

BUKOLLA

The Famous Icelandic Folktale



By
Huginn
Thor
Grétarsson

Illustrated by
Rosaria
Battiloro

Bukolla



Huginn Thor Grétarsson
Rosaria Battiloro

Once upon a time, there was a man and woman living on a farm. They had only one son, but didn't show him much love and affection. Nobody else lived there except the three of them and their cow. The cow was called Bukolla.




One day, the cow gave birth to a calf as the woman watched over her. When the cow had calved, the woman hurried into the farmhouse.



B u k o l l a A A a a
b u k o l l a a a



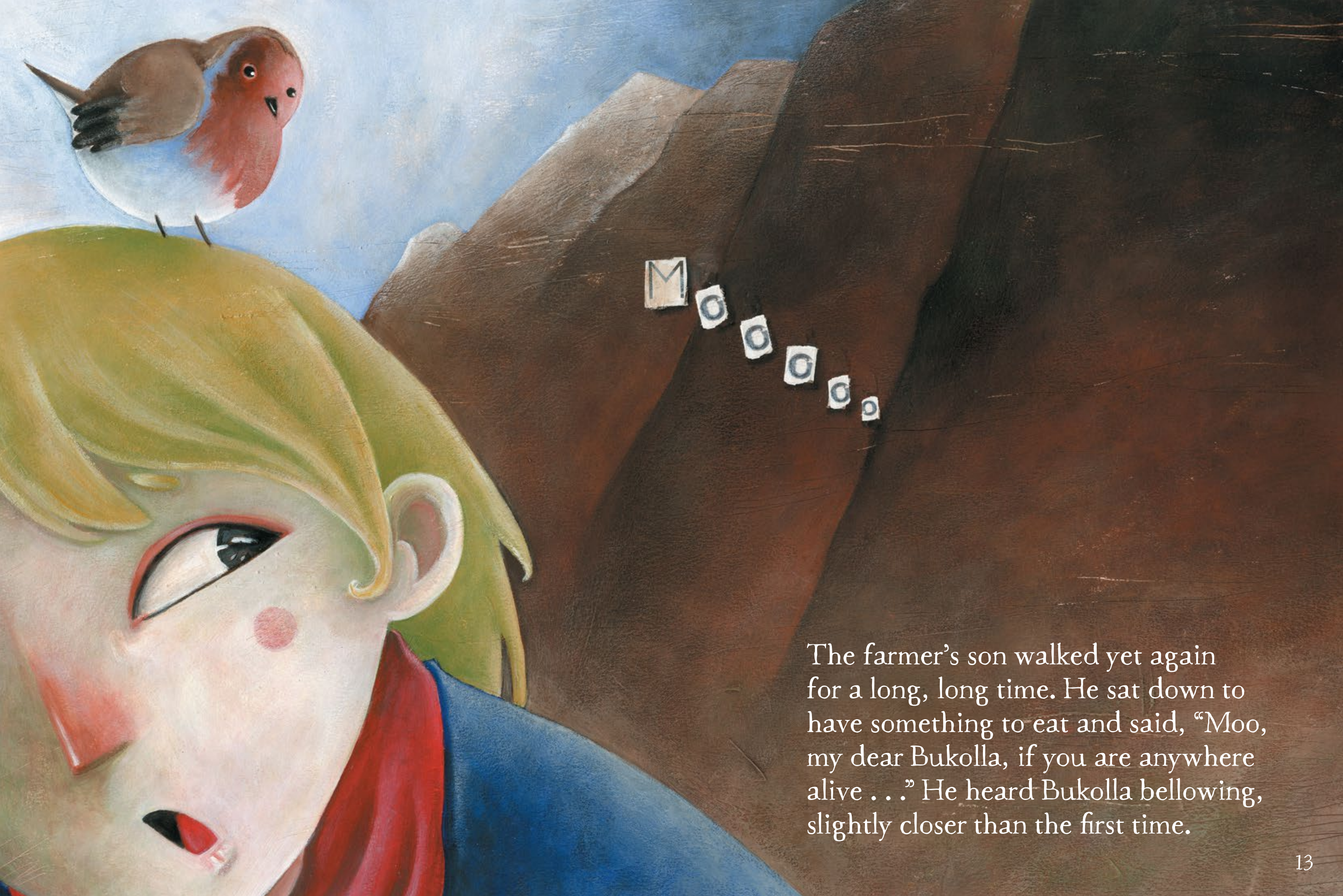
Shortly thereafter, she came back to look after the cow. But it was gone! Both the man and the woman went looking for Bukolla and searched for a long time, but they did not find the cow.



The farmers were very upset because of their loss and ordered the boy to go find Bukolla. They told him to not bother returning home unless he found the cow. The boy was given provisions and new shoes, and he wandered off into the blue in search of the cow.



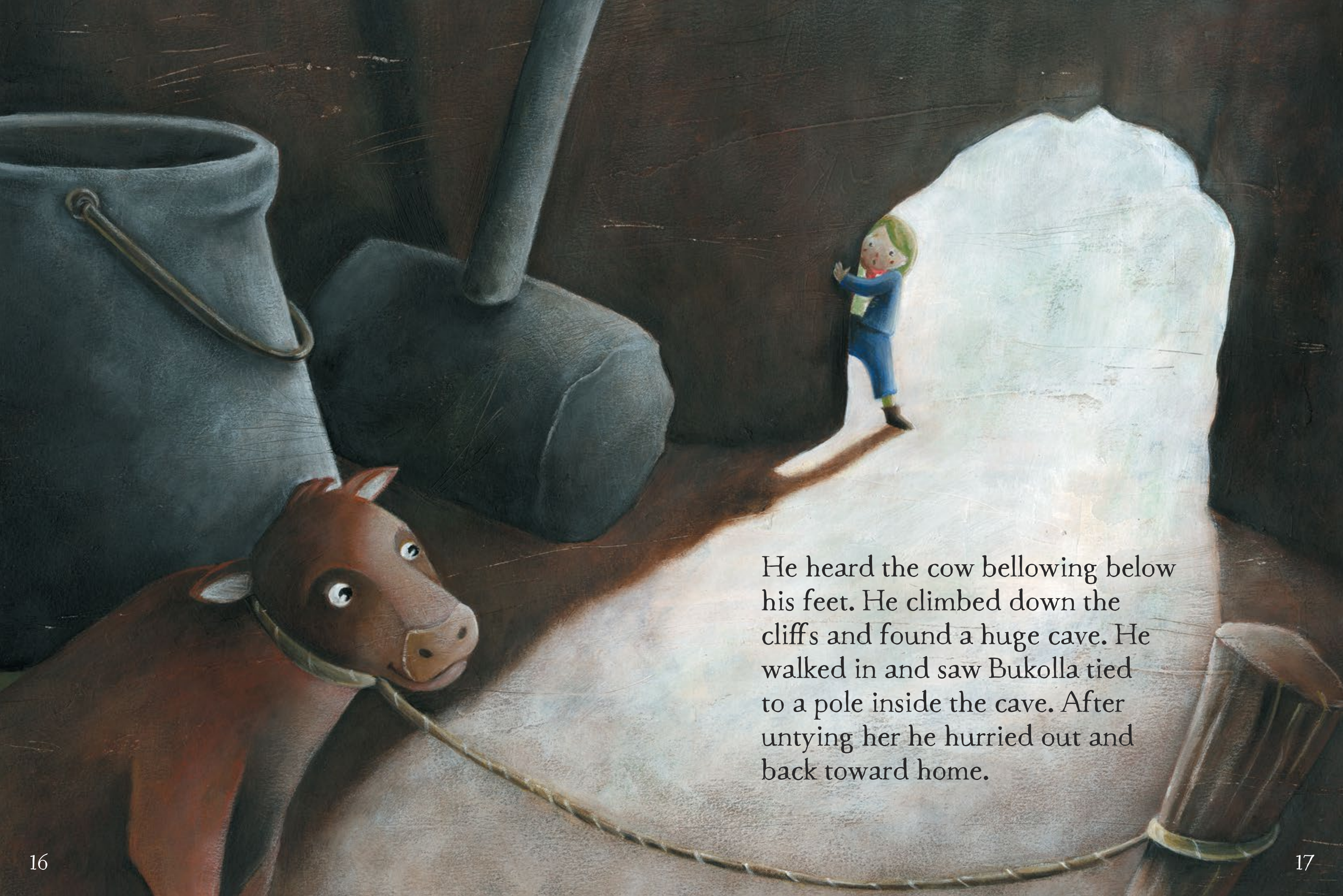
He walked for a long, long time until he sat down to have something to eat. Then he said, “Moo, my dear Bukolla, if you are anywhere alive . . .” Then, he heard the cow bellowing from far, far away.



The farmer's son walked yet again for a long, long time. He sat down to have something to eat and said, "Moo, my dear Bukolla, if you are anywhere alive . . ." He heard Bukolla bellowing, slightly closer than the first time.



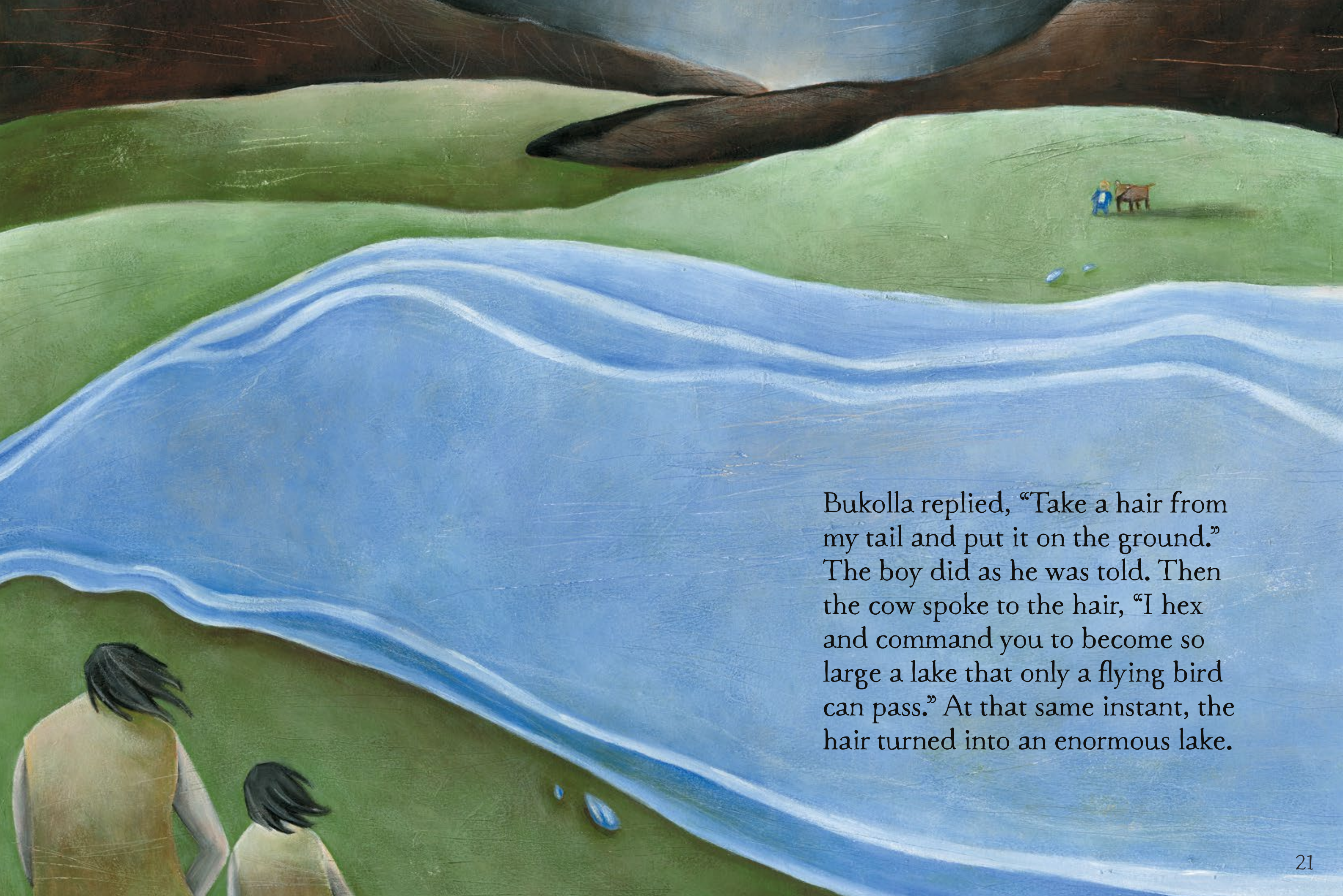
Still, the boy walked a long, long way until he came to high mountain cliffs. There, he sat down to have something to eat. He said, "Moo, my dear Bukolla, if you are anywhere alive . . ."



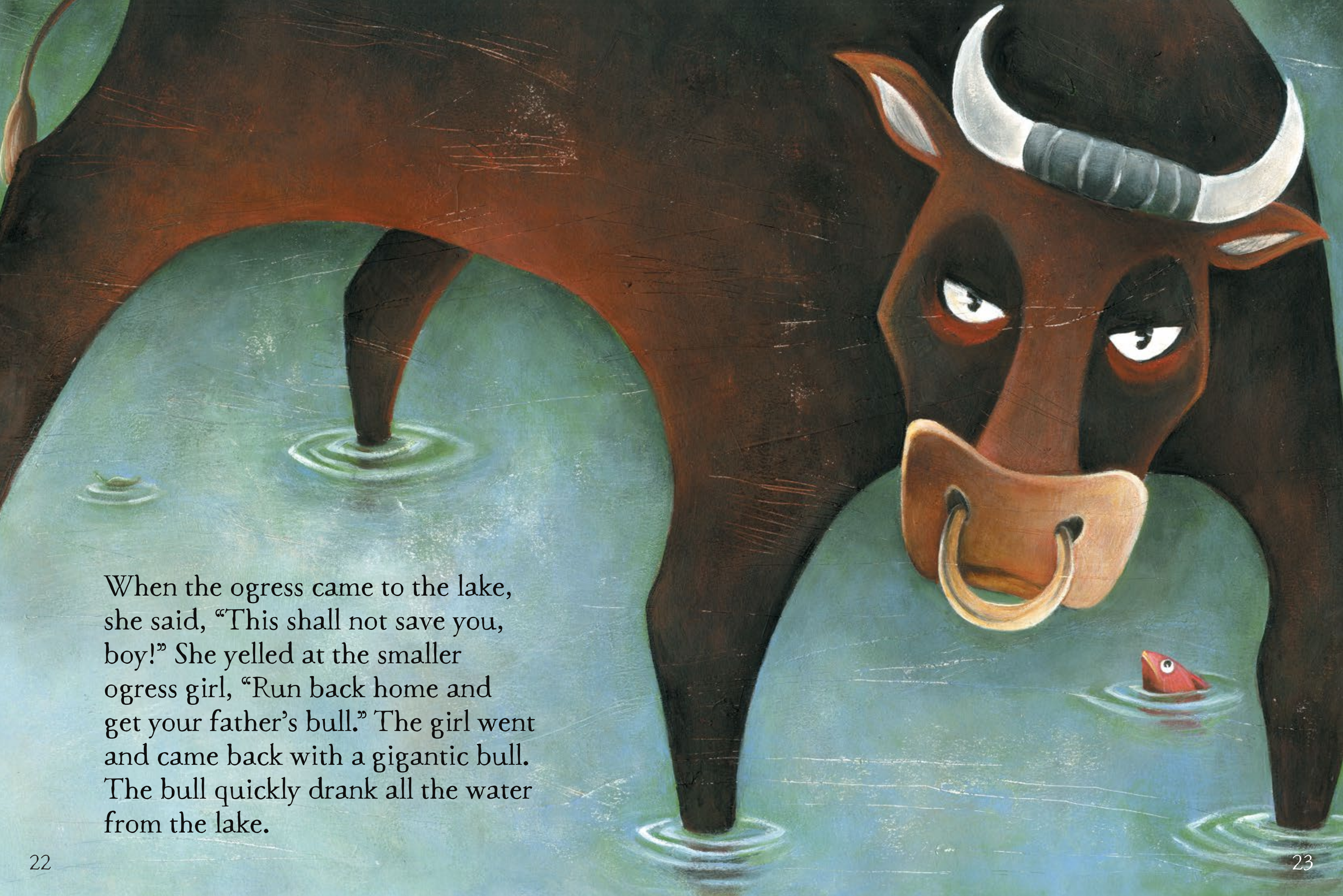
He heard the cow bellowing below his feet. He climbed down the cliffs and found a huge cave. He walked in and saw Bukolla tied to a pole inside the cave. After untying her he hurried out and back toward home.



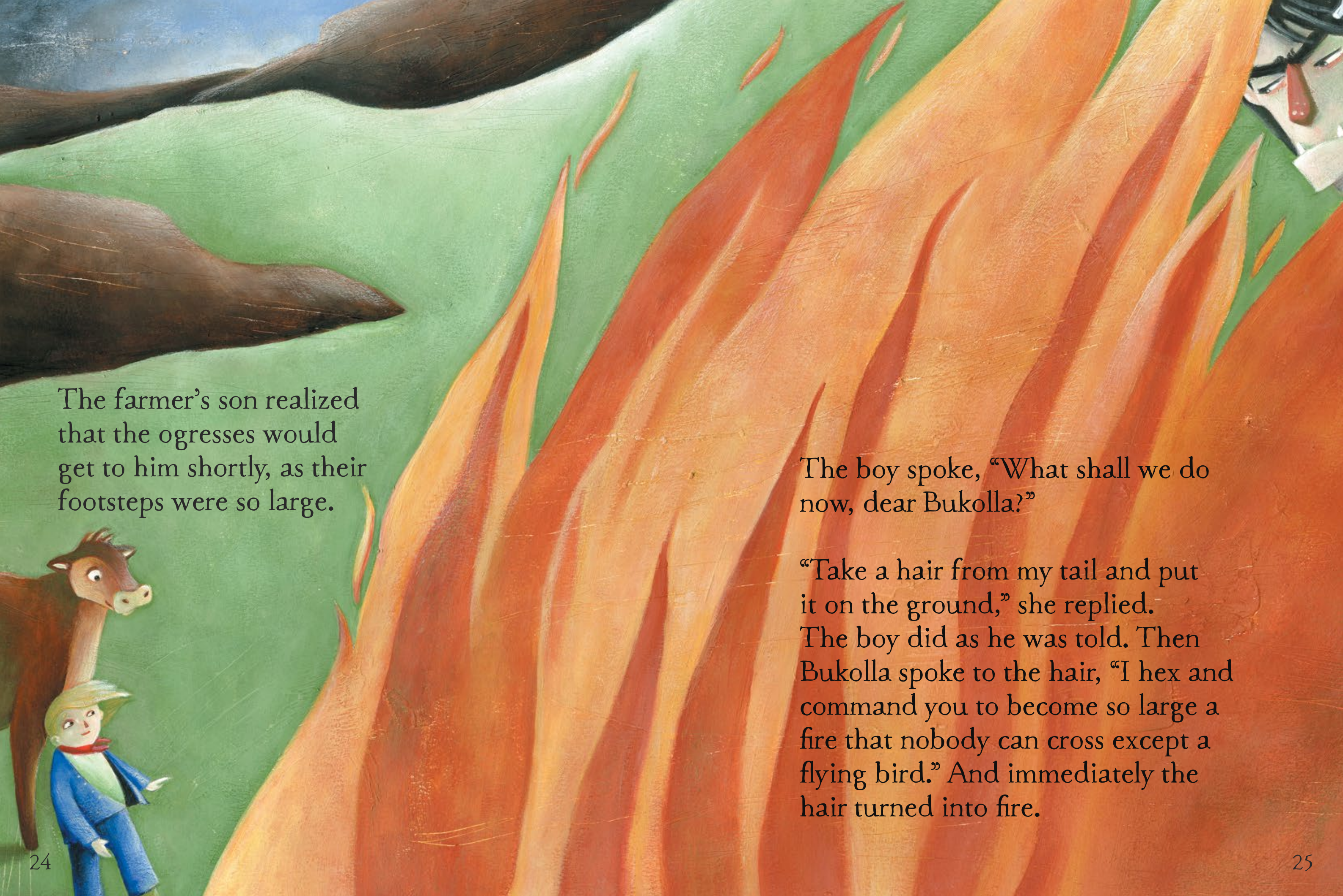
When the boy looked back, he noticed a huge ogress behind him, and another one behind her. He realized that the giantesses would catch him shortly. He said, "What shall we do now, Bukolla?"



Bukolla replied, "Take a hair from my tail and put it on the ground." The boy did as he was told. Then the cow spoke to the hair, "I hex and command you to become so large a lake that only a flying bird can pass." At that same instant, the hair turned into an enormous lake.




When the ogress came to the lake, she said, "This shall not save you, boy!" She yelled at the smaller ogress girl, "Run back home and get your father's bull." The girl went and came back with a gigantic bull. The bull quickly drank all the water from the lake.

A large, stylized illustration of a fire with bright orange and yellow flames rising from the bottom right. In the background, there are green hills and a dark brown tree trunk. In the bottom left corner, a small boy with blonde hair, wearing a blue suit and a red scarf, stands next to a brown horse. They are both looking towards the fire.

The farmer's son realized
that the ogresses would
get to him shortly, as their
footsteps were so large.

The boy spoke, "What shall we do
now, dear Bukolla?"

"Take a hair from my tail and put
it on the ground," she replied.
The boy did as he was told. Then
Bukolla spoke to the hair, "I hex and
command you to become so large a
fire that nobody can cross except a
flying bird." And immediately the
hair turned into fire.

An illustration spanning two pages. On the left page (26), an ogress with a pale, mask-like face, black hair, and a red nose looks down at a large brown bull. The bull is standing in a green body of water, with a small red fish visible. On the right page (27), the bull is shown from the side, facing right, with its head lowered towards the water. The background is a dark blue sky with a large, pale yellow and white crescent moon. The overall style is painterly and expressive.

When the ogress came to the fire she said, "This shall not save you, boy!" Then she ordered the smaller ogress, "Girl, go get your father's bull."

The ogress girl went and came back with the bull. The bull urinated all the water it drank from the lake and extinguished the fire.

The farmer's son realized the ogress would catch him shortly. He said, "What shall we do now, Bukolla?"

"Take a hair from my tail and put it on the ground," she replied. Then she spoke to the hair, "I hex and command you to become so large a mountain that nobody can cross except a flying bird."

The hair became such a high mountain that the farmer's son couldn't see the top.

When the ogress came to the foothills of the mountain, she said, "This shall not save you boy!" Then she commanded the smaller ogress, "Girl, go get your father's iron drill!"



The girl came back with the drill, and the ogress drilled a hole into the mountain. But the ogress was too hasty when she squeezed into the narrow hole. She sat there stuck, and finally turned into stone, and there she can still be seen today.





The farmer's son returned home with Bukolla, and his father and mother were very pleased.

The end.





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