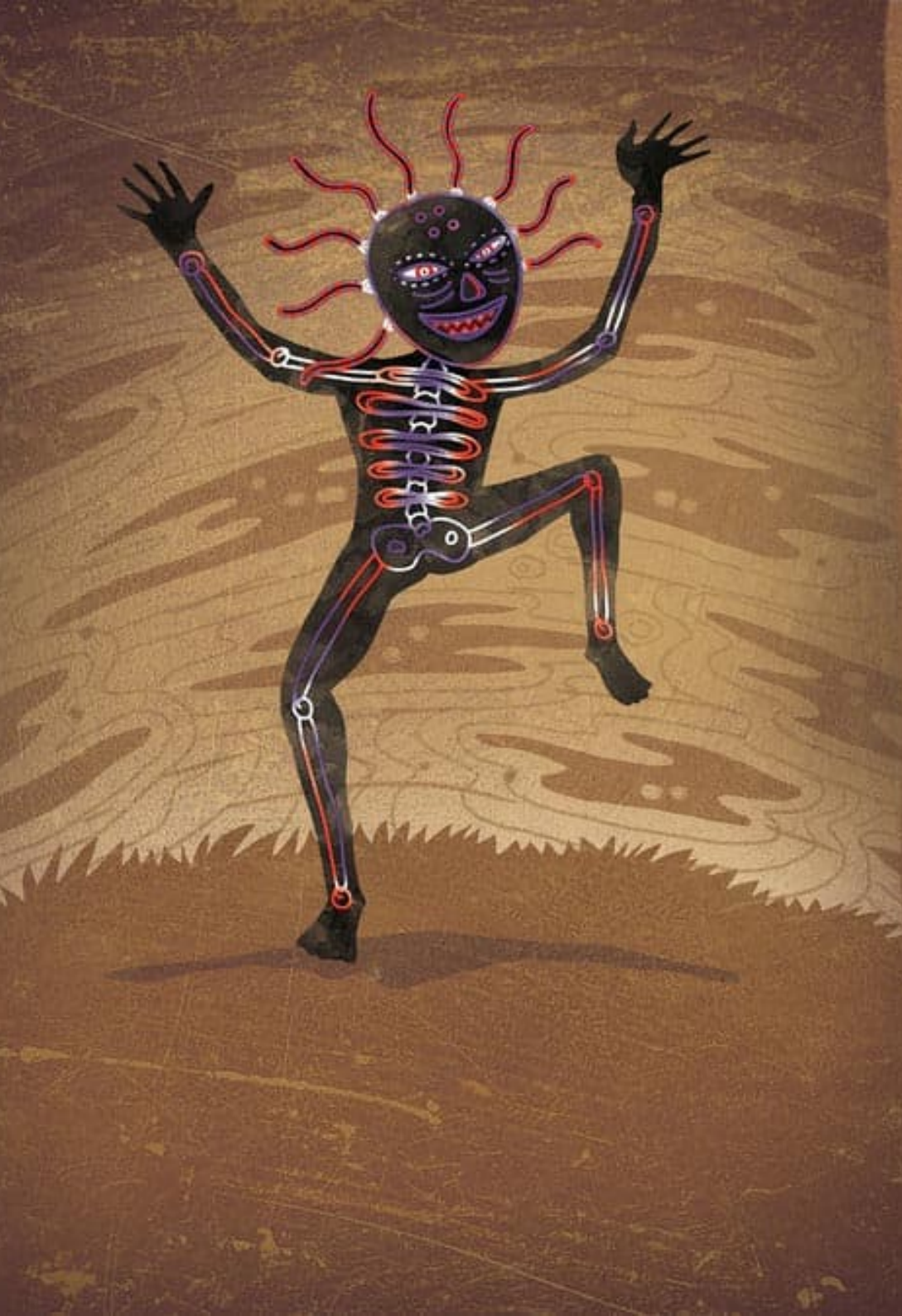


HANTU



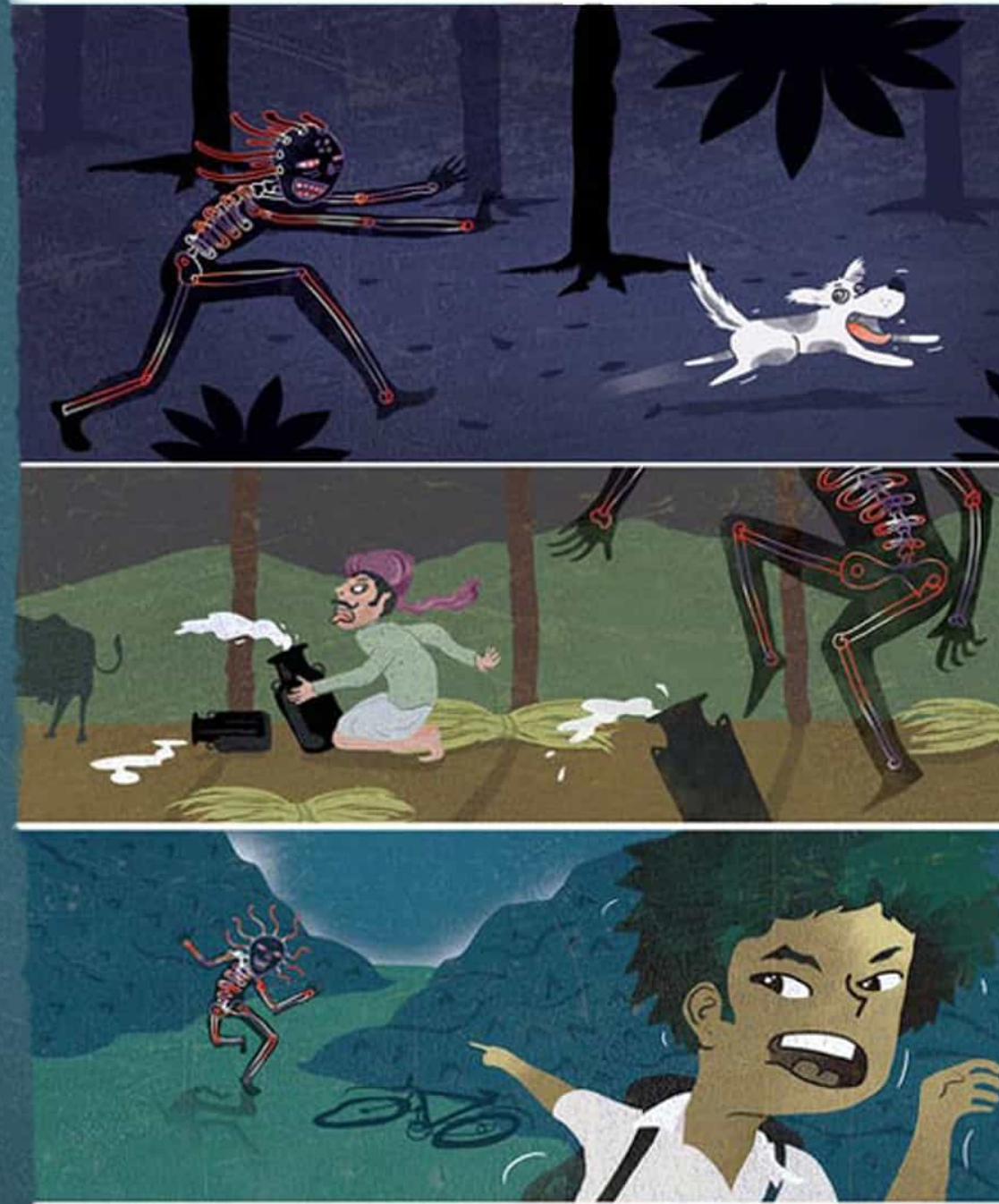
illustrated by
Kaustubh Kamat



In Indonesia, a spirit of the dead is called hantu. They can be malicious like a demon. This hantu has a ferocious appearance that makes him perfect for the task of spreading terror.

The hantu is determined to spread mischief.

He chases a dog, frightens a man as he goes about his work and scares the wits out of a little boy.



He is more
ferocious than a
lion.





He even tugs the tail
of a large, wild
elephant as it
attempts to escape.

He frightens the muscular
body builder.



And even terrorizes the
guard with his gun.





Not a day goes by when this malicious little spirit doesn't frighten and chase the people and the animals of the village.

If the end of the day
has come and he has
not managed to bring
terror to the village, he
is not happy.





He trudges off to
find someone,
anyone to scare
before the day is
over.

He comes across
the house of a little
mouse.

'A mouse should be
easy to scare', he
thinks.





The mouse is
asleep in his bed,
unaware of the
devious spirit
stalking him in the
night.

The hantu begins
with an ominous
patter of his feet.





The mouse
wakes, shaking
and quaking in
terror. Something
large has just
padded it's way
into his house.

Then the malicious
spirit leaps out.

'I'm a hantu!

I bring you terror!,' he
shouts.

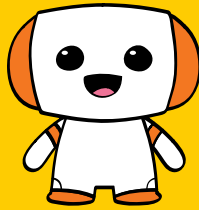


'Oh! It's just a hantu, a spirit of the dead,' says the mouse in relief. 'I thought you were a cat.'



The hantu slinks away,
embarrassed. Maybe
he isn't so ferocious
after all.





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