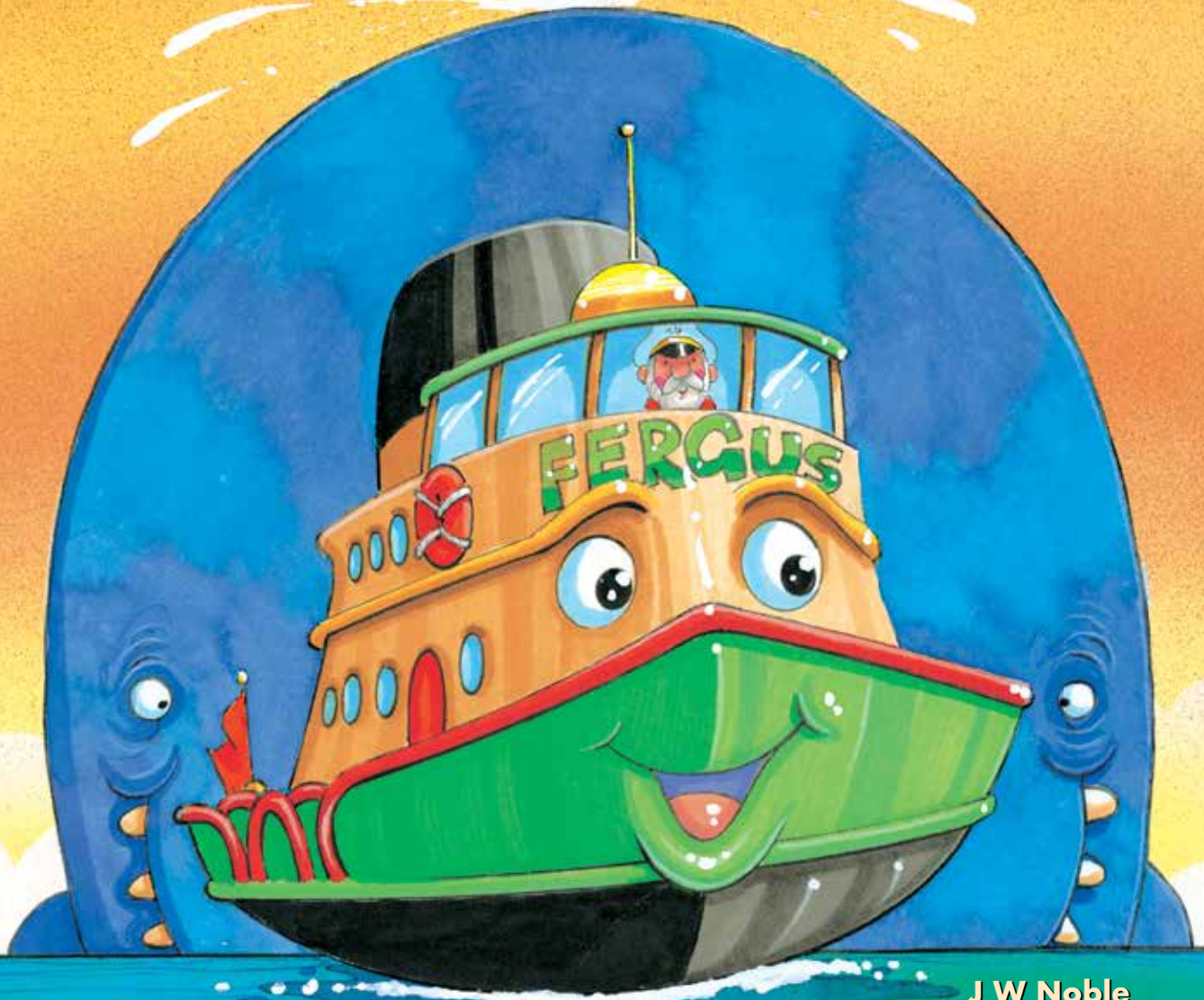


FERGUS AND THE WHALE



J W Noble
Peter Townsend



FERGUS

AND THE WHALE

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Snwball
PRESS

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Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

It's Fergus Ferry on his round.

Wee waw, wee waw—there's another sound, too.

It's Kate the police boat, her light flashing blue.

'A whale has come in,' she tells Fergus,

'from the ocean.'

The boats are crowding round

and causing a commotion.'



The whale is circling in Parsley Bay.

'We think she's lost,' Kate says, 'but it's hard to say.

She is very tired and must be left alone.

So I've made the bay an exclusion zone.'



Then Fergus sees from the corner of his eye
Flash, the speedboat, go whizzing by.

'Listen,' says Flash, 'to my engines whirr.

I go so fast, I'm just a blur!

At my wheel is Skipper Dean.

We're the slickest team you've ever seen!'



Where the whale is, nobody knows,
Then there comes a cry, 'There she blows!'
Up into the air shoots a white water jet,
Making lots of spectators soaking wet.



From out in the harbour there comes a shout.

'I've lost control,' yells Dean. 'Everyone look out!'

Fergus sees the splash of a tail.

Help, he thinks, Flash is heading for the whale.

I need to do something to change Flash's course

Or he'll hit that whale with terrible force.

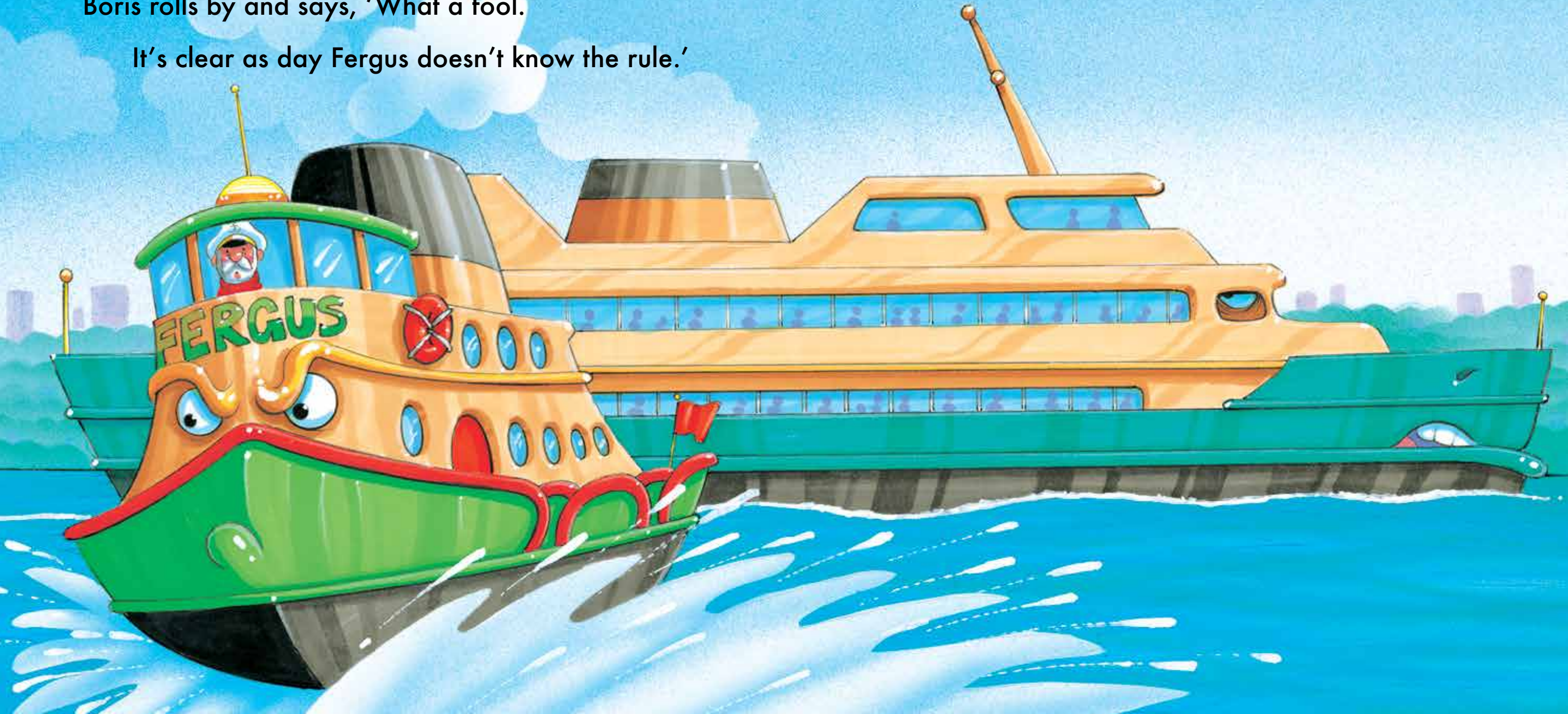


So Fergus spins around and heads for the zone.

‘We’re not allowed there,’ Joe says with a moan.

Boris rolls by and says, ‘What a fool.

It’s clear as day Fergus doesn’t know the rule.’



Then everyone sees Flash going faster and faster.

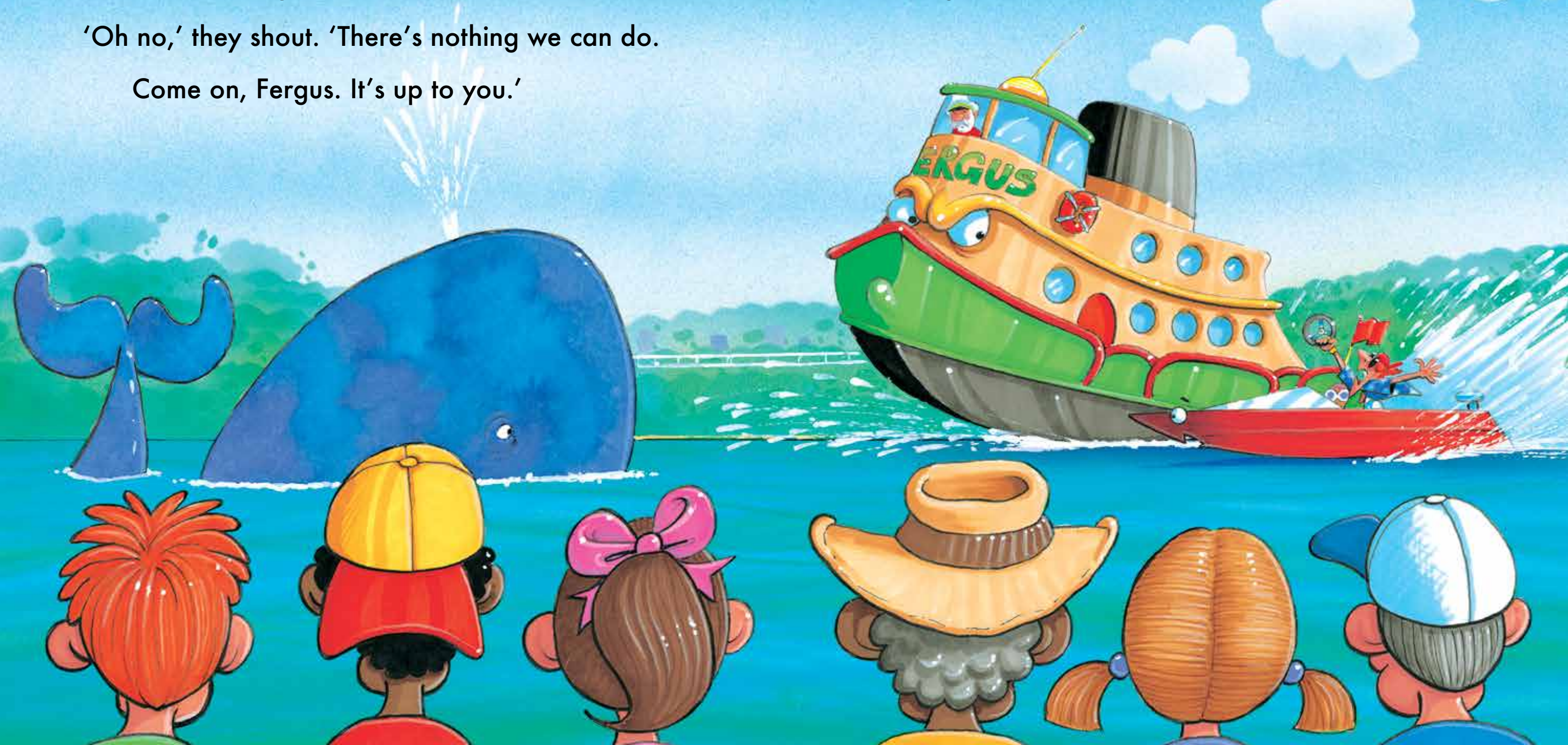
He's heading for the whale and certain disaster.

'Oh no,' they shout. 'There's nothing we can do.'

Come on, Fergus. It's up to you.'

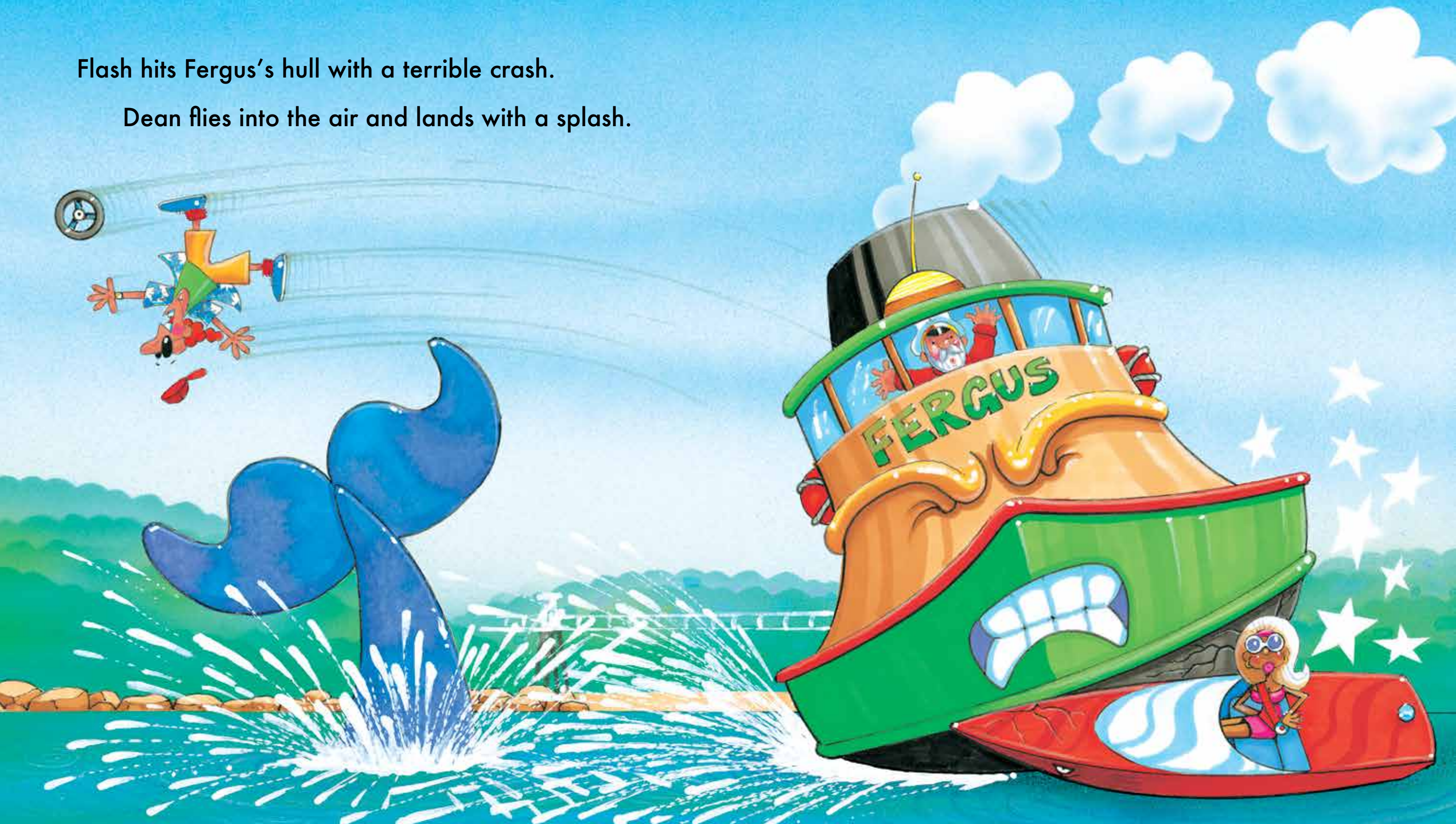
'Full steam ahead!' shouts Joe, pushing the throttle.

Fergus shoots forward, like a cork from a bottle.



Flash hits Fergus's hull with a terrible crash.

Dean flies into the air and lands with a splash.

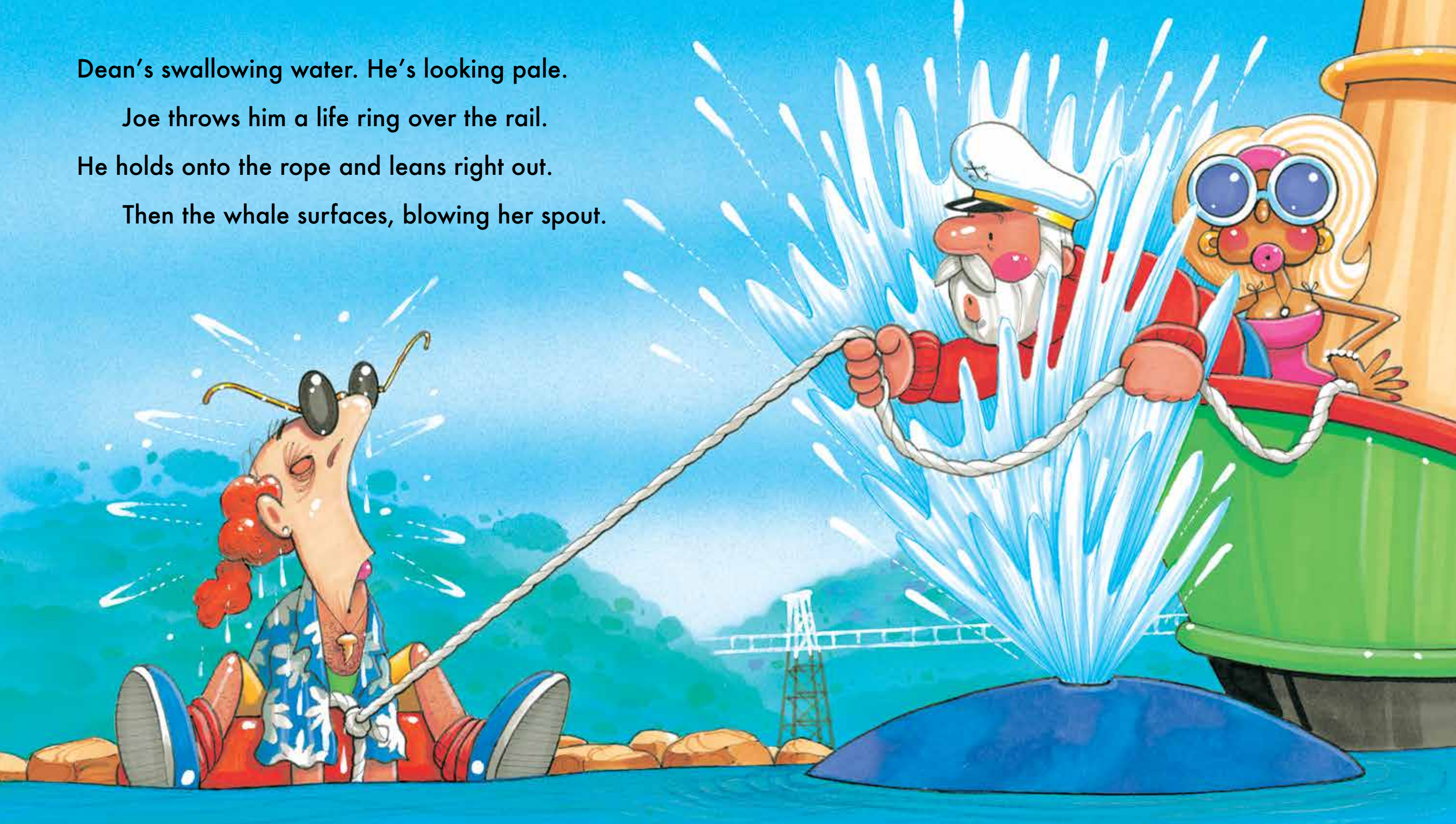


Dean's swallowing water. He's looking pale.

Joe throws him a life ring over the rail.

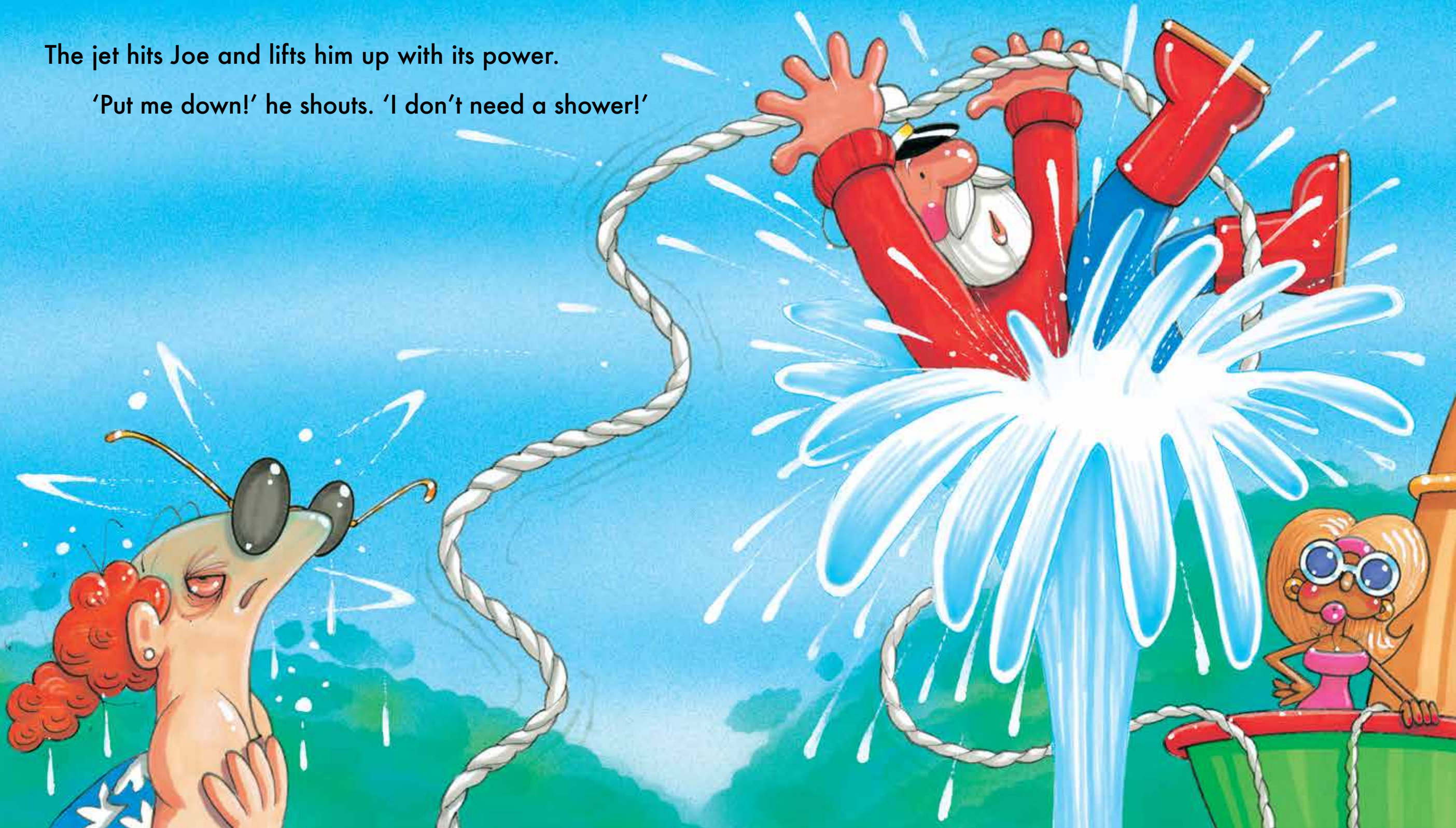
He holds onto the rope and leans right out.

Then the whale surfaces, blowing her spout.



The jet hits Joe and lifts him up with its power.

‘Put me down!’ he shouts. ‘I don’t need a shower!’



He falls to the water and grabs Dean round the chest.

'I'm exhausted,' says Joe, 'I could do with a rest.'

But there's no time for that. Some things can't wait.'

And he swims with Dean back to Fergus's gate.



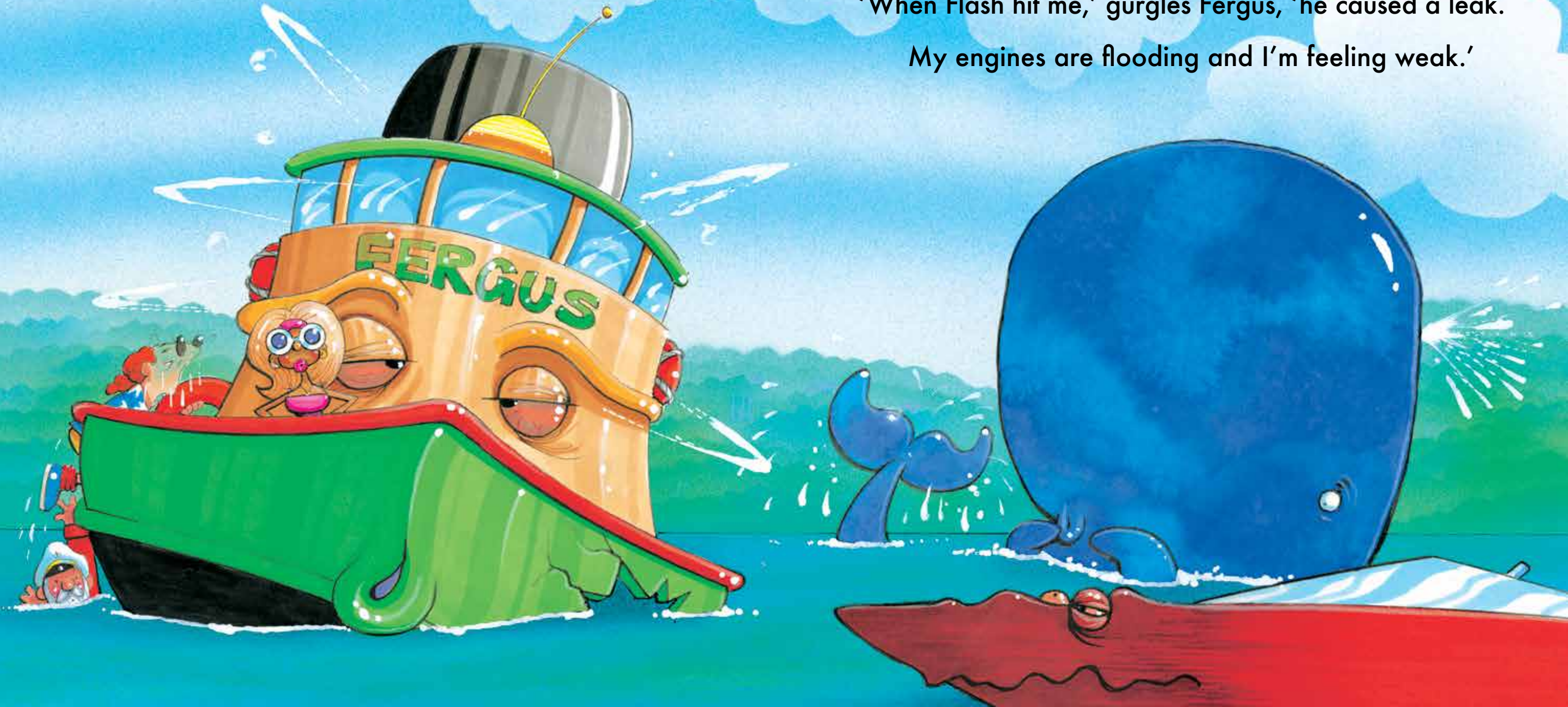
As Joe helps Dean up and over Fergus's side,
He hears something that makes him horrified.

What's that sound? *Chug, splutter, chug, splutter.*

Water pours through Fergus like rain in a gutter.

'When Flash hit me,' gurgles Fergus, 'he caused a leak.'

My engines are flooding and I'm feeling weak.'

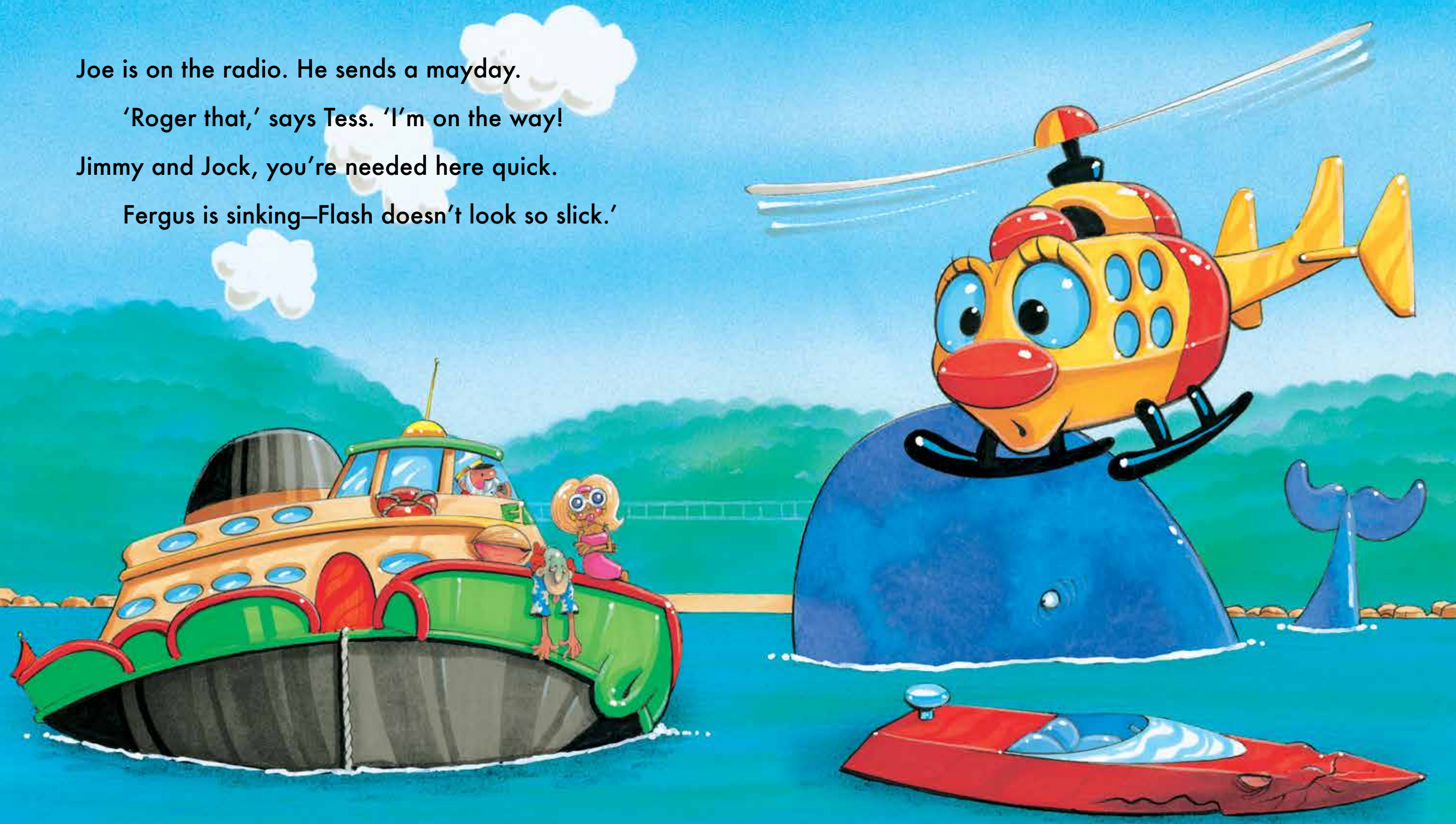


Joe is on the radio. He sends a mayday.

‘Roger that,’ says Tess. ‘I’m on the way!’

Jimmy and Jock, you’re needed here quick.

Fergus is sinking—Flash doesn’t look so slick.’

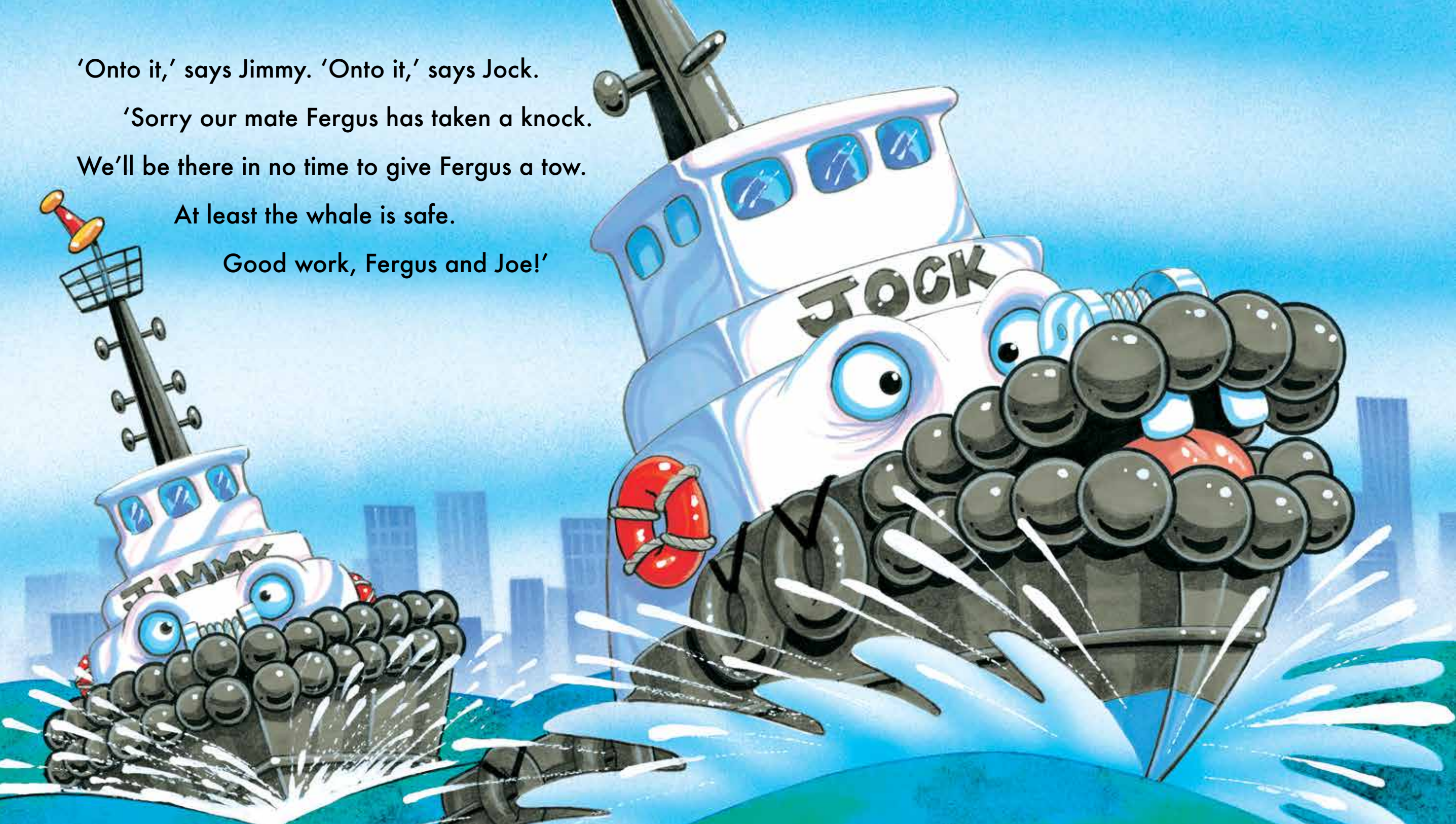


'Onto it,' says Jimmy. 'Onto it,' says Jock.

'Sorry our mate Fergus has taken a knock.
We'll be there in no time to give Fergus a tow.

At least the whale is safe.

Good work, Fergus and Joe!



At the Quay, Joe says,

‘Well, Fergus, we came through.

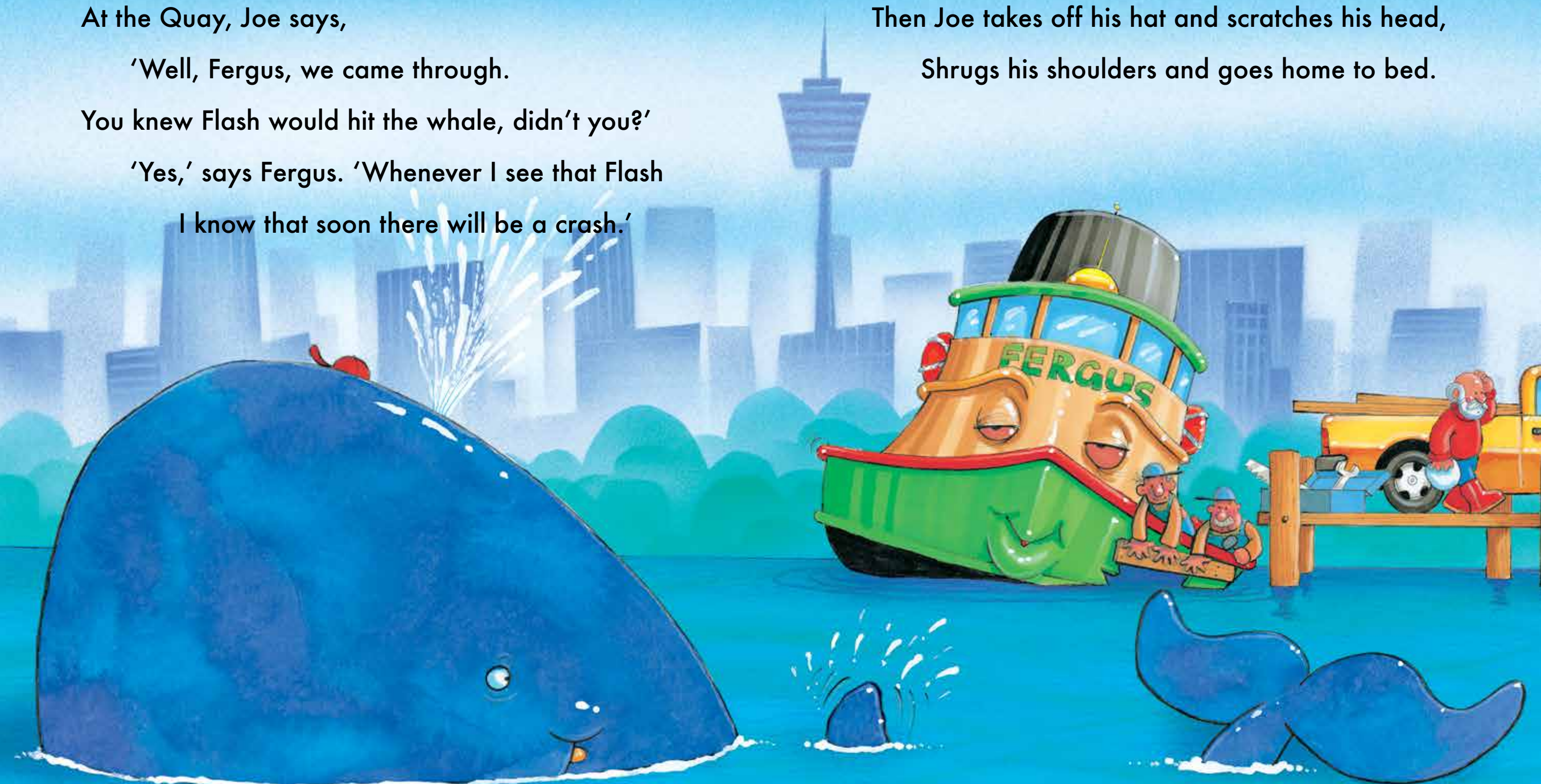
You knew Flash would hit the whale, didn’t you?’

‘Yes,’ says Fergus. ‘Whenever I see that Flash

I know that soon there will be a crash.’

Then Joe takes off his hat and scratches his head,

Shrugs his shoulders and goes home to bed.



For Bée

JWN

For Dhanashri

PT

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