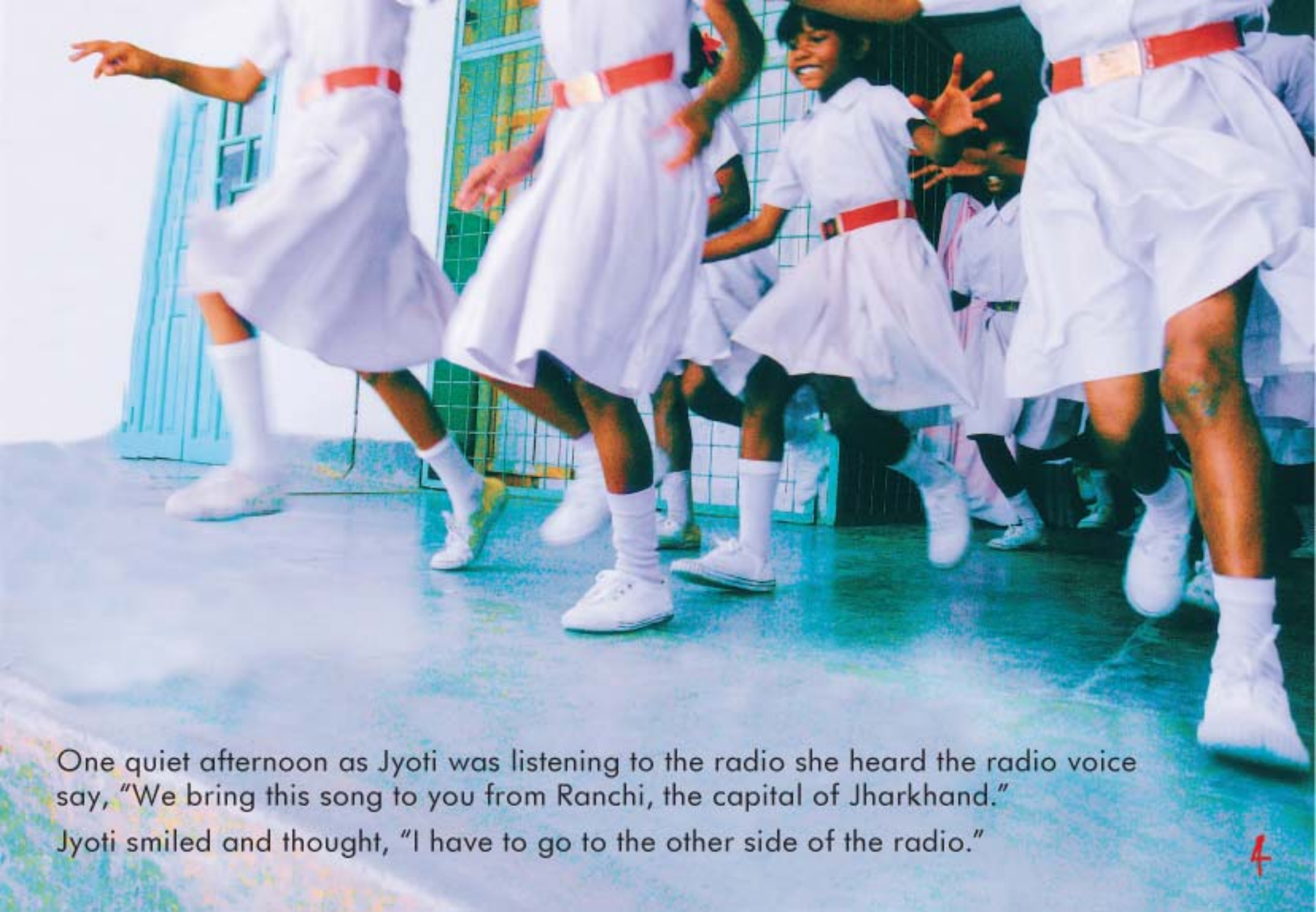


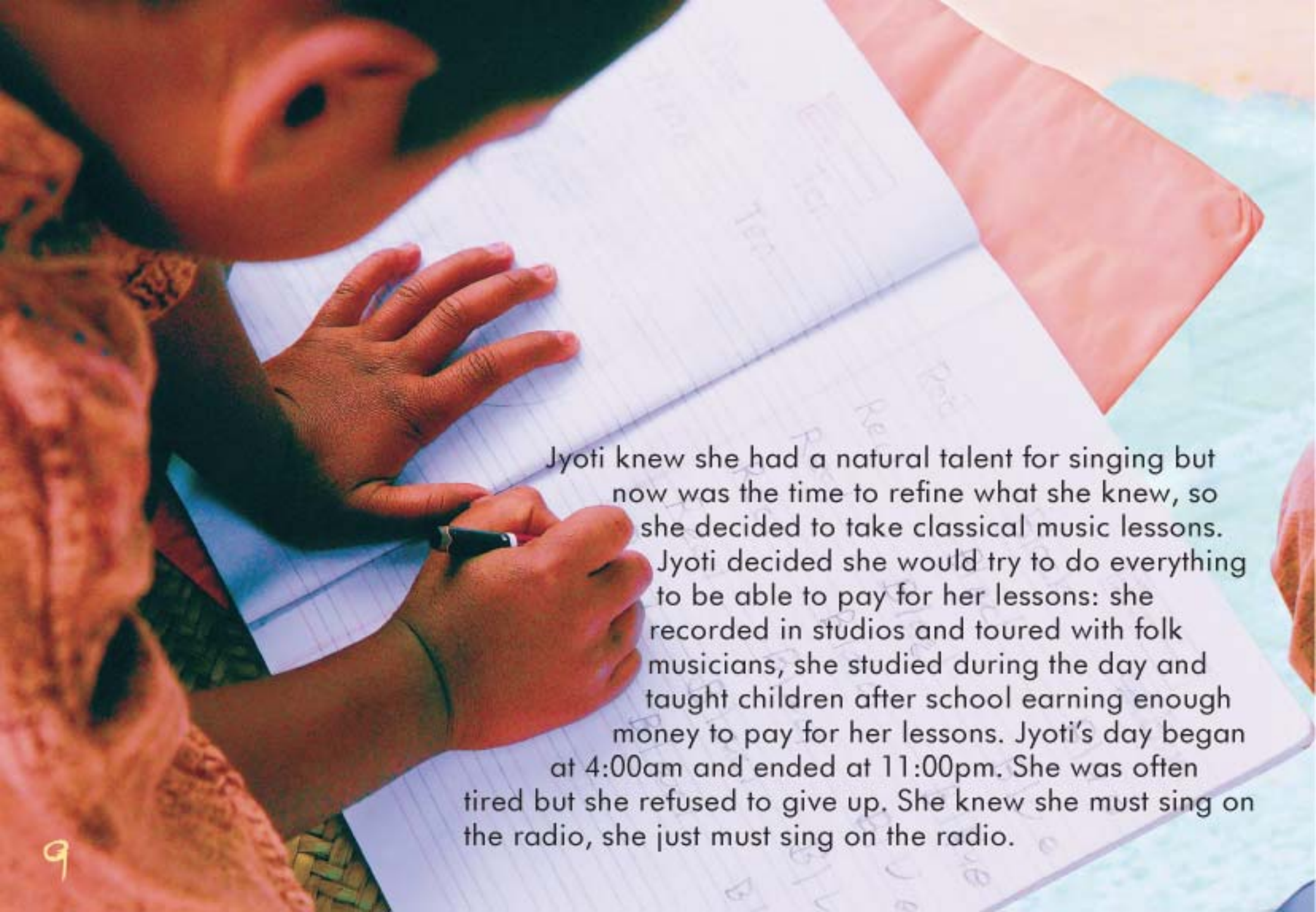


Jyoti Newsreaders

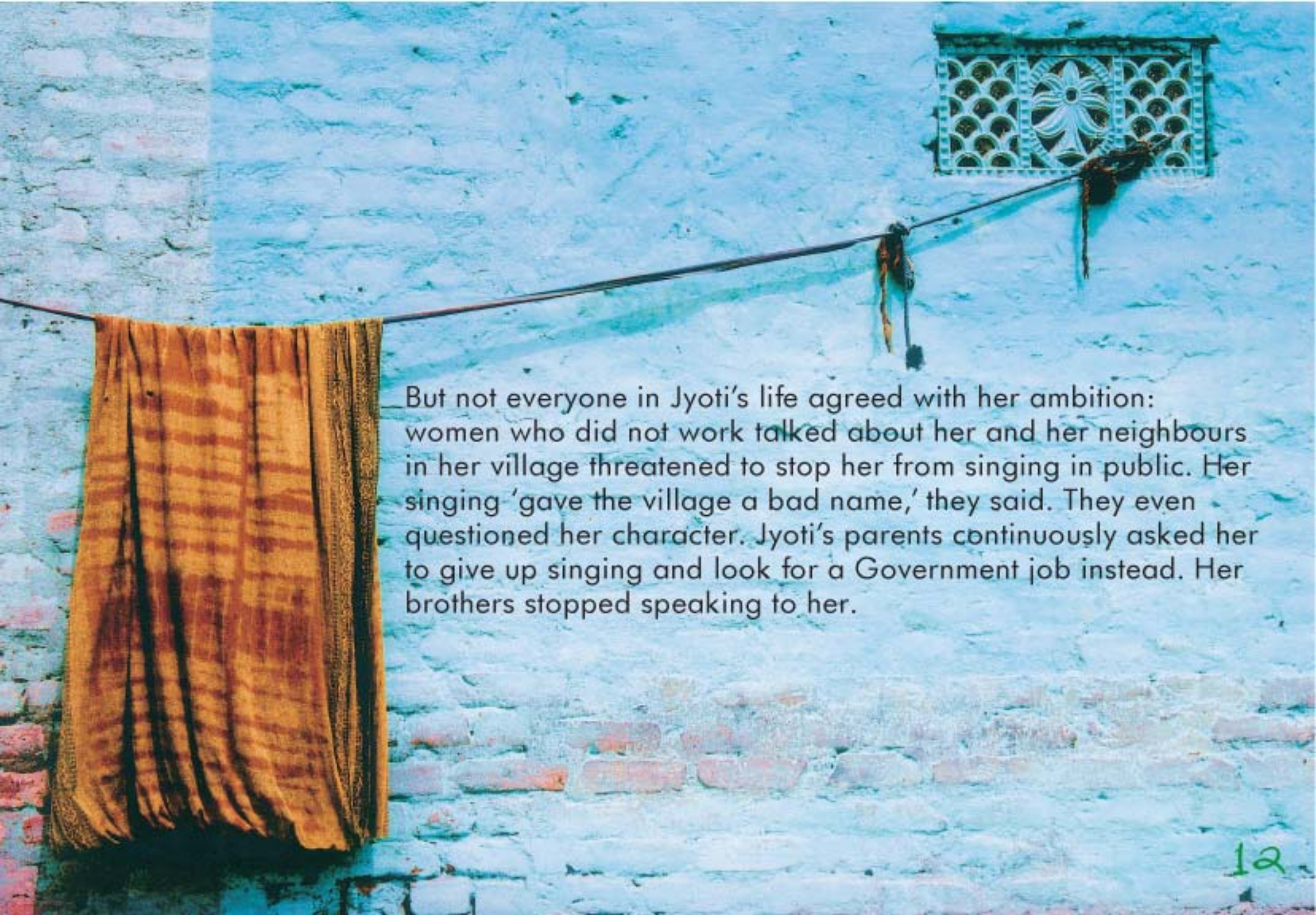




One quiet afternoon as Jyoti was listening to the radio she heard the radio voice say, "We bring this song to you from Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand." Jyoti smiled and thought, "I have to go to the other side of the radio."



Jyoti knew she had a natural talent for singing but now was the time to refine what she knew, so she decided to take classical music lessons. Jyoti decided she would try to do everything to be able to pay for her lessons: she recorded in studios and toured with folk musicians, she studied during the day and taught children after school earning enough money to pay for her lessons. Jyoti's day began at 4:00am and ended at 11:00pm. She was often tired but she refused to give up. She knew she must sing on the radio, she just must sing on the radio.



But not everyone in Jyoti's life agreed with her ambition: women who did not work talked about her and her neighbours in her village threatened to stop her from singing in public. Her singing 'gave the village a bad name,' they said. They even questioned her character. Jyoti's parents continuously asked her to give up singing and look for a Government job instead. Her brothers stopped speaking to her.

However, things began to change when Jyoti was chosen to be a presenter for a folk music program on All India Radio (AIR). The program was going to be broadcasted live on the radio. Jyoti was very excited but also very nervous. People across Jharkhand would hear her sing. What would they think? She was very, very nervous.





Jyoti closed her eyes, took one deep breath and began to sing; she sang with her heart and soul. As the radio carried her voice, quietly at first, and then slowly, louder and louder, people stopped what they were doing to listen to Jyoti sing.

Jyoti finished singing and kept her eyes closed because she was in tears. There was silence. 'They do not like my voice,' she thought. Then slowly one person stood up and started clapping, then another and another; one by one they all stood up and clapped and cheered. Jyoti stood tall, smiled and took a bow as tears ran down her cheeks. She had worked her whole life for this moment. And now it was here.



Namaskar. I am Jyoti Rose Tirkey with today's news: the Education Minister met the Chief Minister and discussed the fact that only 39% of women in Jharkhand are educated, the Chief Minister expressed his disappointment and asked all girls in Jharkhand to please, go to school

