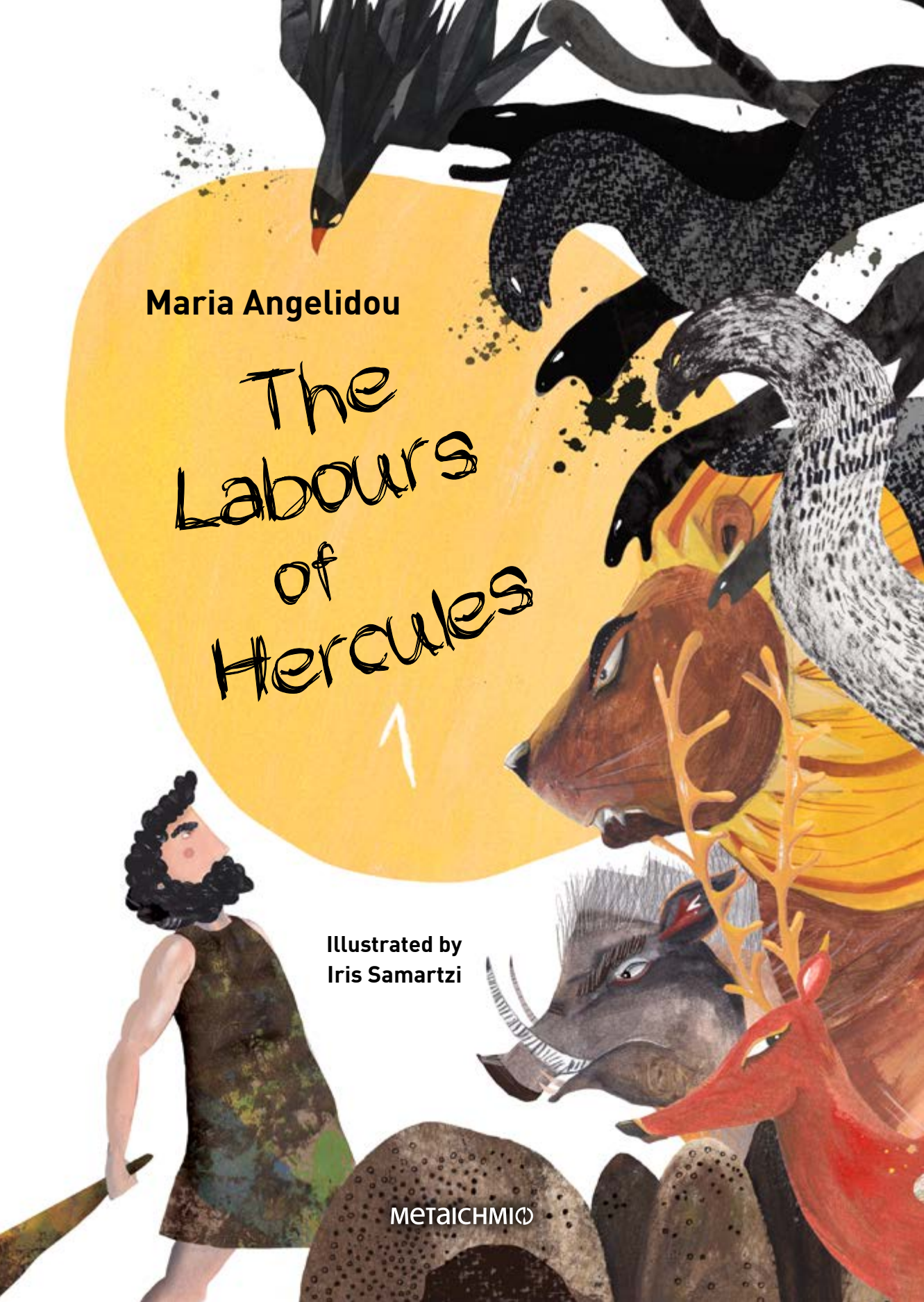




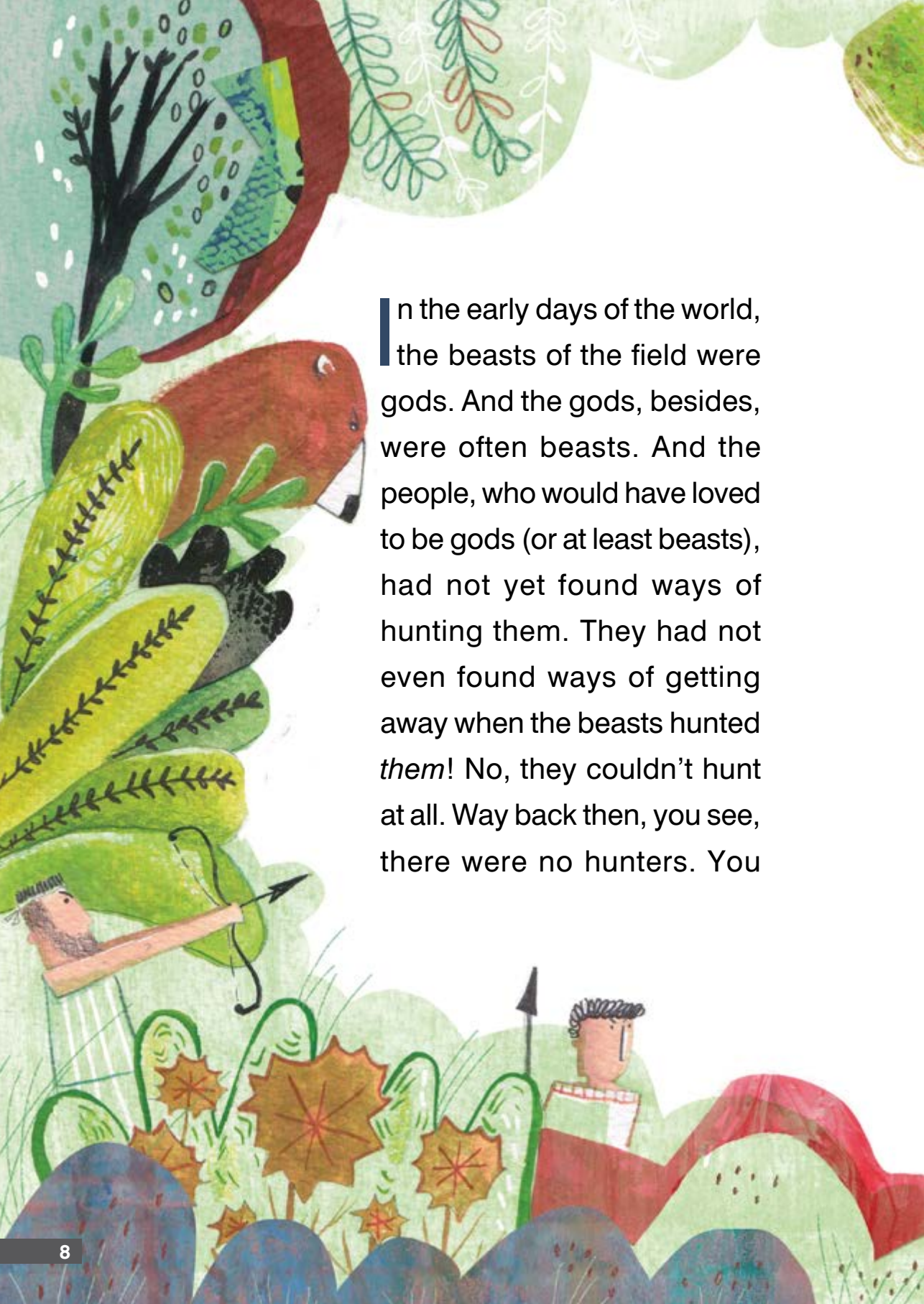
Maria Angelidou

The Labours of Hercules

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**Illustrated by
Iris Samartzi**

METACHMIO



In the early days of the world, the beasts of the field were gods. And the gods, besides, were often beasts. And the people, who would have loved to be gods (or at least beasts), had not yet found ways of hunting them. They had not even found ways of getting away when the beasts hunted *them*! No, they couldn't hunt at all. Way back then, you see, there were no hunters. You



could count on the fingers of one hand the people who dared to fight wolves or boars or snakes or untamed bulls. Hardly anyone could trap bears, eagles, tigers or horses, and even fewer could fight dragons, monsters, serpents and sphinxes. Only the real heroes clenched their teeth and fought the wildest, the most fearsome, the most terrifying beasts: lions.

Since the Earth was young, there have been (and still are!) all kinds of jobs to be done, all kinds of dangers to avoid, and all kinds of tasks to accomplish. But the most terrible dangers, the most difficult adventures and the most impossible tasks often await the hero in his own land, in his own neighbourhood – even in his own home.

The Nemean Lion
The Lernaean Hydra
The Erymanthian Boar
The Ceryneian Hind
The Stymphalian Birds
The Stables of Augeas

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