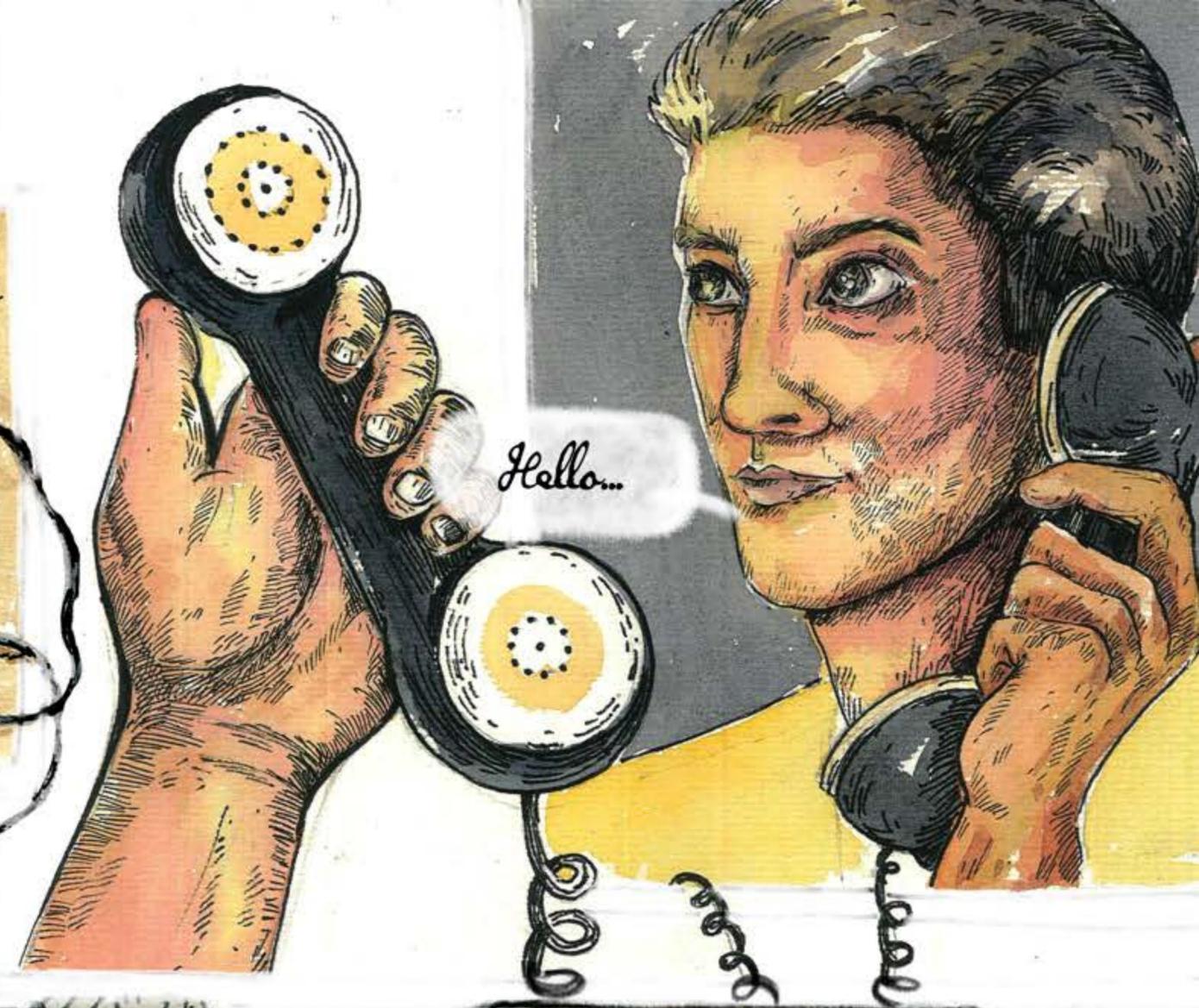
The story opens in the present Kolkata, where an antique painting of Thomas Daniell, one of the main documenters during the British Colonial era, is seen in a mansion.

The story unfolds telling the stories and various cultural influences of the colonial culture, which were imbibed into the natives so deep that those traditions have now become the identity of the city of Kolkata.

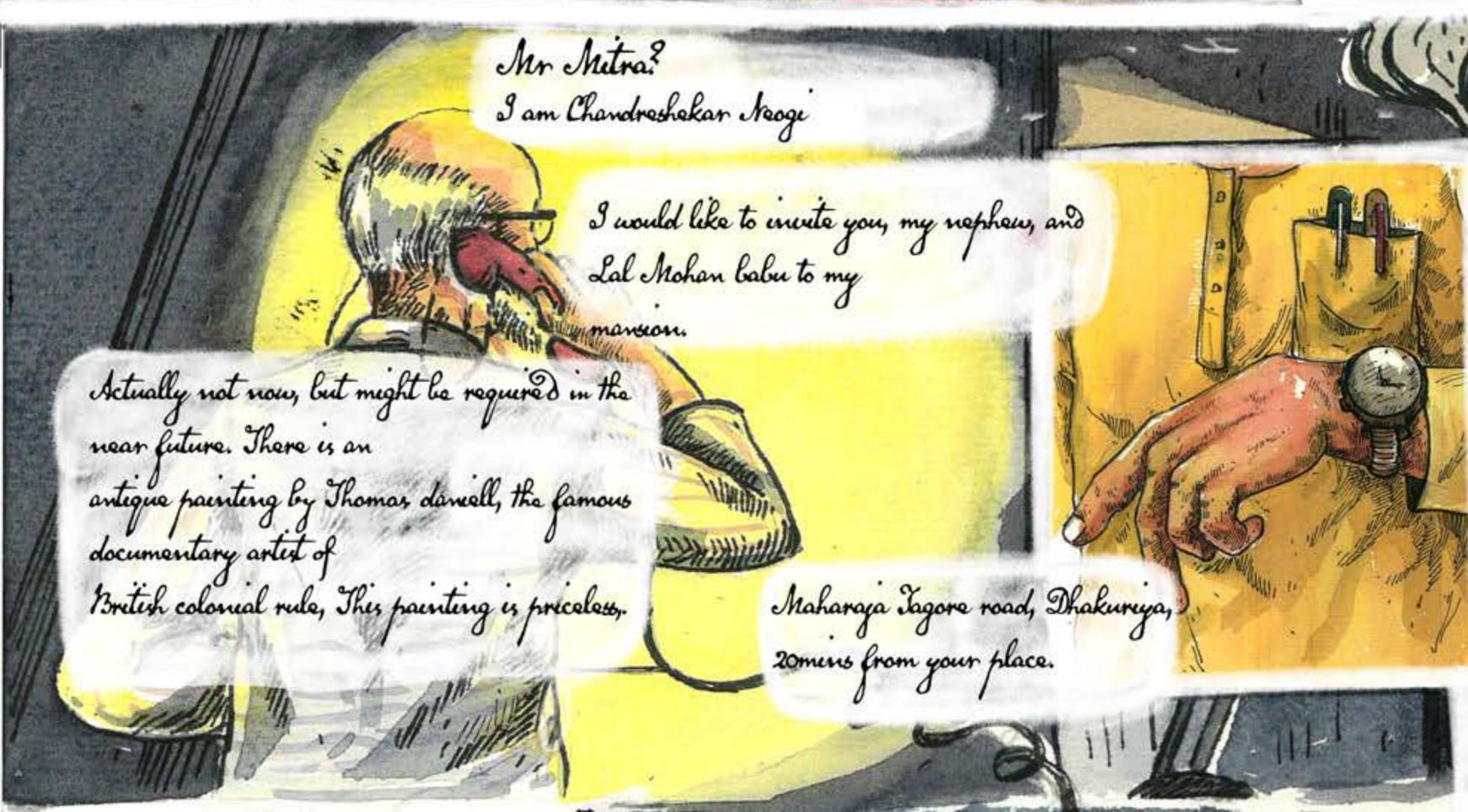
The main pillars of the novel, Feluda (Pradash Mitra), Topshe (Tapesh Ranjan Mitra) and Jatayu (Lal Mohan Ganguly), are the renowned characters illustrated by the eminent Satyajit Ray. This is a tribute from an all-time fan, of the brilliant artist and filmmaker, whose works have always played an important role in Indian cinema.



Ring... Ring...



Hello...

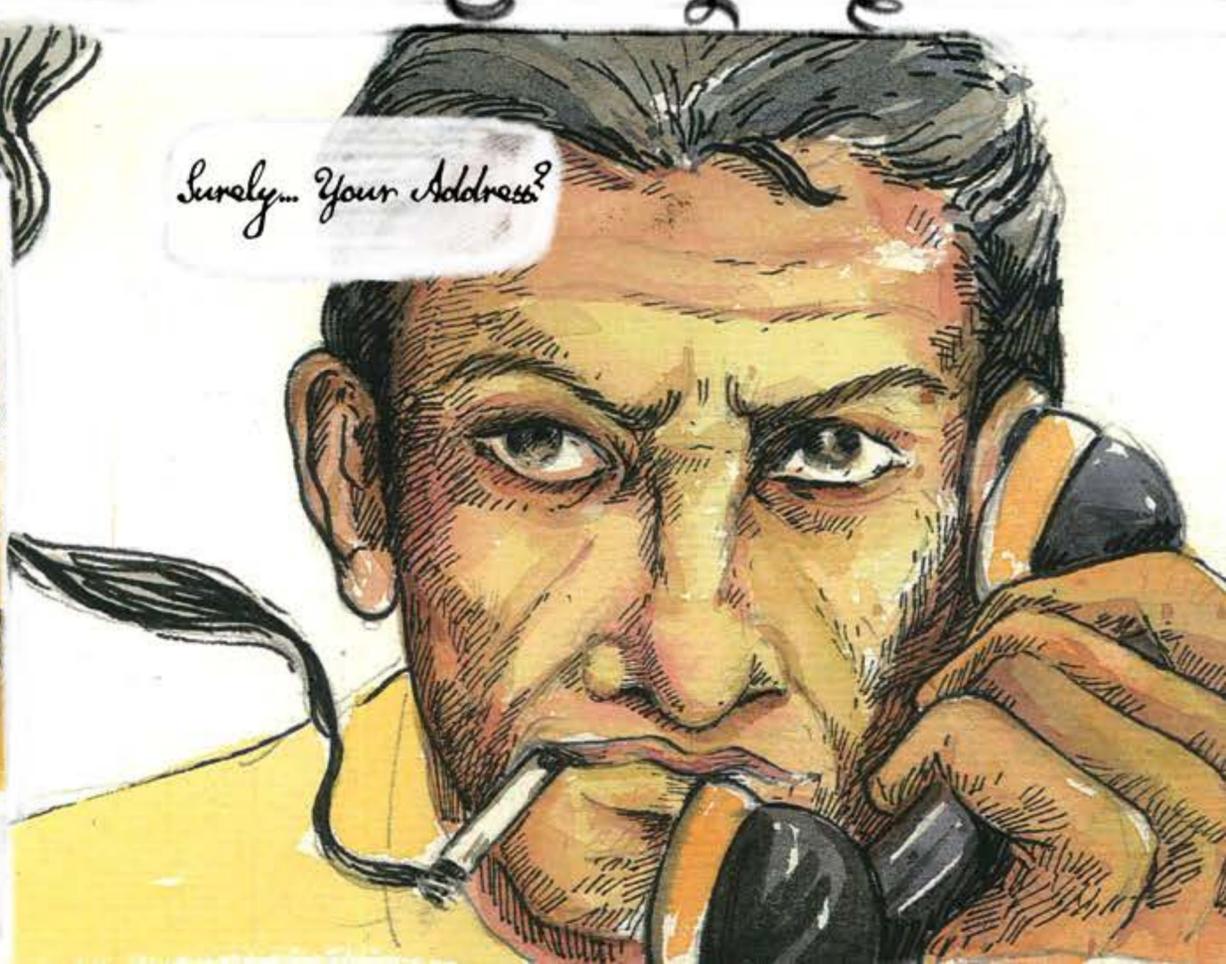


Mr Mitra?
I am Chandreshkar Arogi

I would like to invite you, my nephews, and
Lal Mohan babu to my
mansion.

Actually not now, but might be required in the
near future. There is an
antique painting by Thomas Daniell, the famous
documentary artist of
British colonial rule, This painting is priceless.

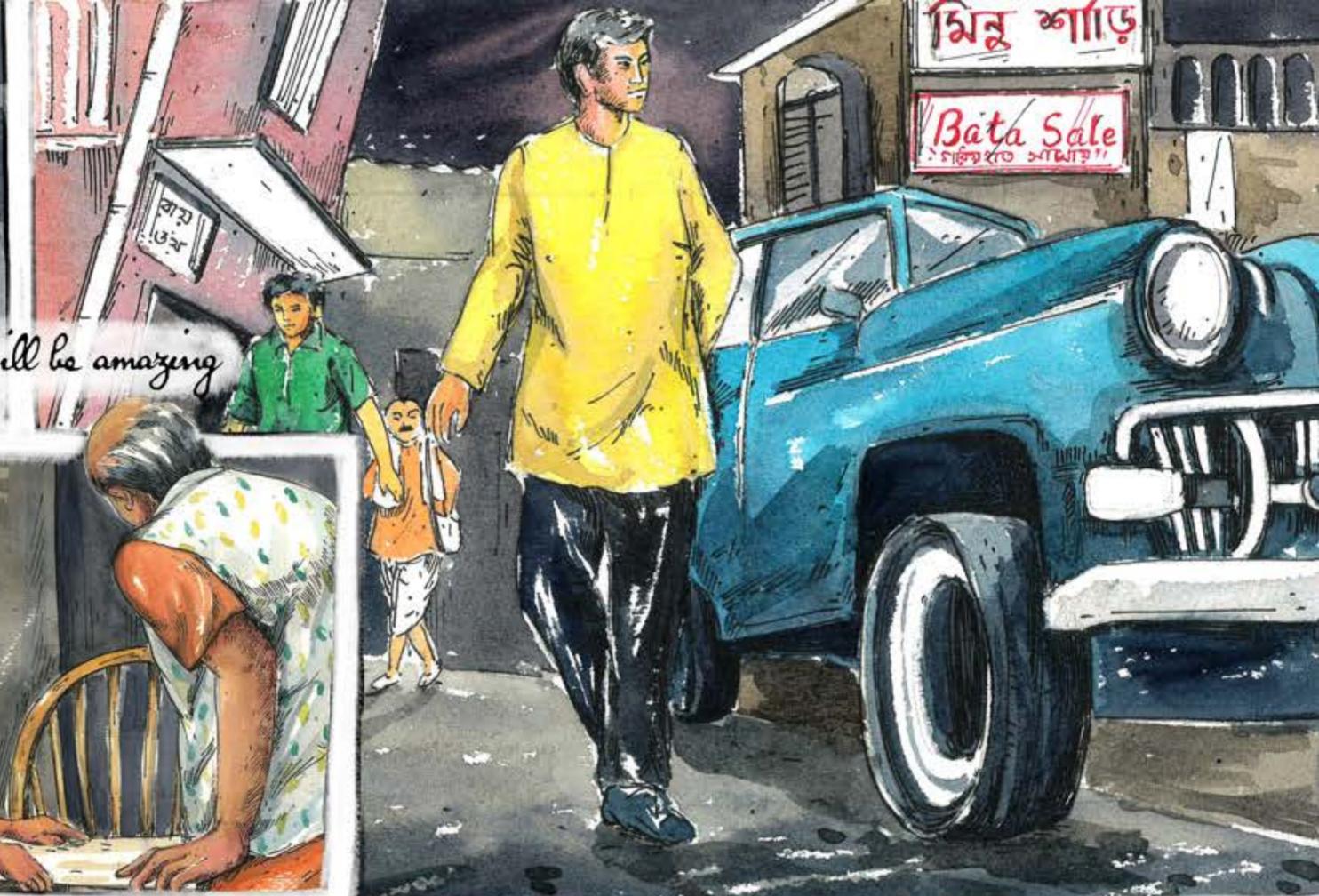
Maharaja Jagore road, Dhakuriya,
20mins from your place.



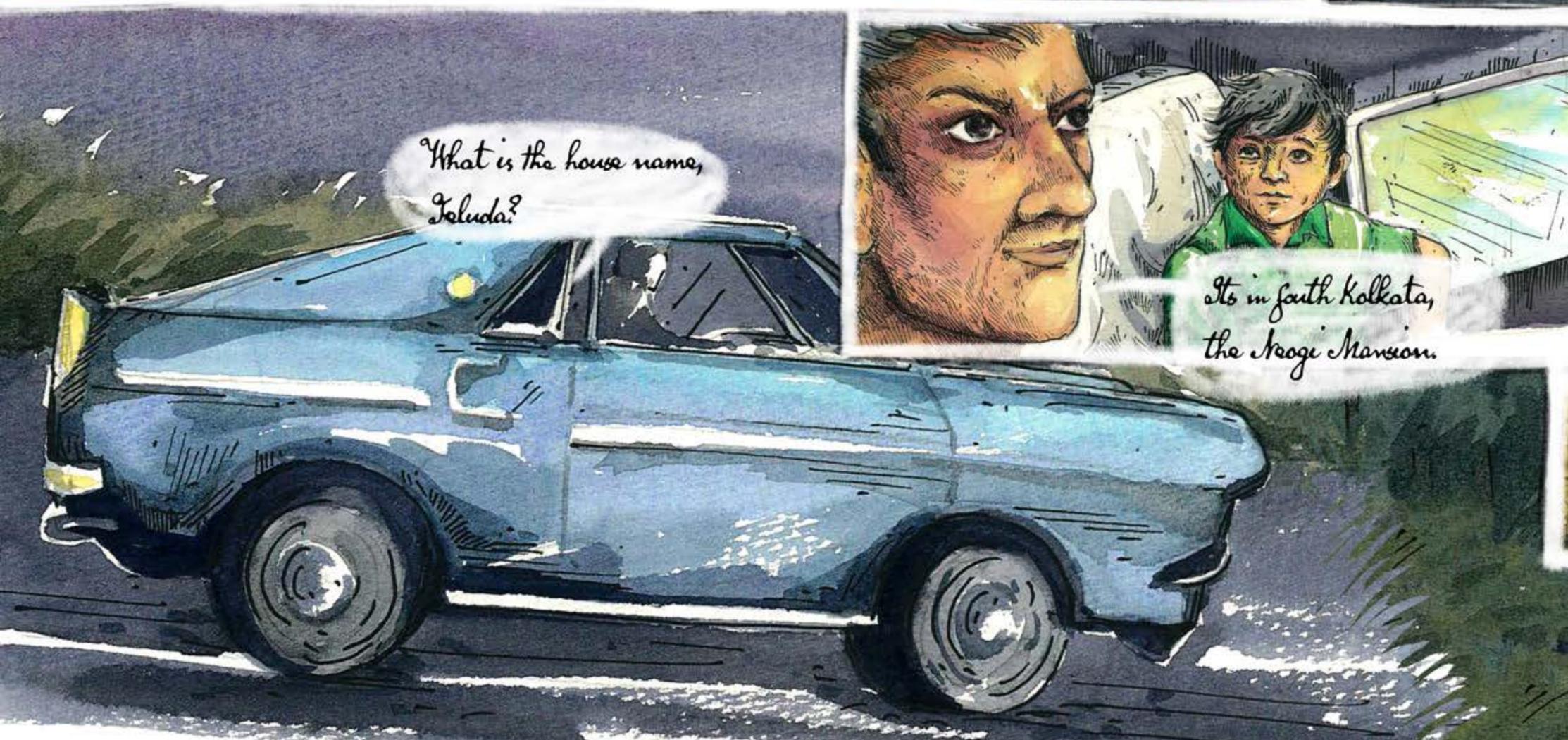
Surely... Your Address?



Topshe and Lal Mohan Babu, he free tomorrow evening, will go to a famous mansion, to see a very important piece of art to describe old Kolkata.



Ofcourse, it will be amazing



What is the house name, Teluda?



Its in south Kolkata, the Noori Mansion.



Here we came...

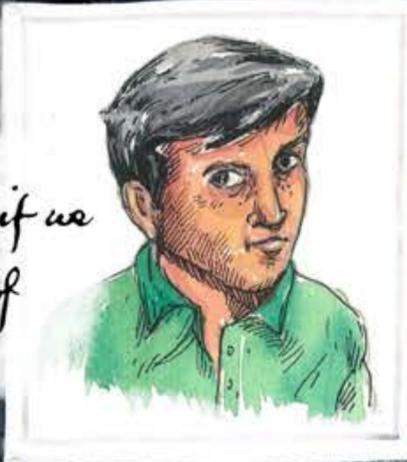


Oh... Lovely!!!

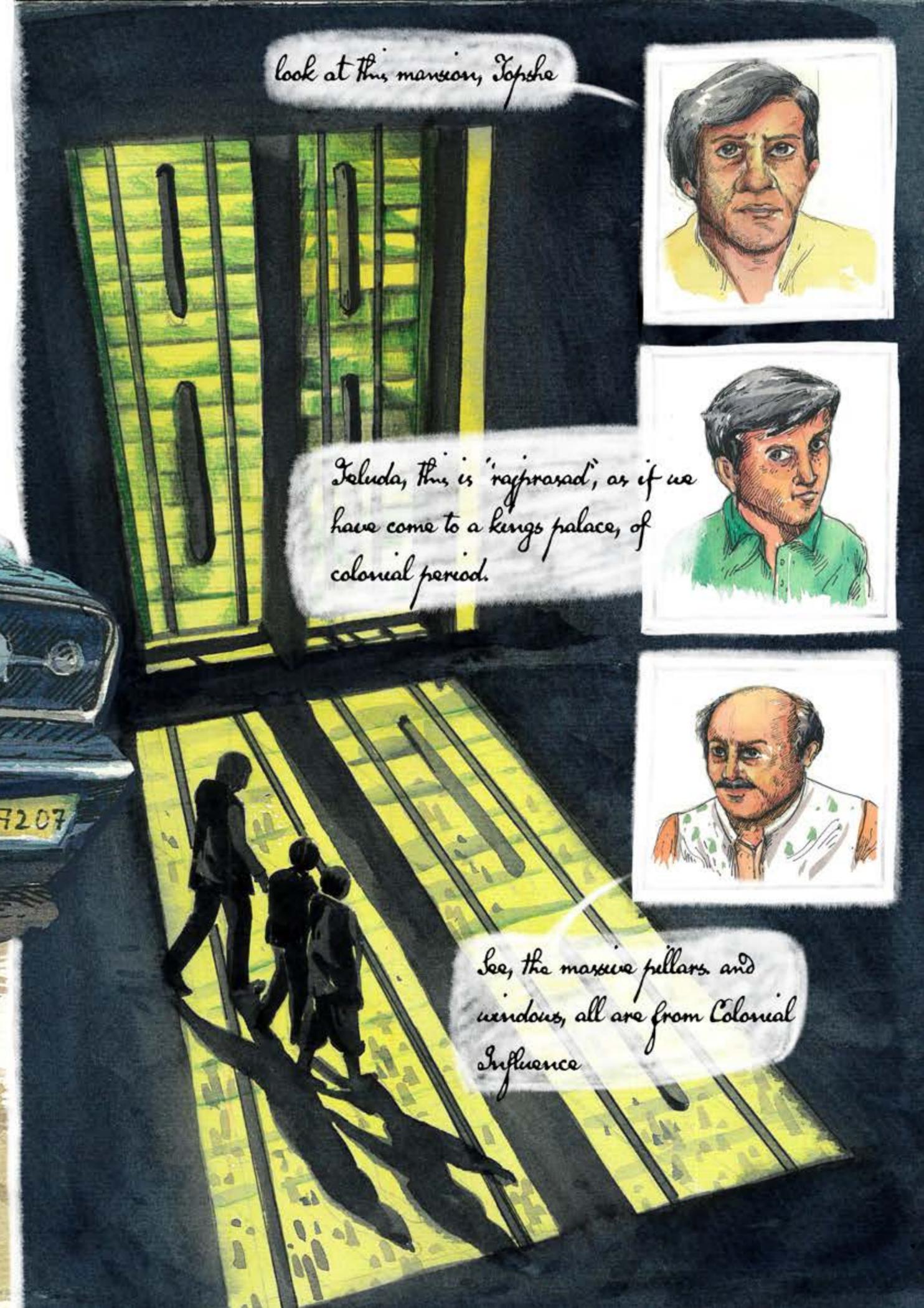
look at this mansion, Topsha

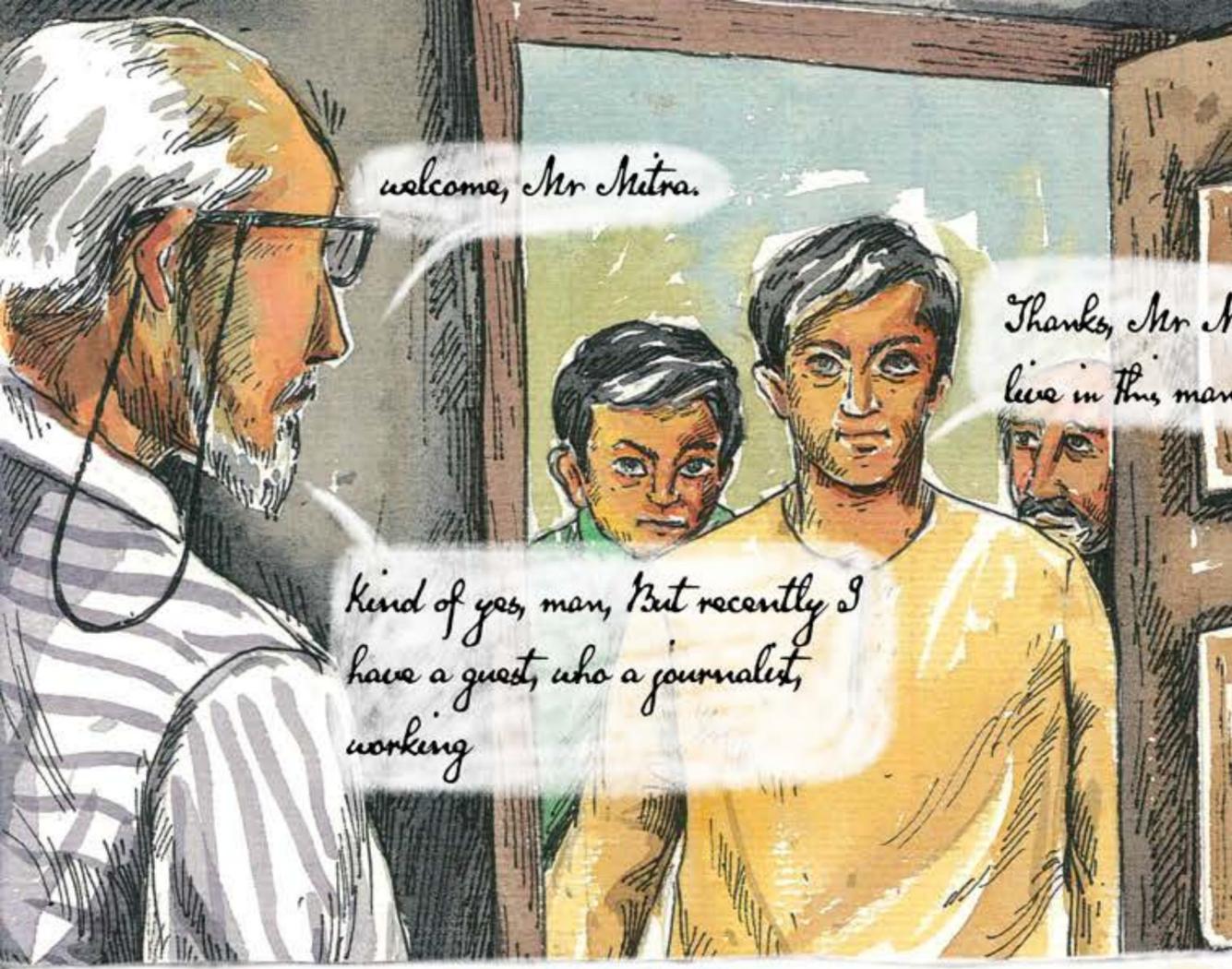


Teluda, this is 'rajprasad', as if we have come to a kings palace, of colonial period.



See, the massive pillars and windows, all are from Colonial Influence

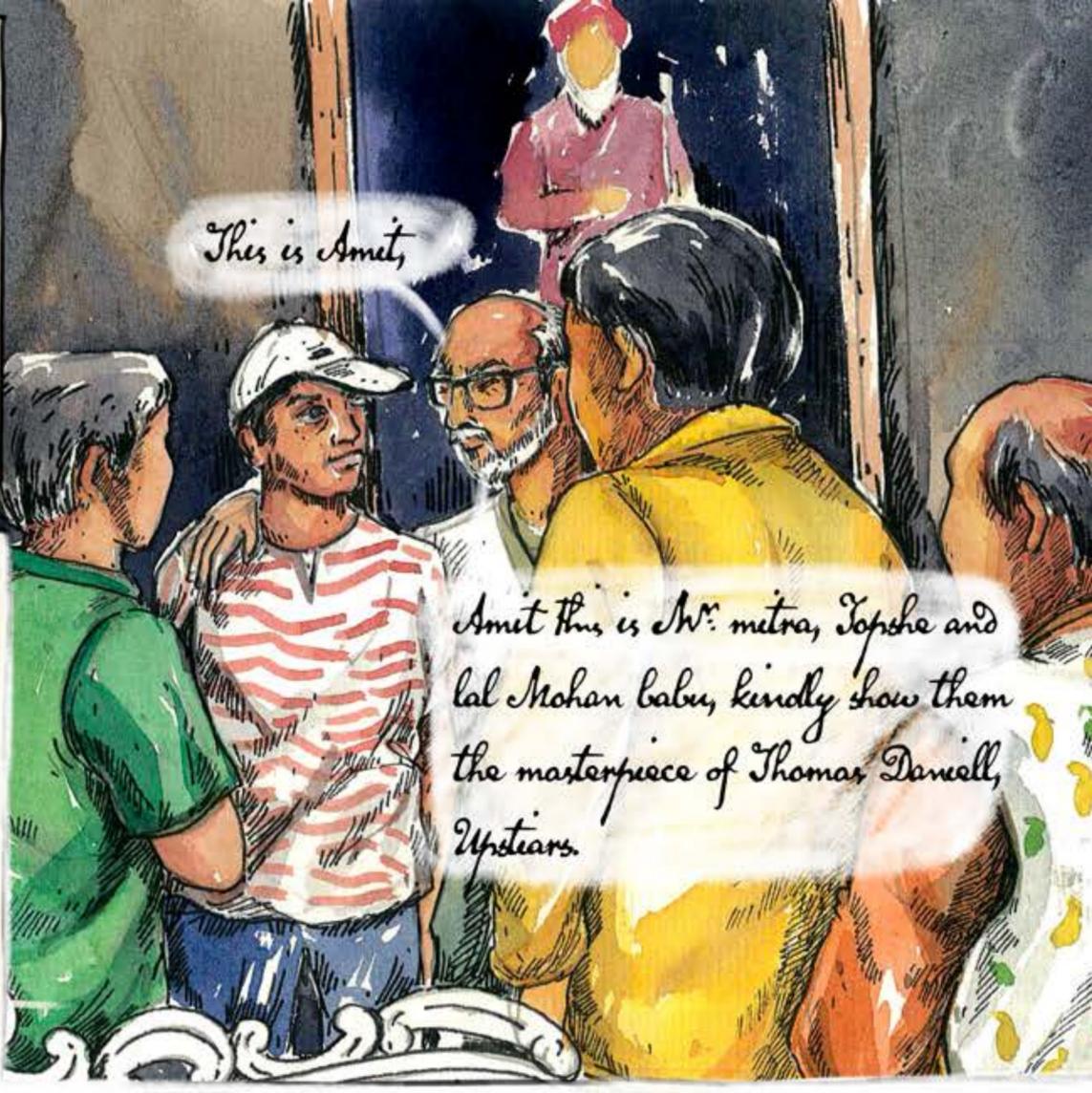
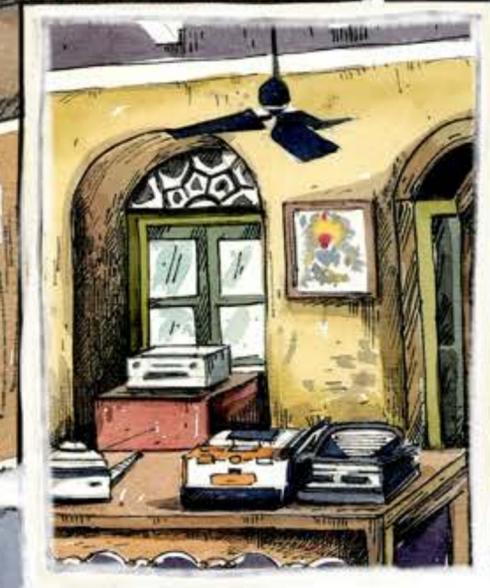
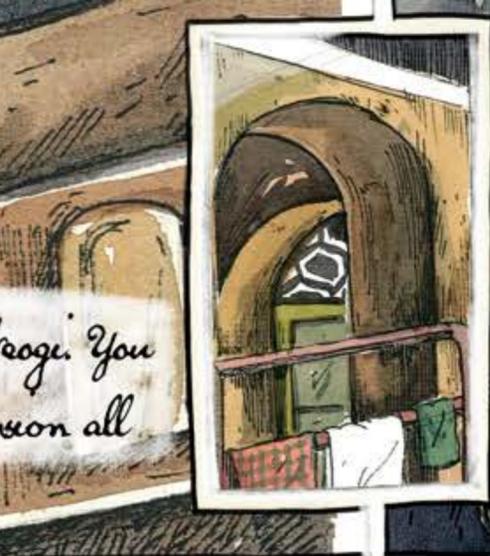




welcome, Mr Mitra.

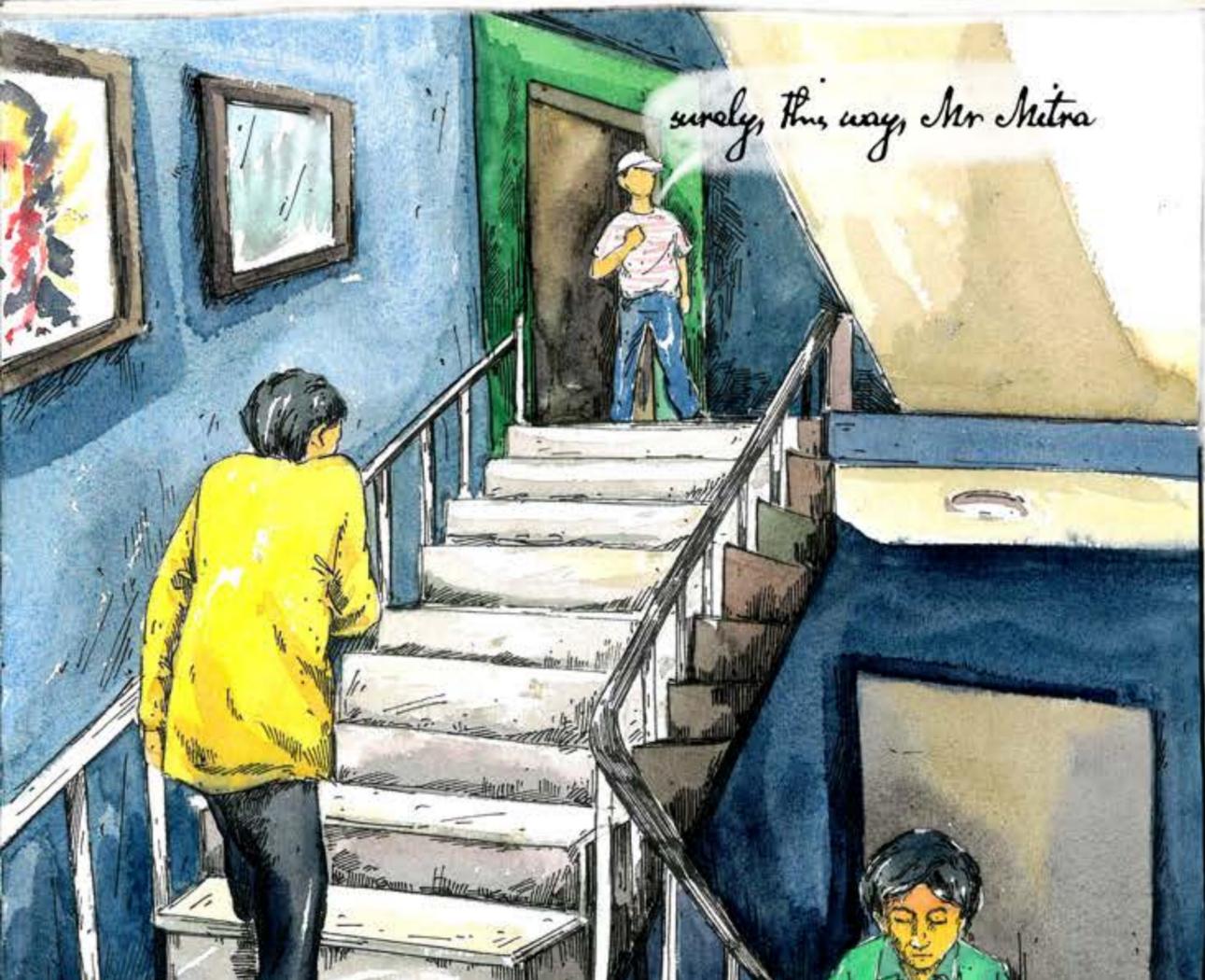
Thanks, Mr Krage. You live in this mansion all

Kind of yes, man, But recently I have a guest, who a journalist, working



This is Amit,

Amit this is Mr. mitra, Topsho and Lal Mohan babu, kindly show them the masterpiece of Thomas Daniell, Upstairs.

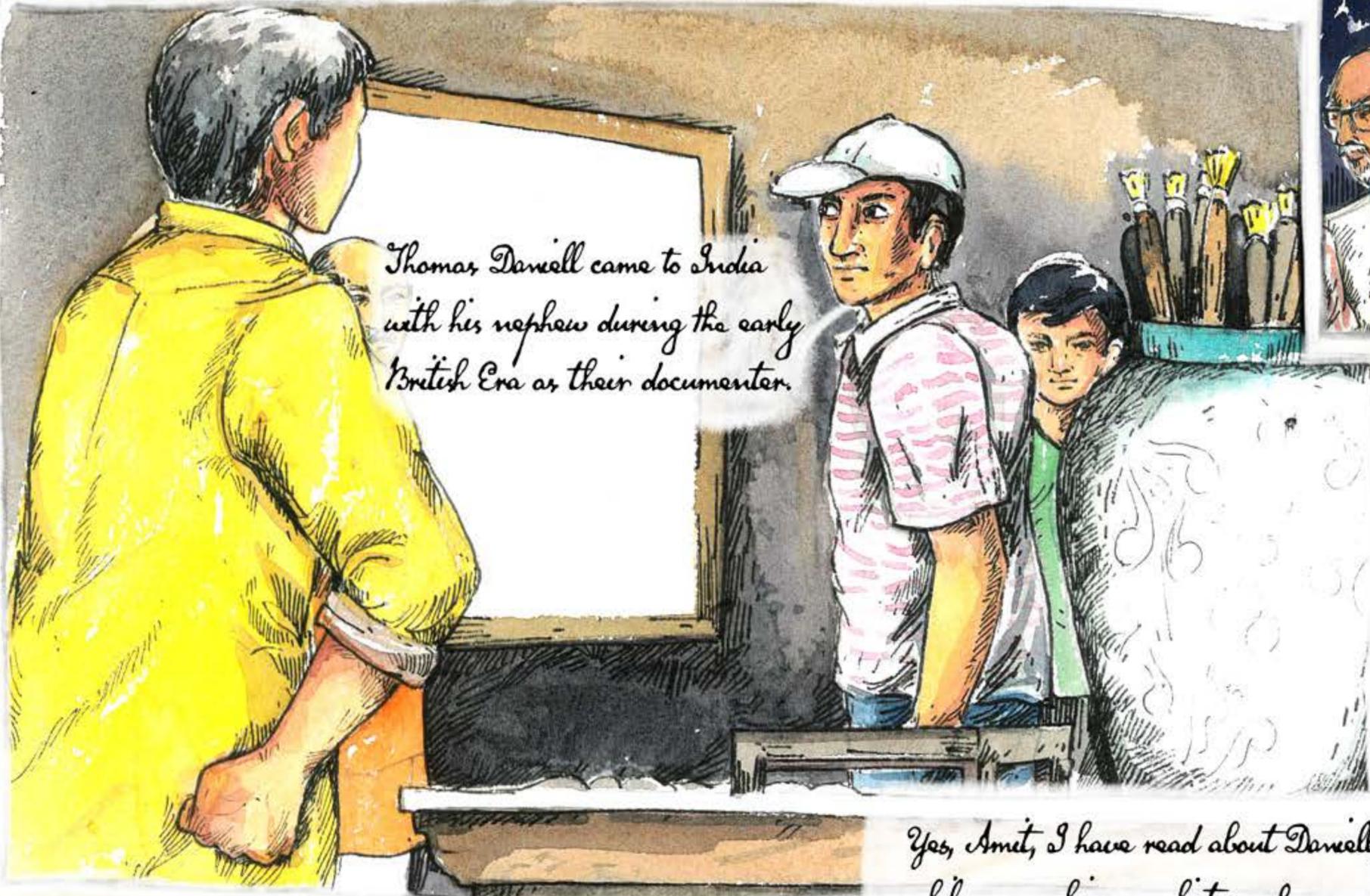


surely, this way, Mr Mitra

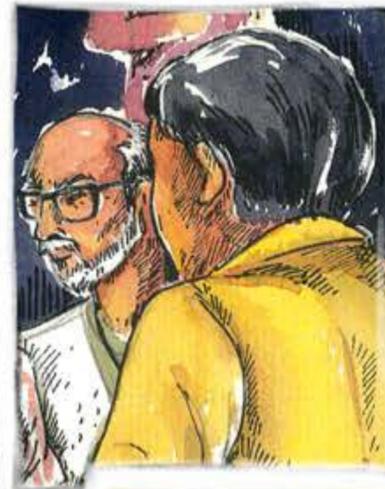


Spectacular!!!

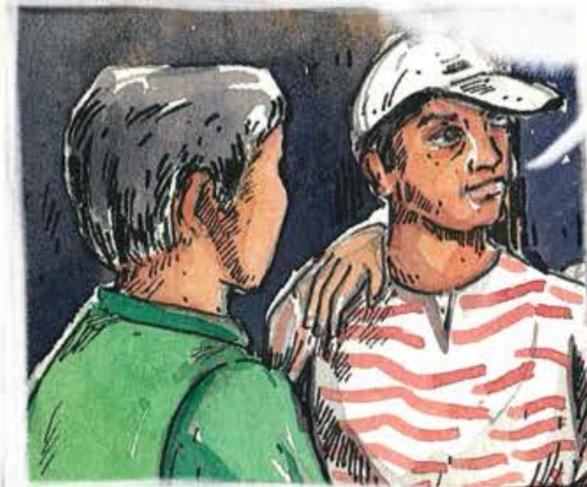




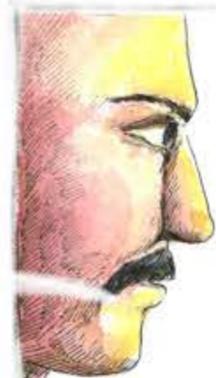
Thomas Daniell came to India with his nephew during the early British Era as their documenter.



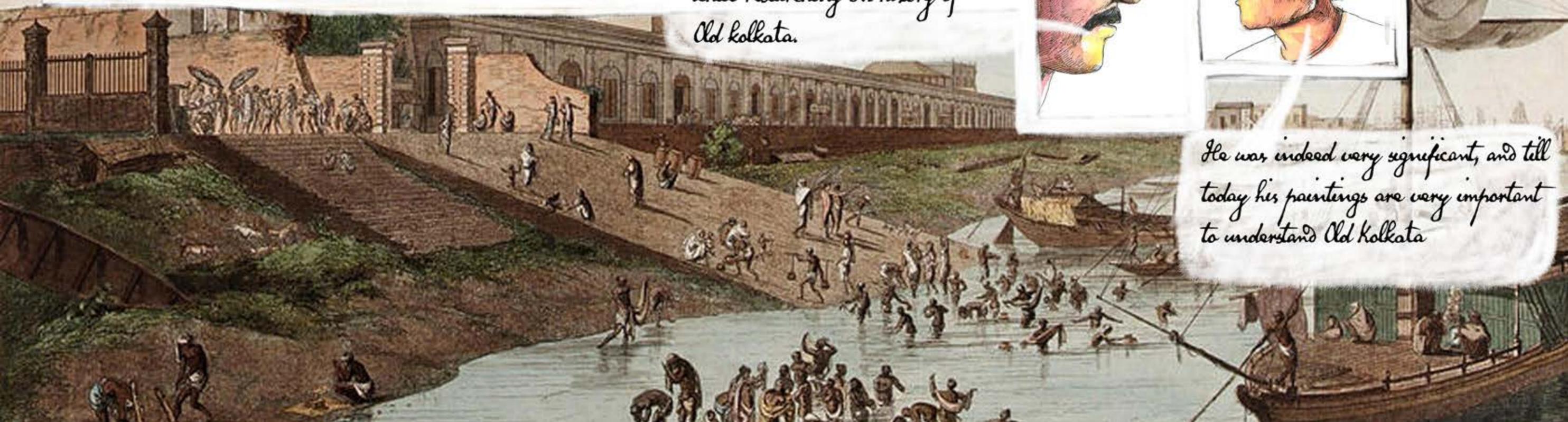
He did 12 masterpieces of Old Kolkata, among which this is one of those masterpieces of the series

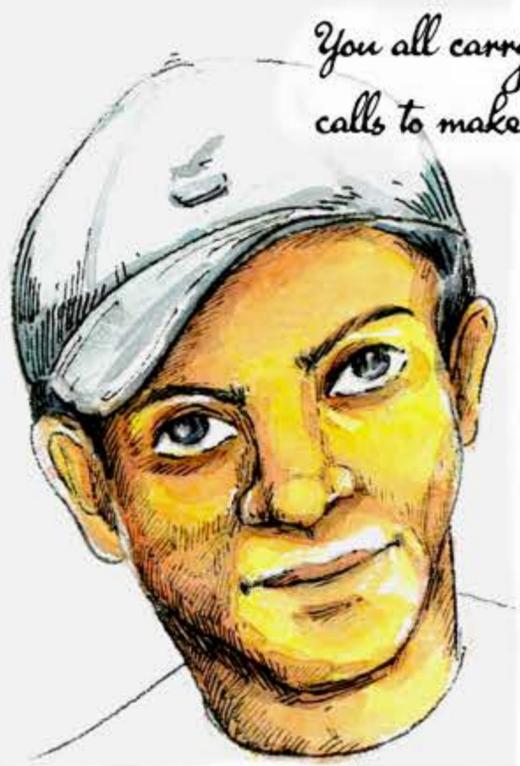


Yes, Amit, I have read about Daniell, while researching on history of Old Kolkata.

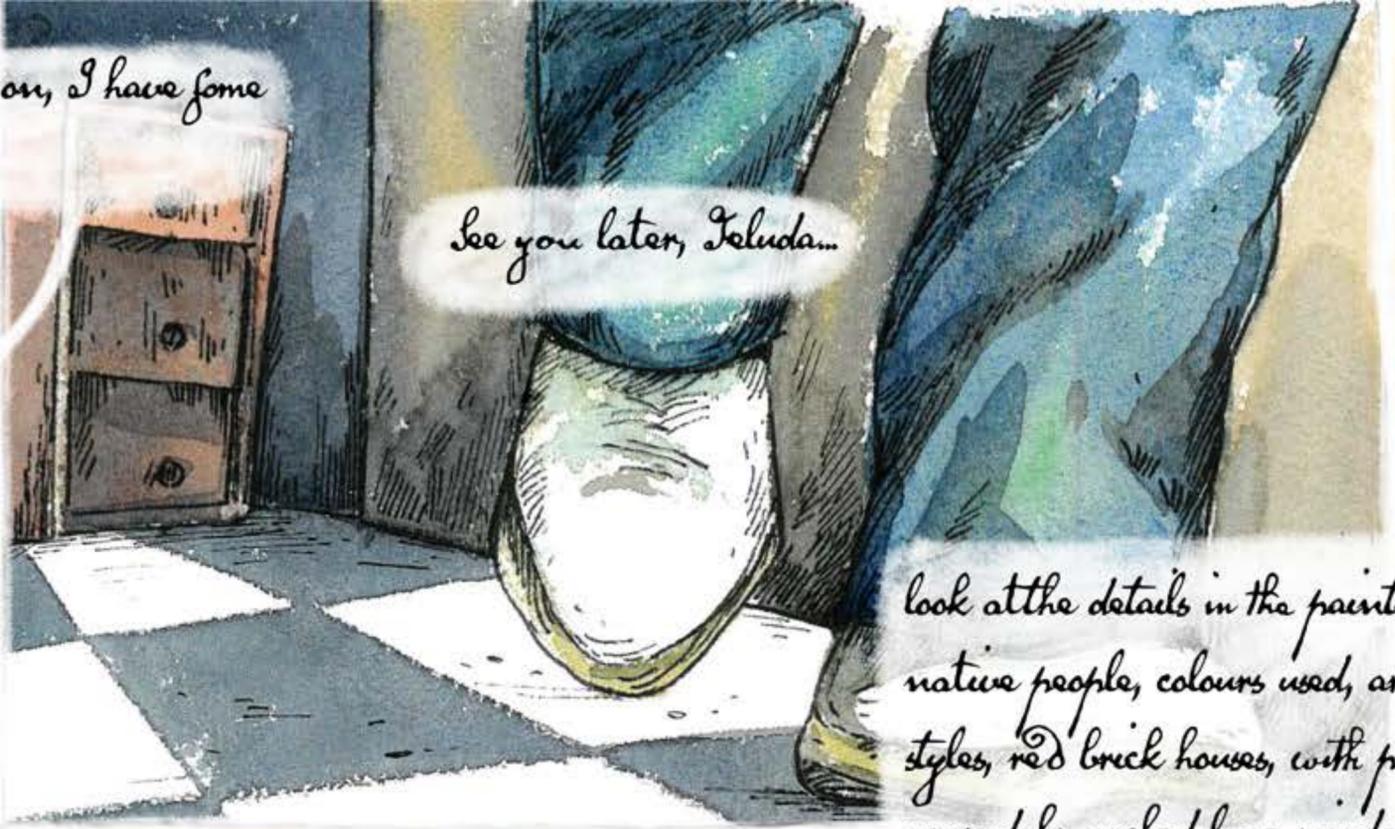


He was indeed very significant, and till today his paintings are very important to understand Old Kolkata





You all carry on, I have some calls to make

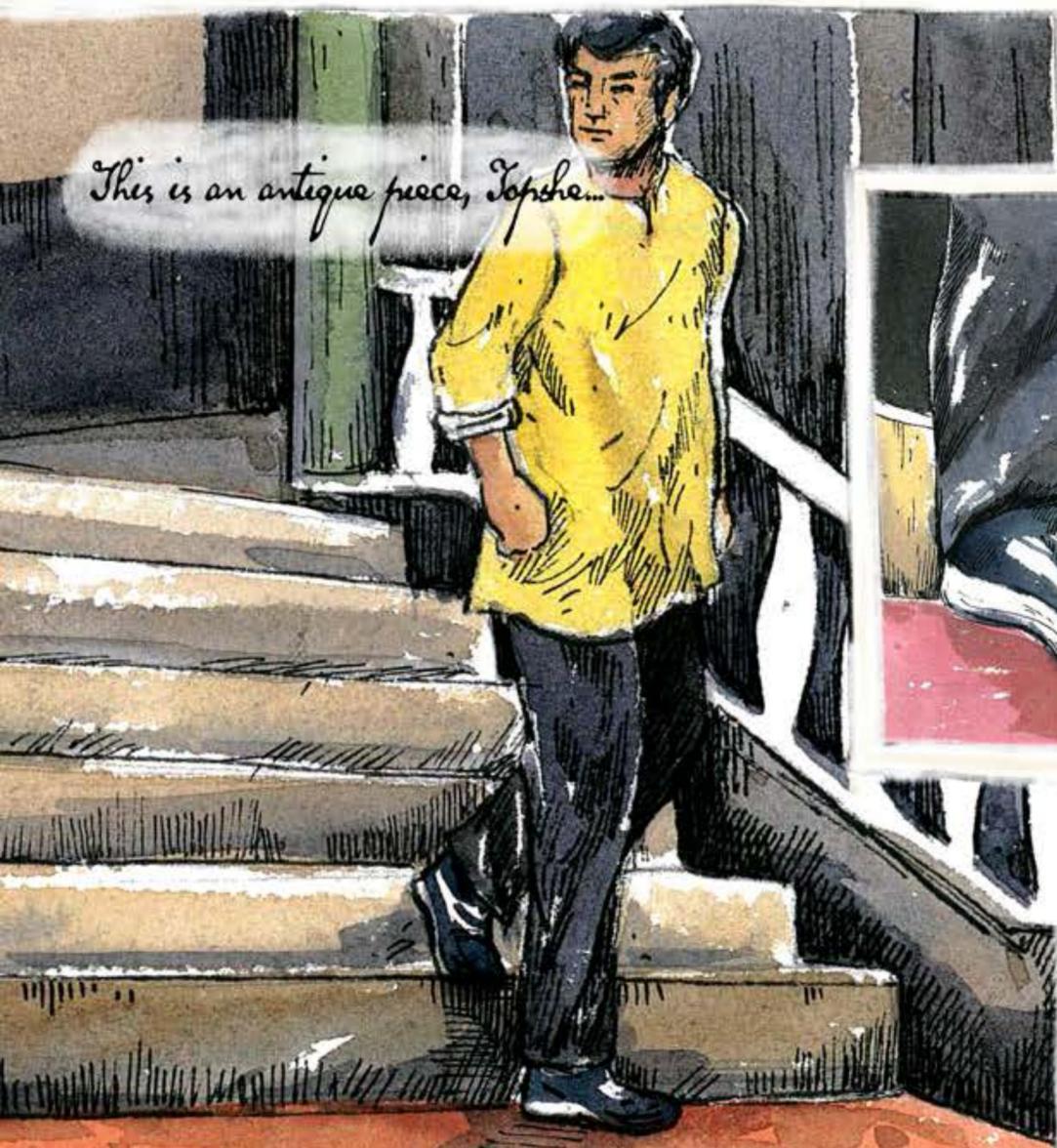


See you later, Teludam

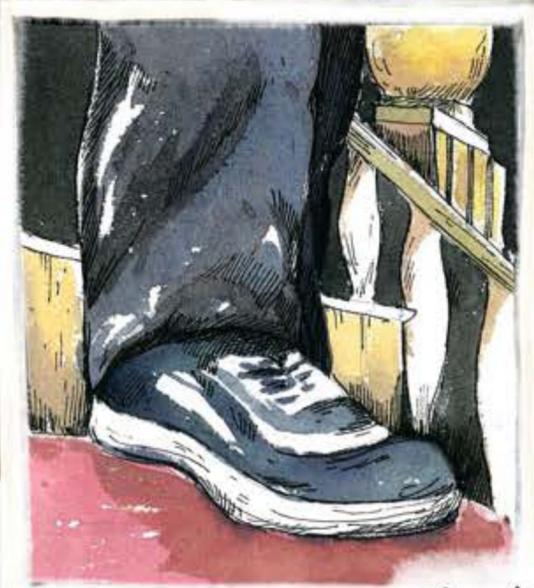


look at the details in the painting, the native people, colours used, architectural styles, red brick houses, with pillar verandahs, arched long windows, the European style of architectural designs

how this colonialism inspired architectural structures, its designs, changed and got more planned and structured.



This is an antique piece, Topshem

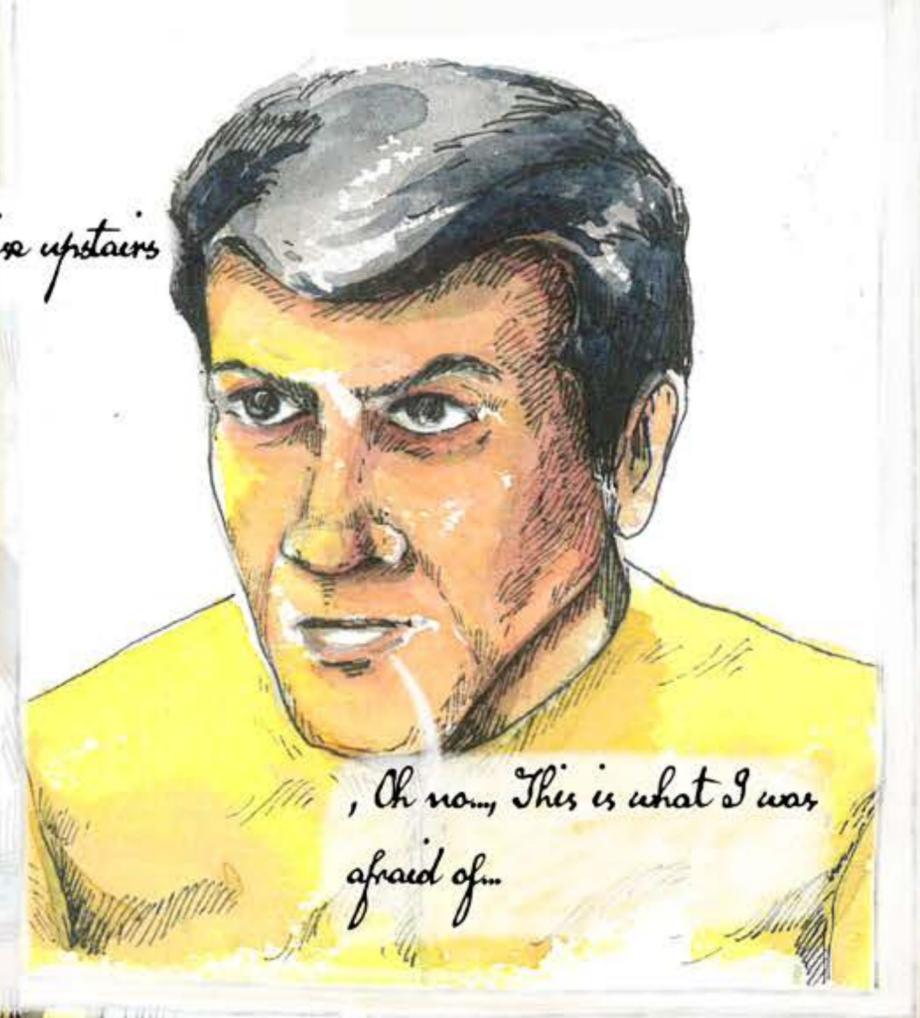


Oh... Masala Tea and Samosas!!





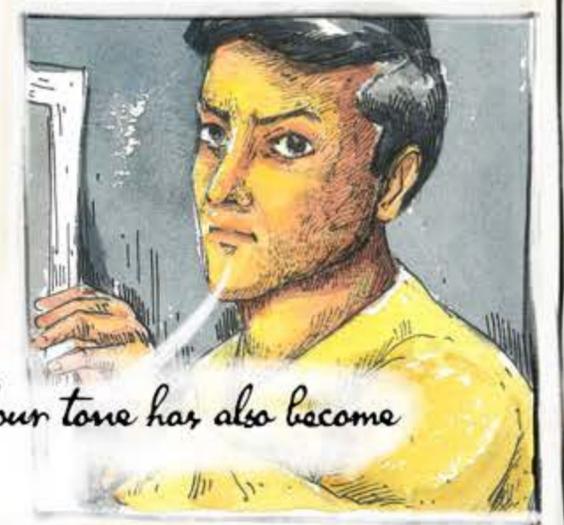
what is the noise upstairs



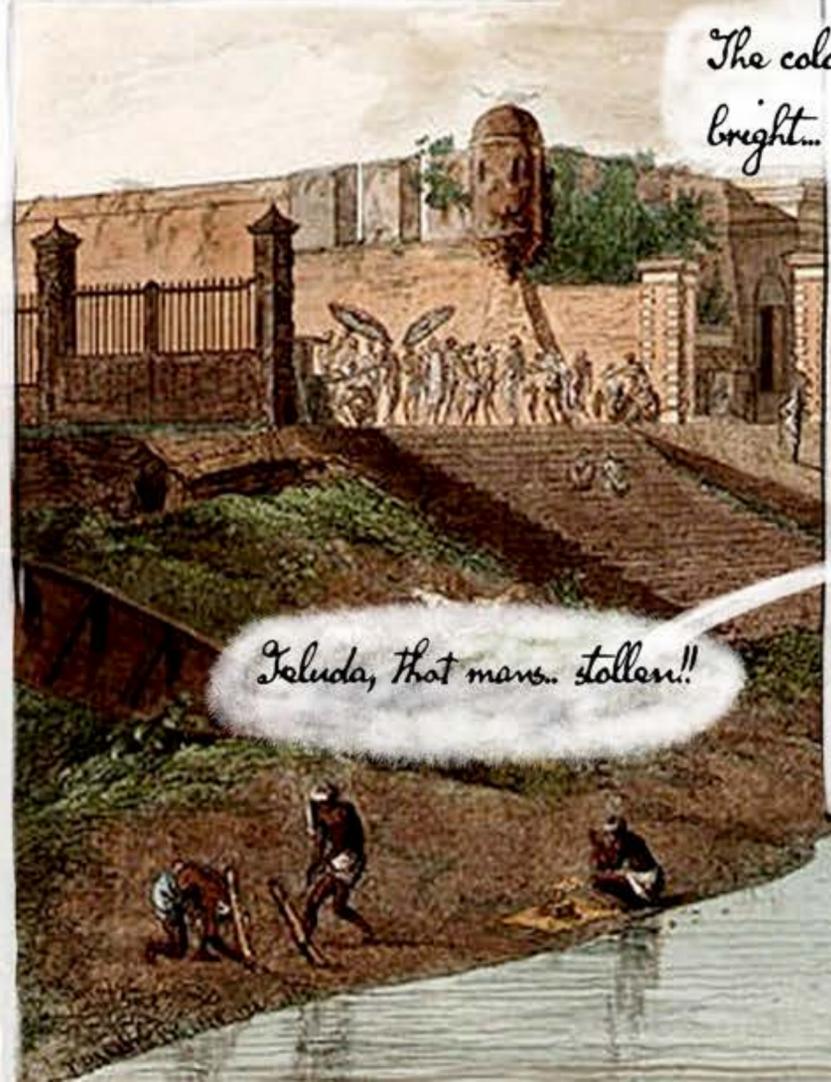
, Oh no... This is what I was afraid of...



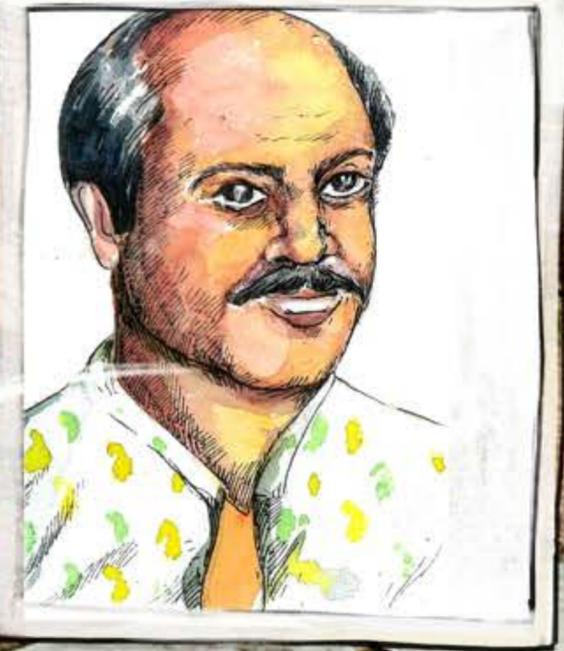
Green flies???



The colour tone has also become bright...



Jeluda, that mans.. tollan!!



Now what, Mr
Metra?

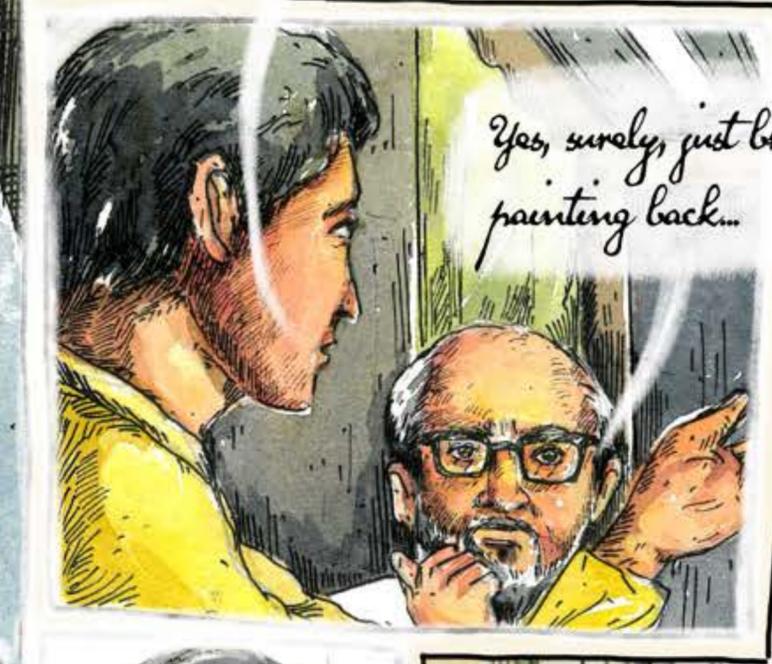
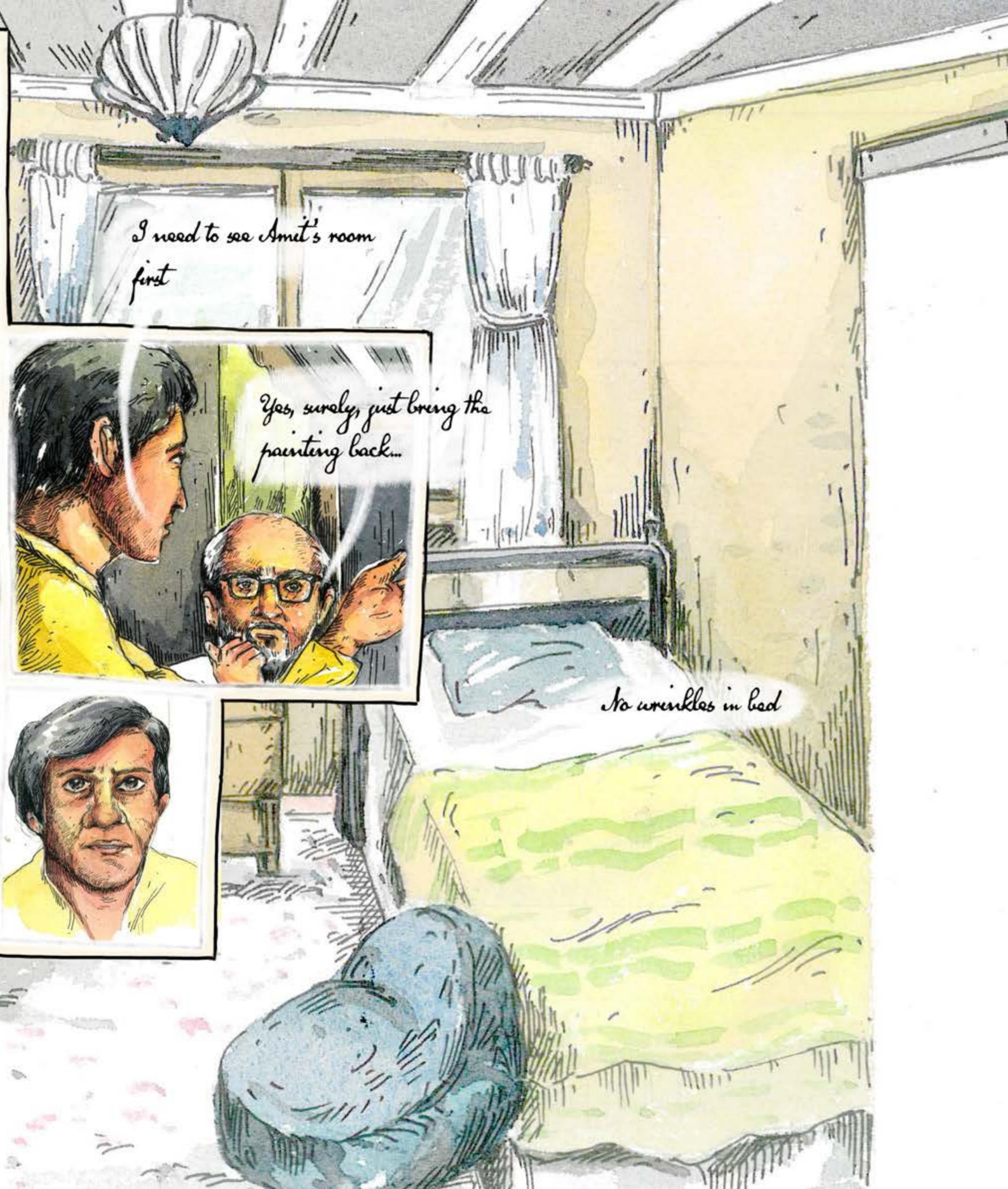
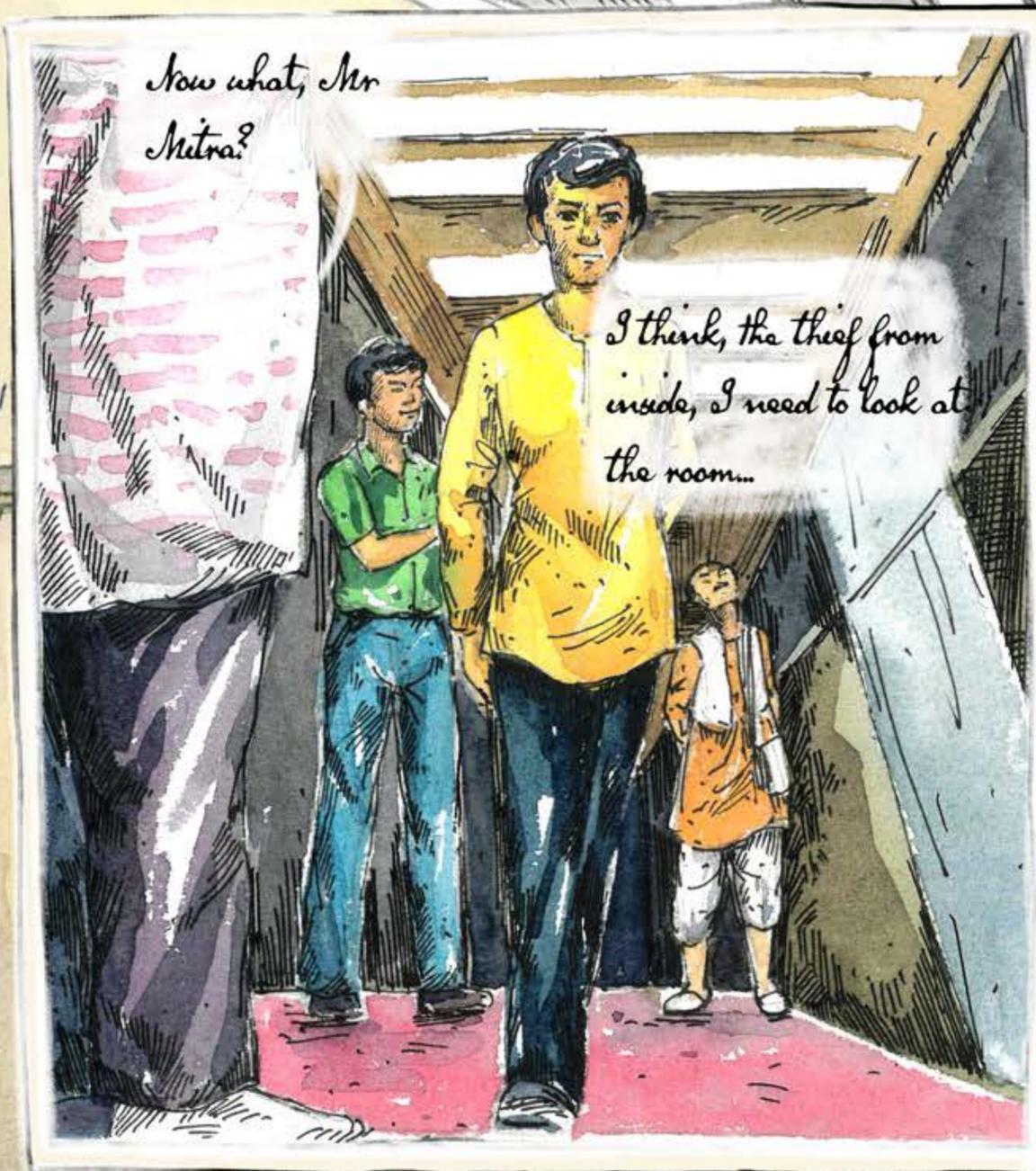
I think, the thief from
inside, I need to look at
the room...

I need to see Amit's room
first

Yes, surely, just bring the
painting back...

No wrinkles in bed

His shoe is also missing

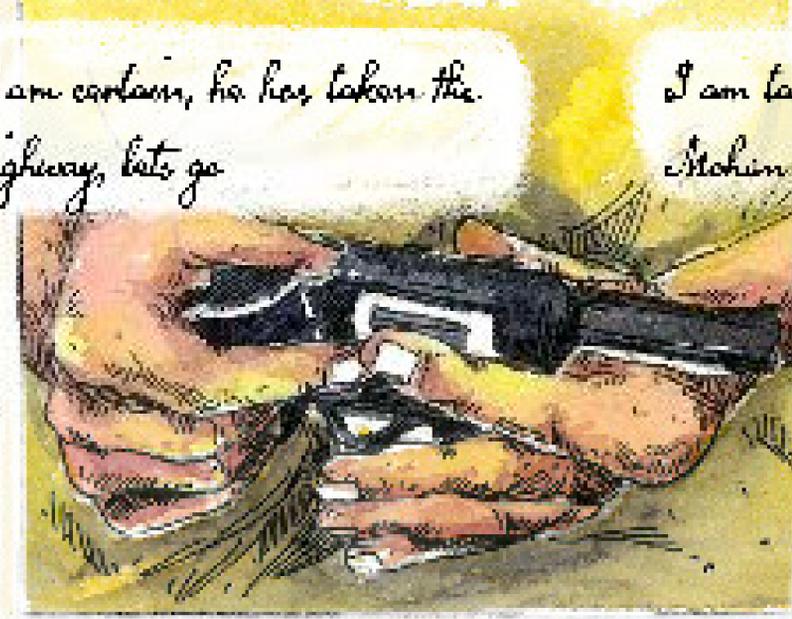




Hello, Dhakuraja P.S, I am
Pradish Mehta, I need a number
to trace, 79004467



I am certain, he has taken the
highway, lets go

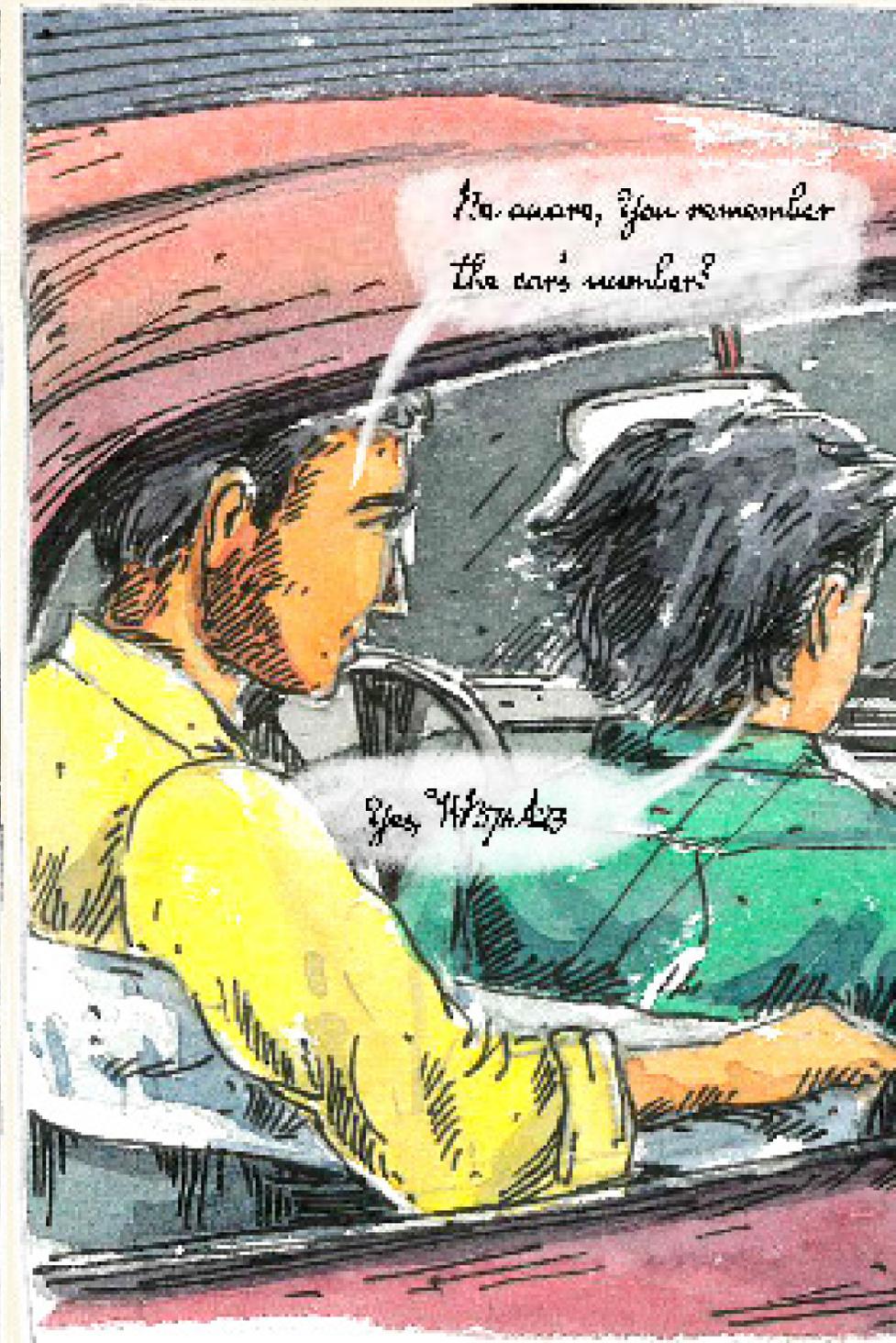


I am taking my Gun, Lal
Mohan Babu, take out your car



Heeraj...

মিনি জাড়
Bata Sale
সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ মানের



No, auro, if you remember
the car's number?

Yes 79004467



Heluda!! look the car



Follow that car...

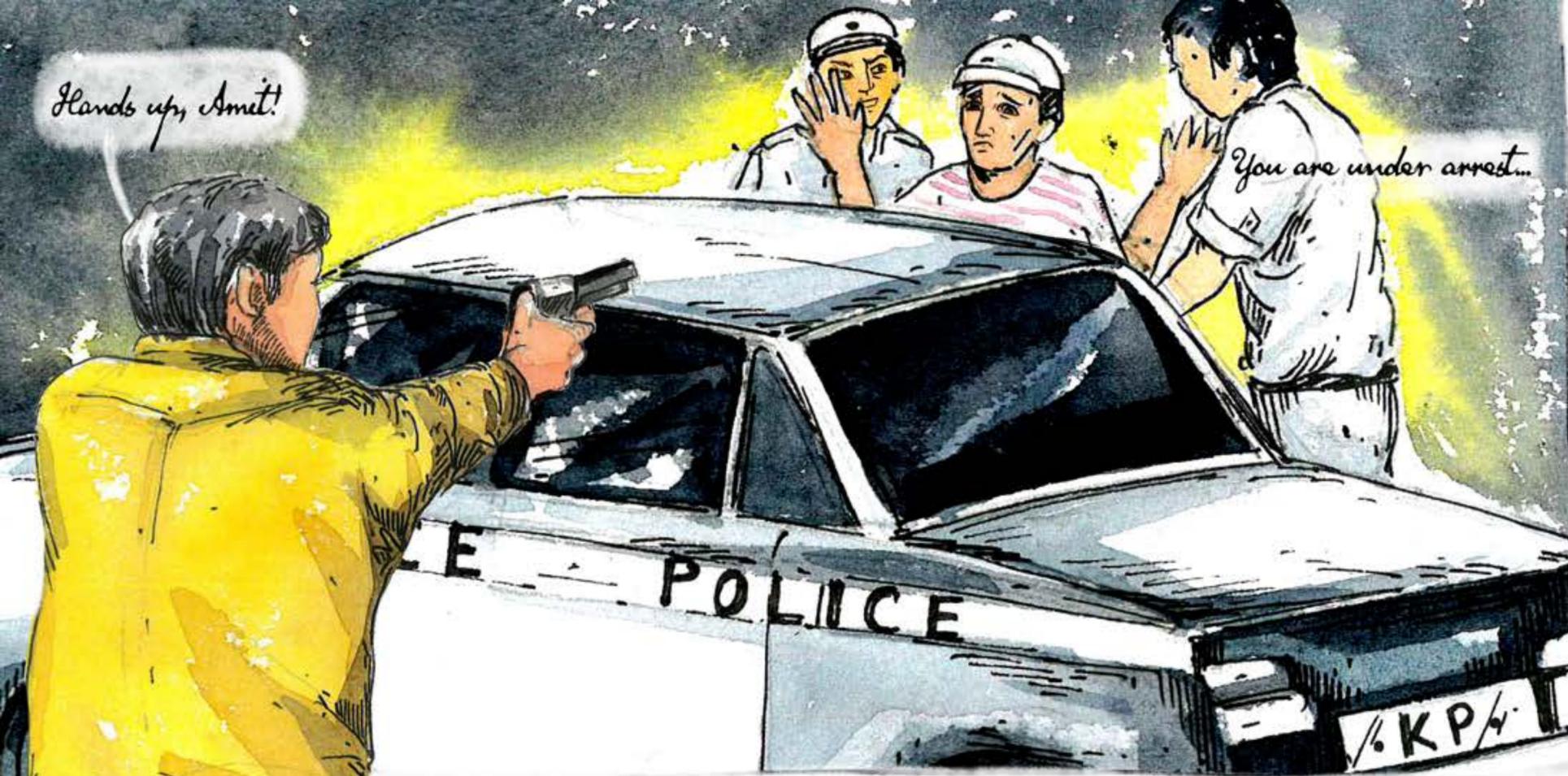
Oh no. He is following me



Stop the car, Amit, you cannot run now...

Come out now Amit, you are trapped





Hands up, Amet!

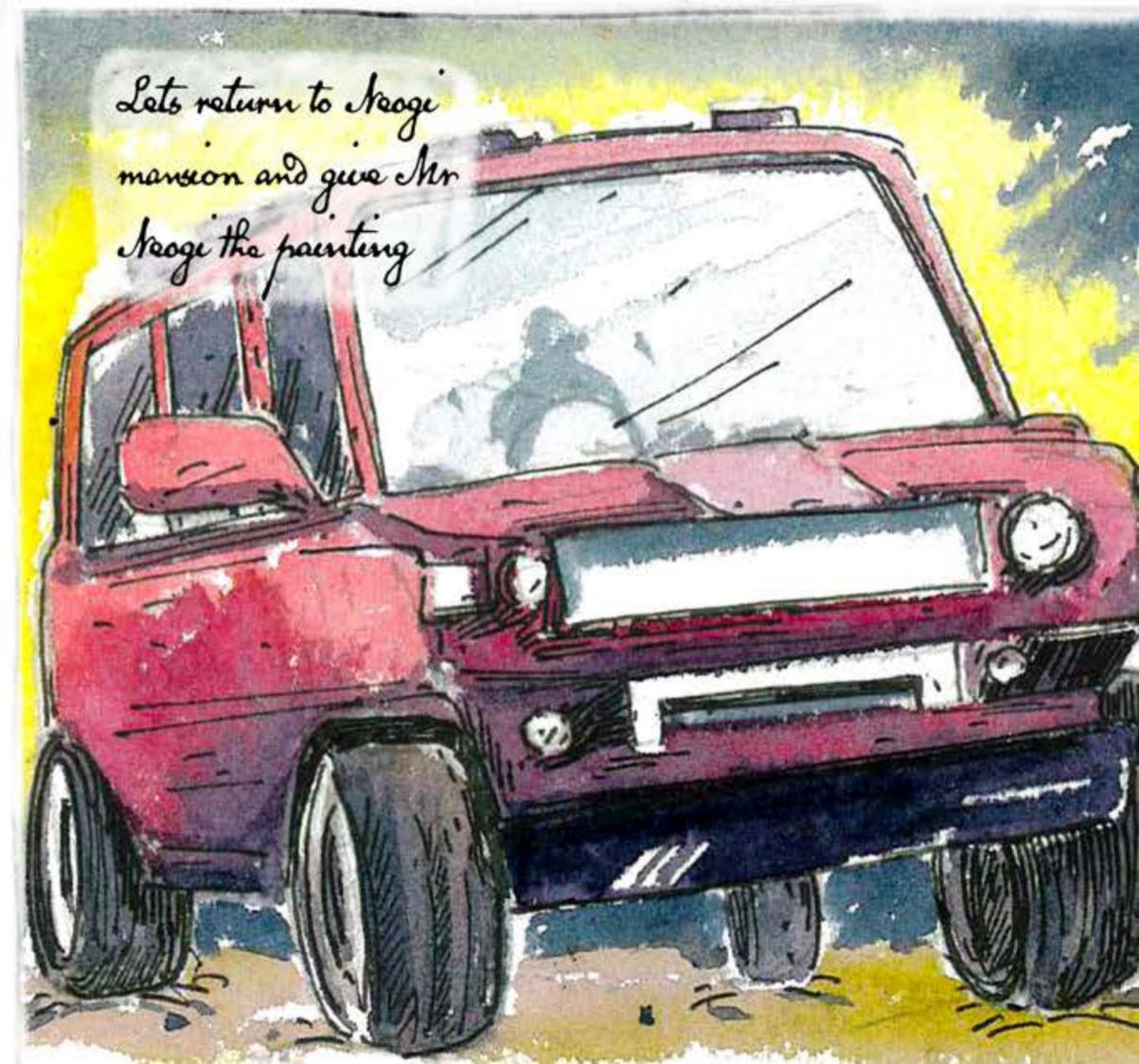
You are under arrest...



Here, take the painting, keep it safe...



Hurray... The masterpiece is saved...



Let's return to Krugi mansion and give Mr Krugi the painting

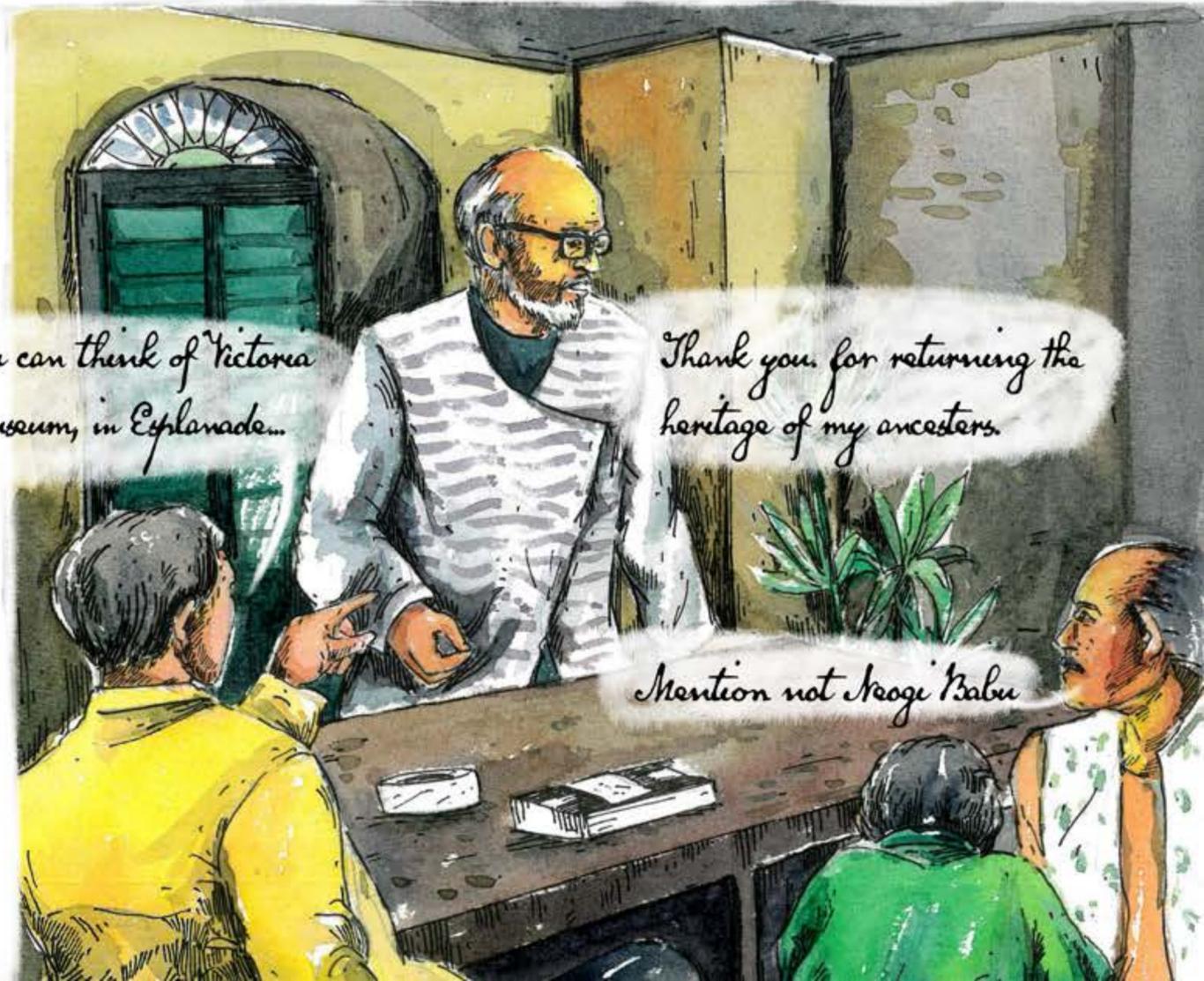
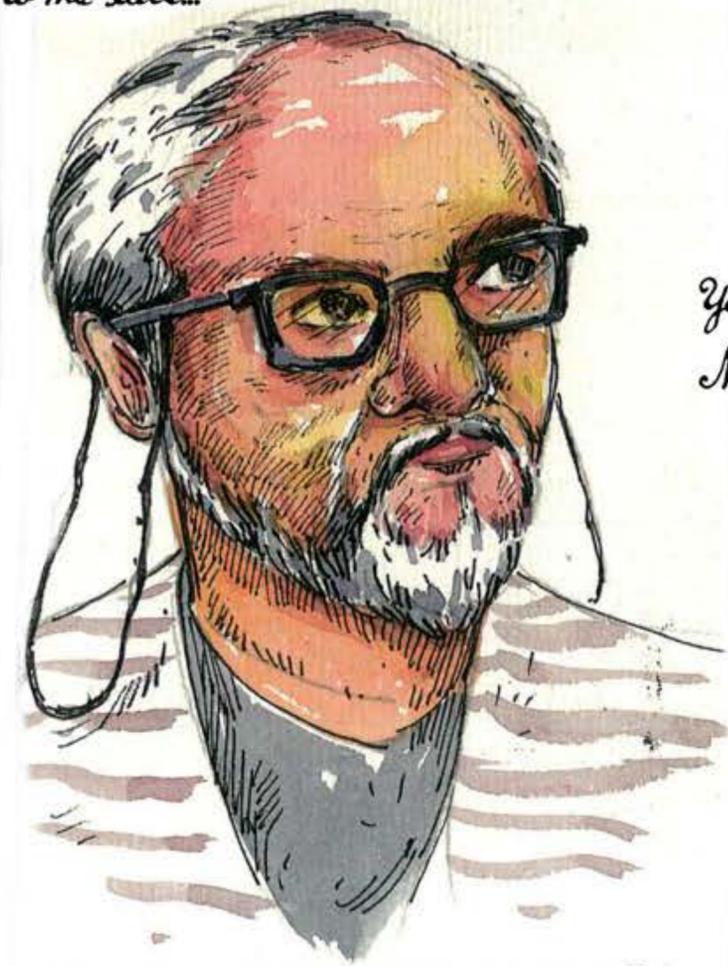


Mr. Krugi, take this, and keep it safe, its one of the rich heritage of our country



I will suggest you to hand this art work, in one of the government Museums...

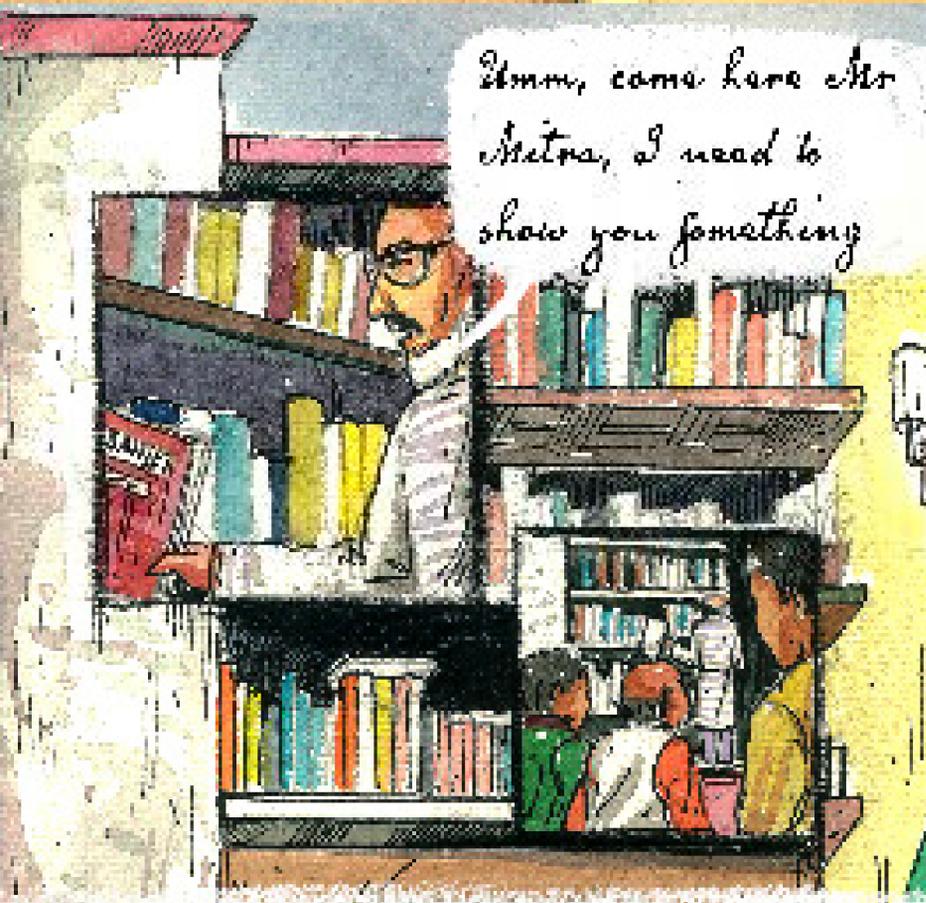
Yes, I was also thinking the same, it belongs to the state...



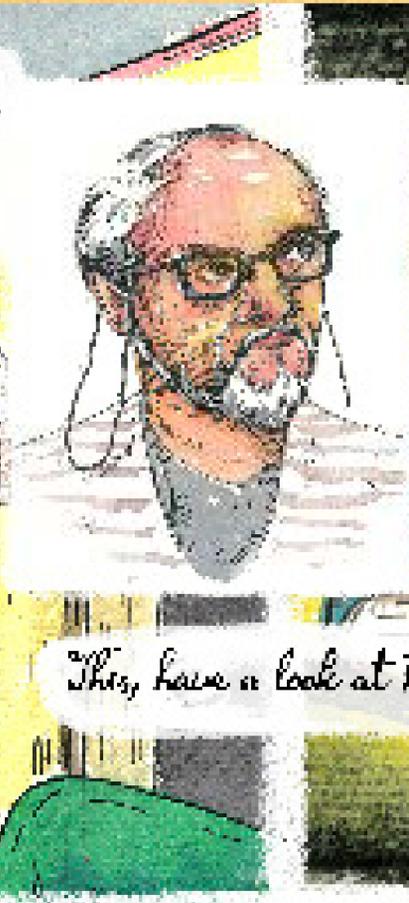
You can think of Victoria Museum, in Esplanade...

Thank you for returning the heritage of my ancestors.

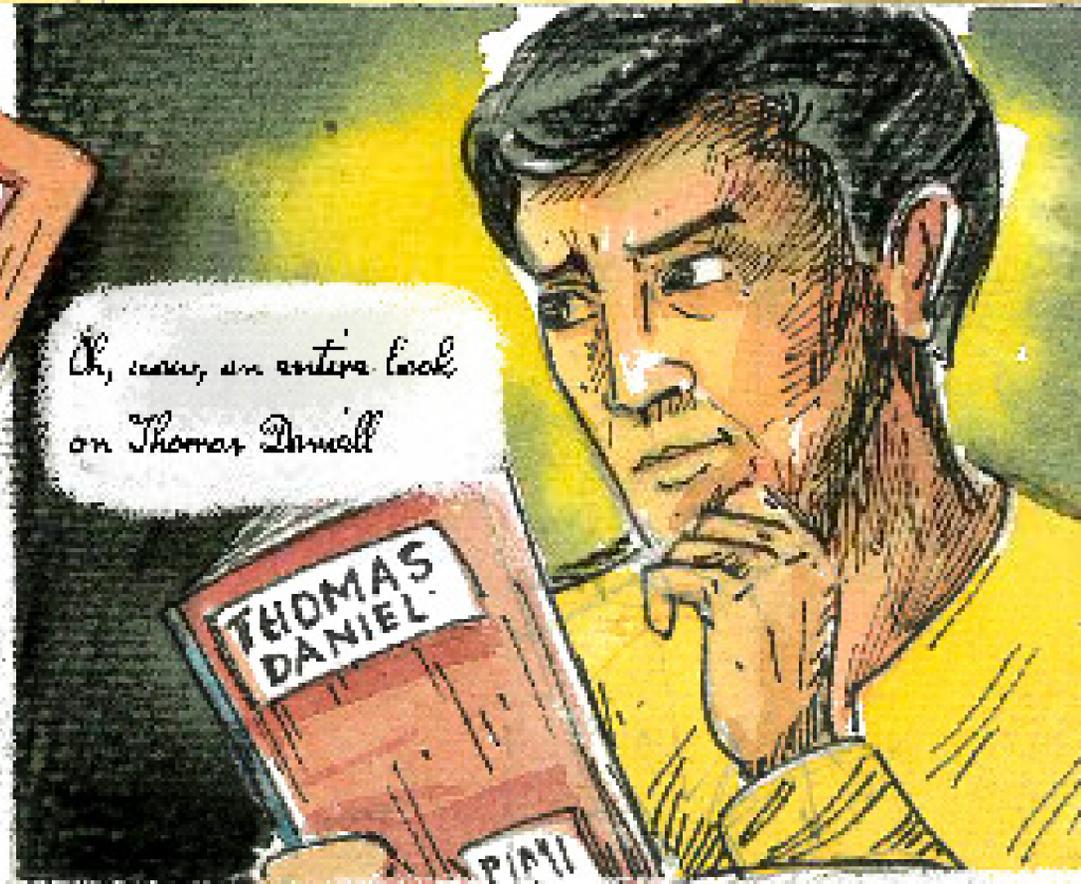
Mention not Krugi Babu



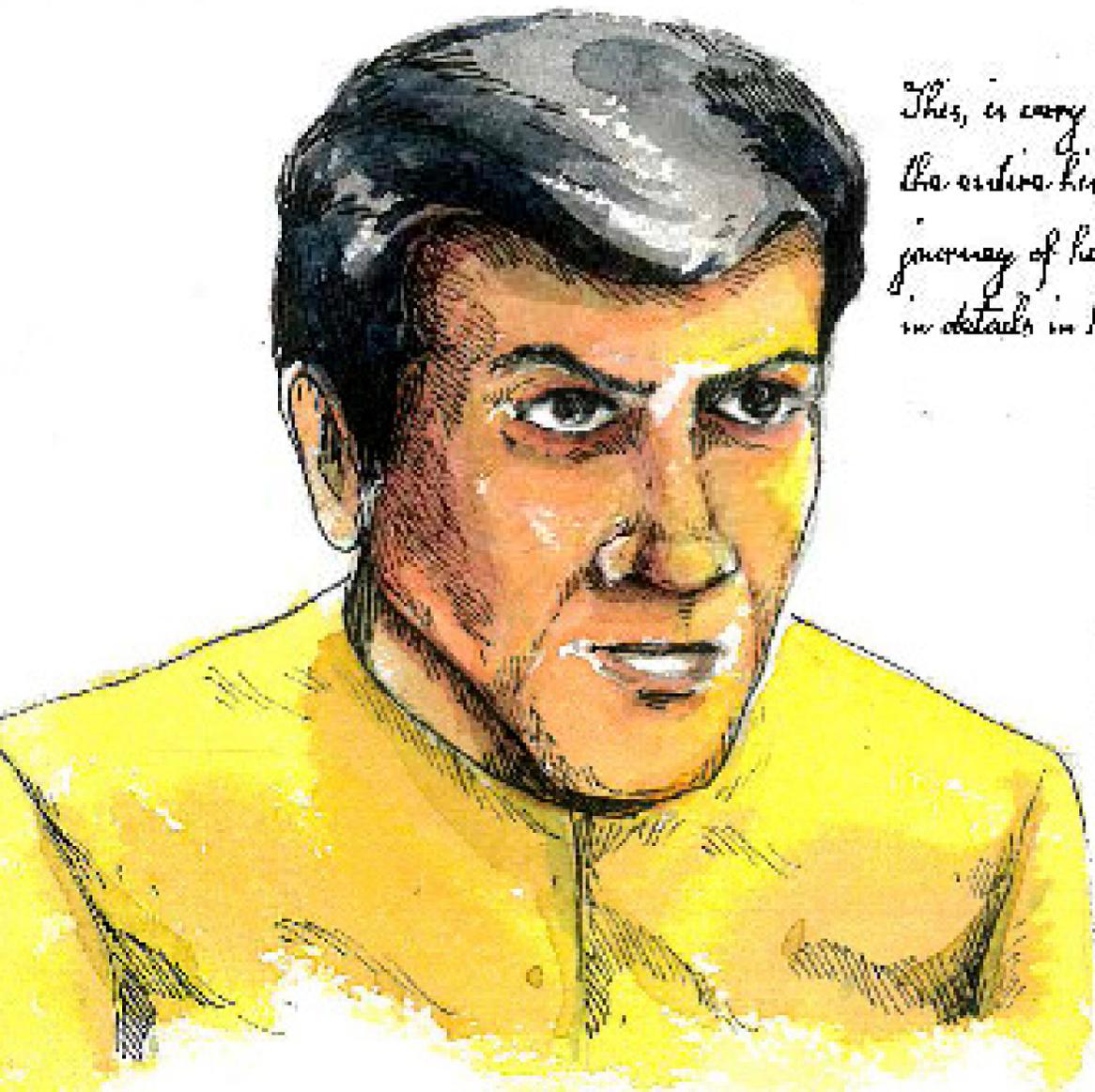
Umm, come here Mr Arto, I need to show you something



This, have a look at this



Oh, wow, an entire book on Thomas Daniel



This, is very informative, the entire history and journey of him is written in detail in the book.



Tell us too, Feluda what is written in the book

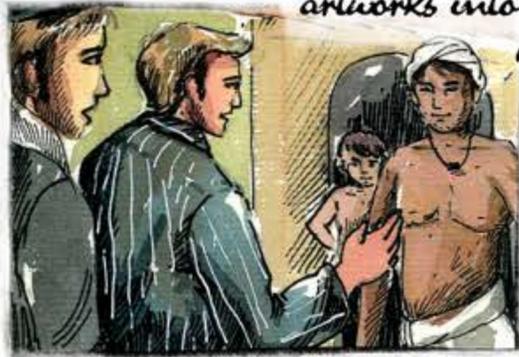
yes, the young generation should always know the history of their city

Thomas Daniell visited many places in Kolkata

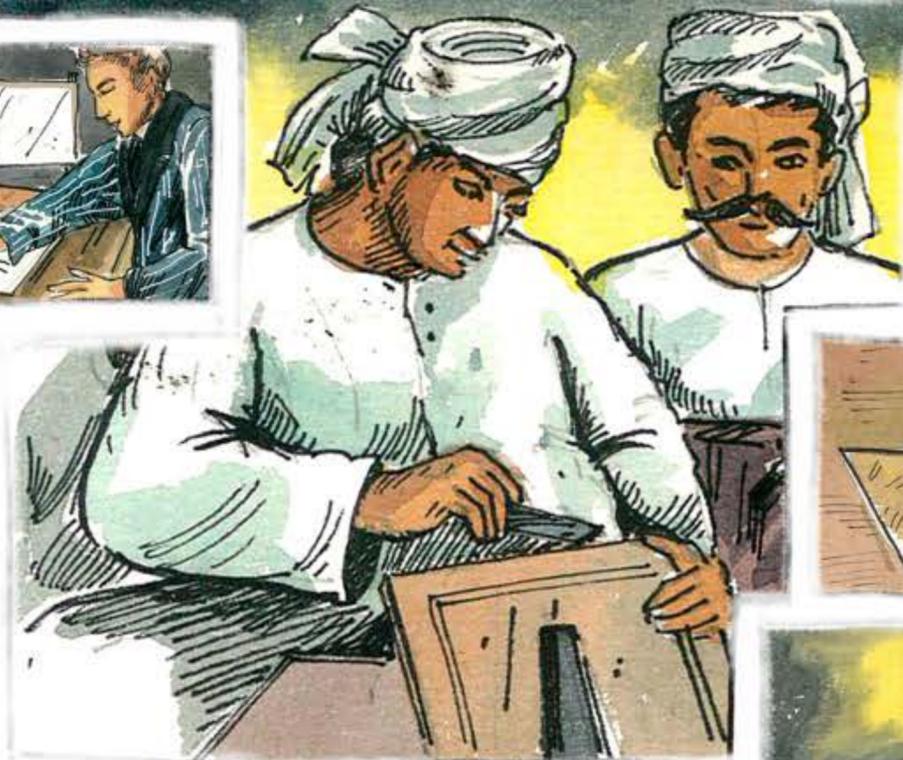


Once he and his nephew came to a village where he met the artisans

He asked their help to develop his artworks into prints

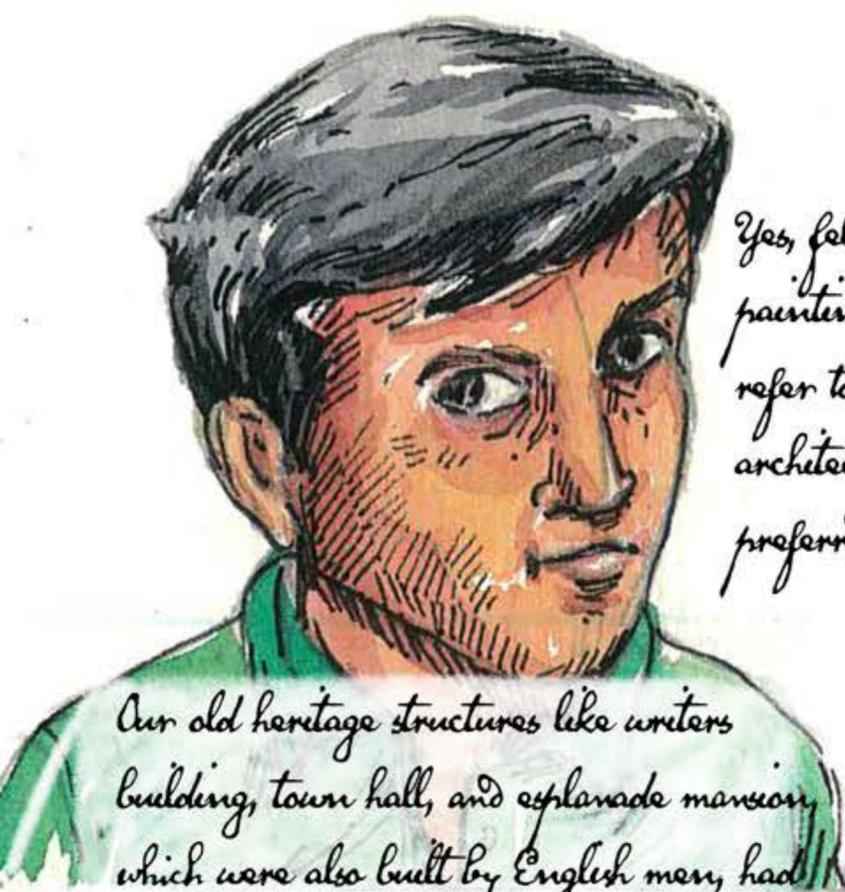


He first painted the scenes, and then gave the artisans to make prints, which was new technique to them.



After they learnt the print making, together with Daniell, they have made 12 masterpieces



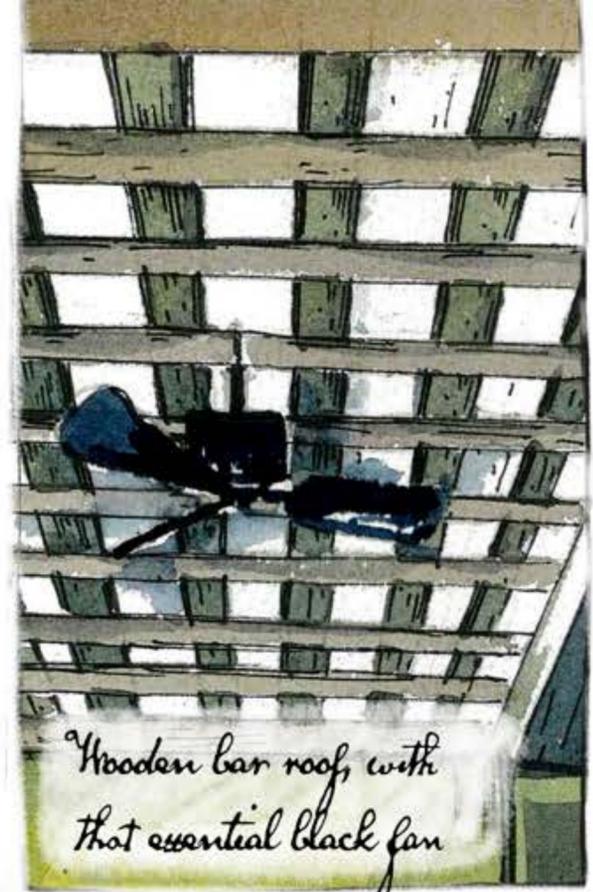


Yes, feluda, from this painting only we can refer to what kind of architectural designs was preferred at that time

Our old heritage structures like writers building, town hall, and esplanade mansion which were also built by English men, had those European styles of designs



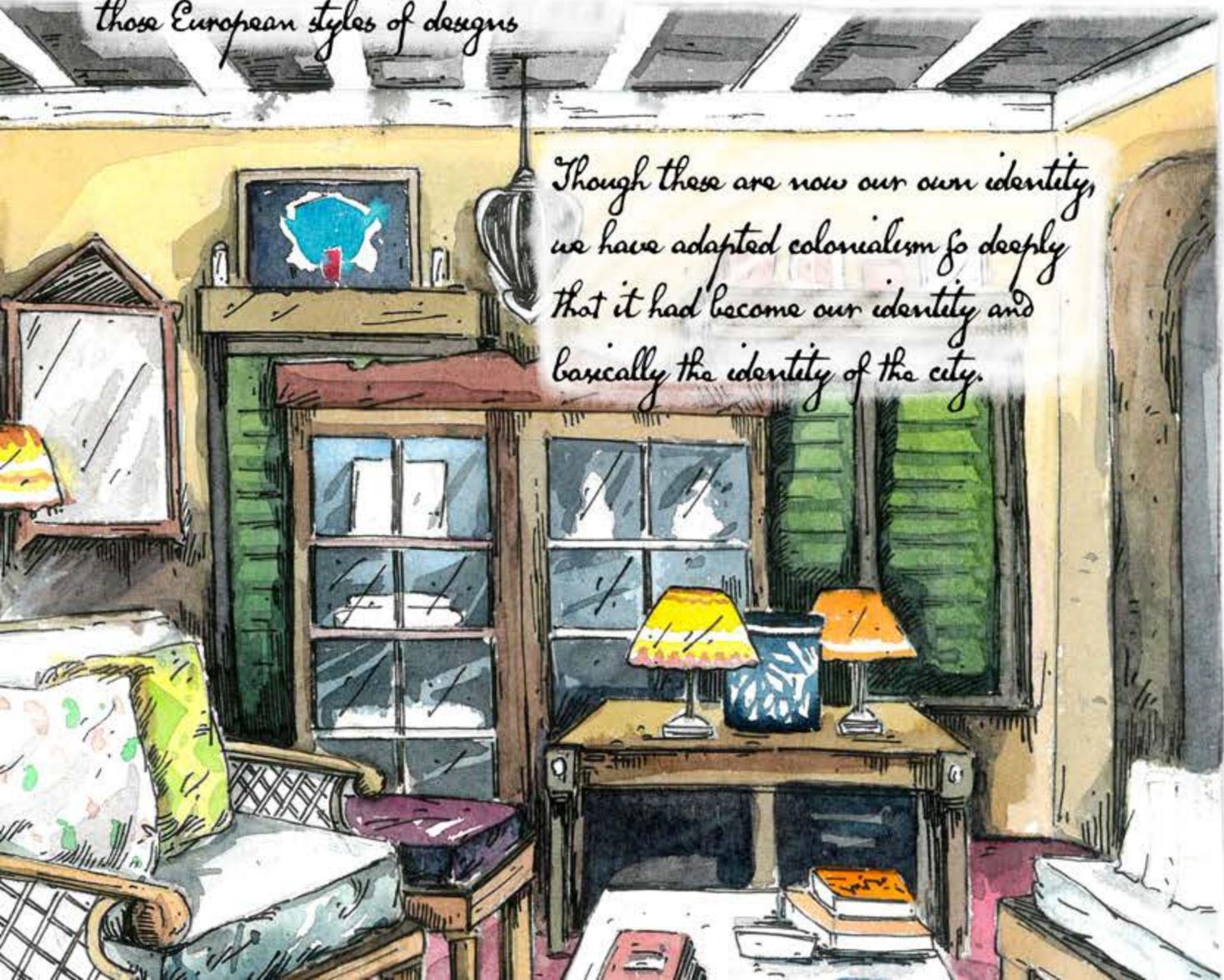
The arched windows



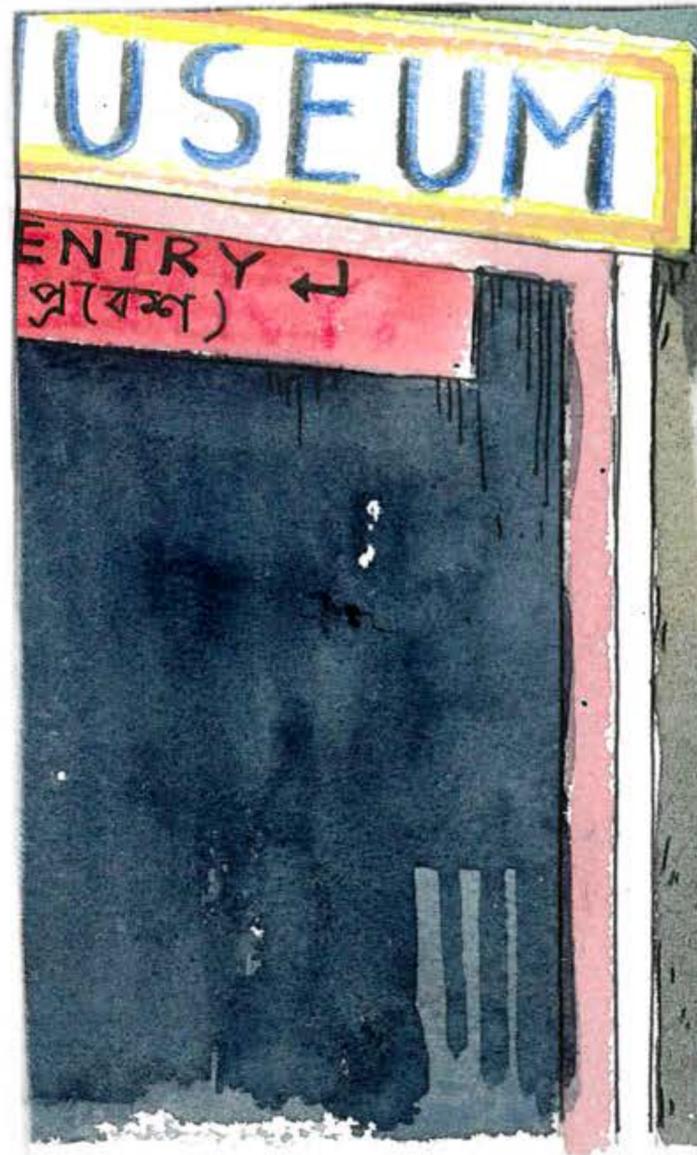
Wooden bar roof, with that essential black fan



Also the wide staircase, with decorated railings



Though these are now our own identity, we have adapted colonialism so deeply that it had become our identity and basically the identity of the city.



Umm, this is only the entry of the Victoria Museum.... This is also 400 years old,, "Wow!"



The End