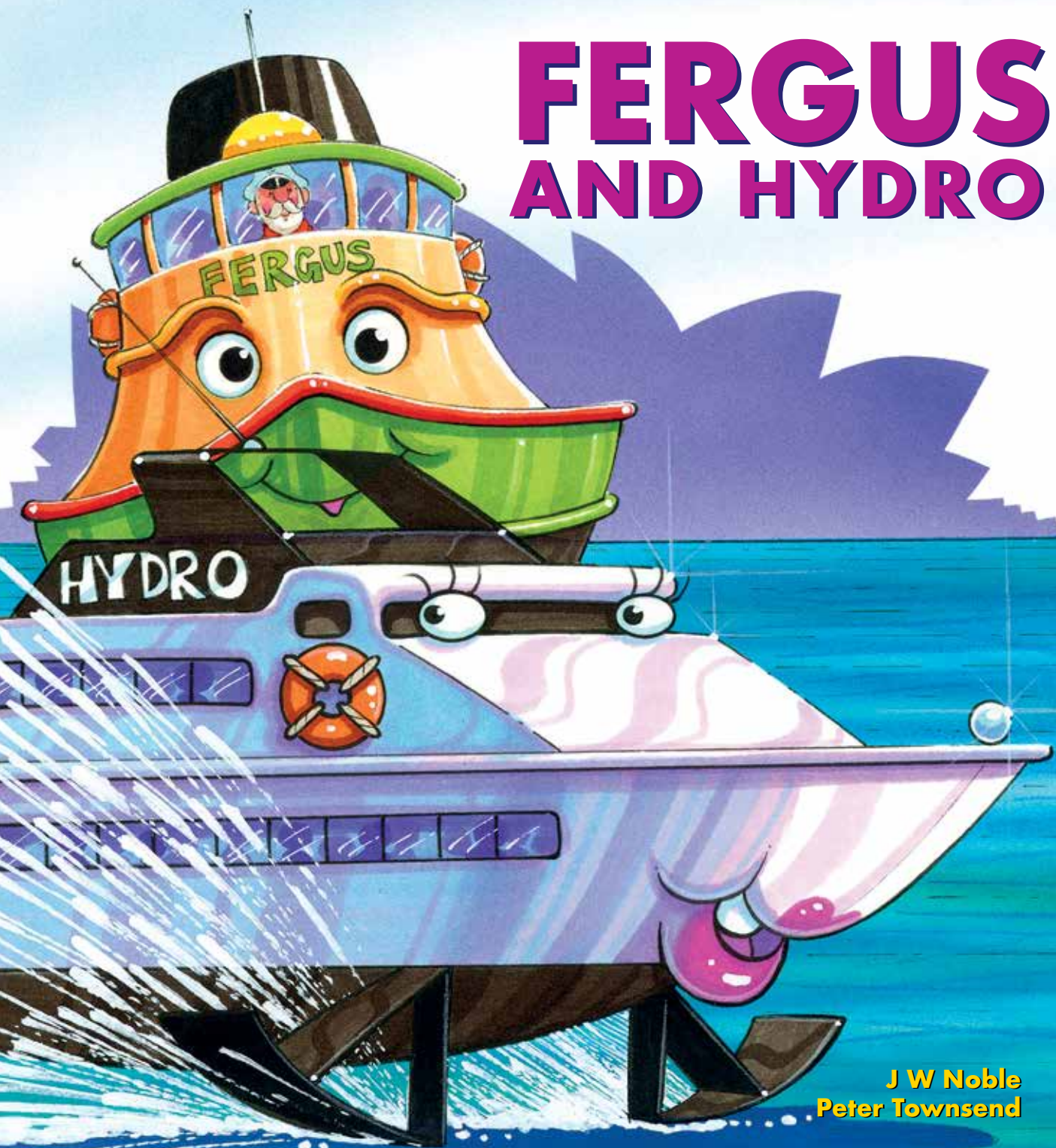


FERGUS AND HYDRO



J W Noble
Peter Townsend



FERGUS AND HYDRO

**J W Noble
Peter Townsend**

Snwball
PRESS

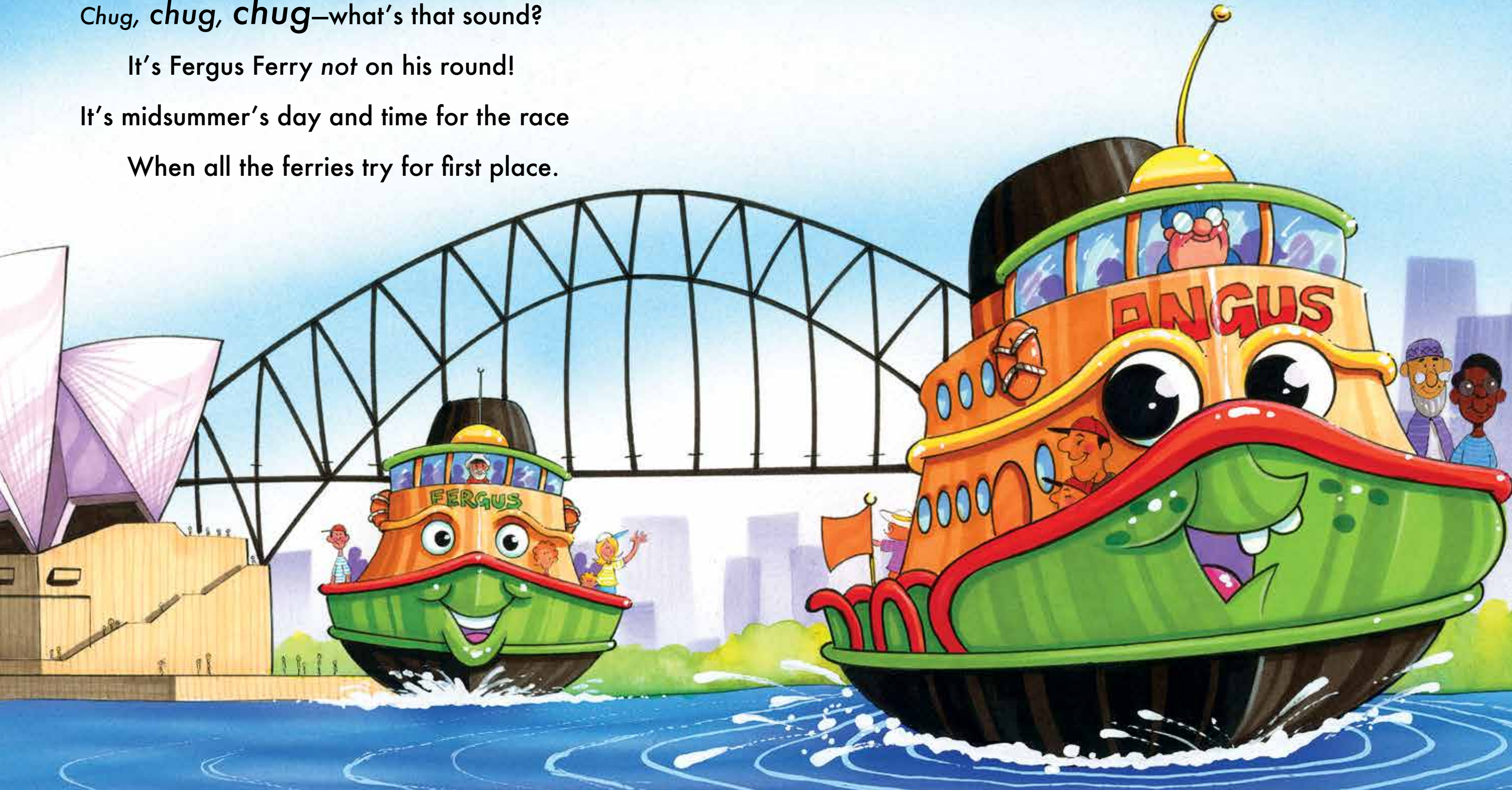
www.fergusferry.com

Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

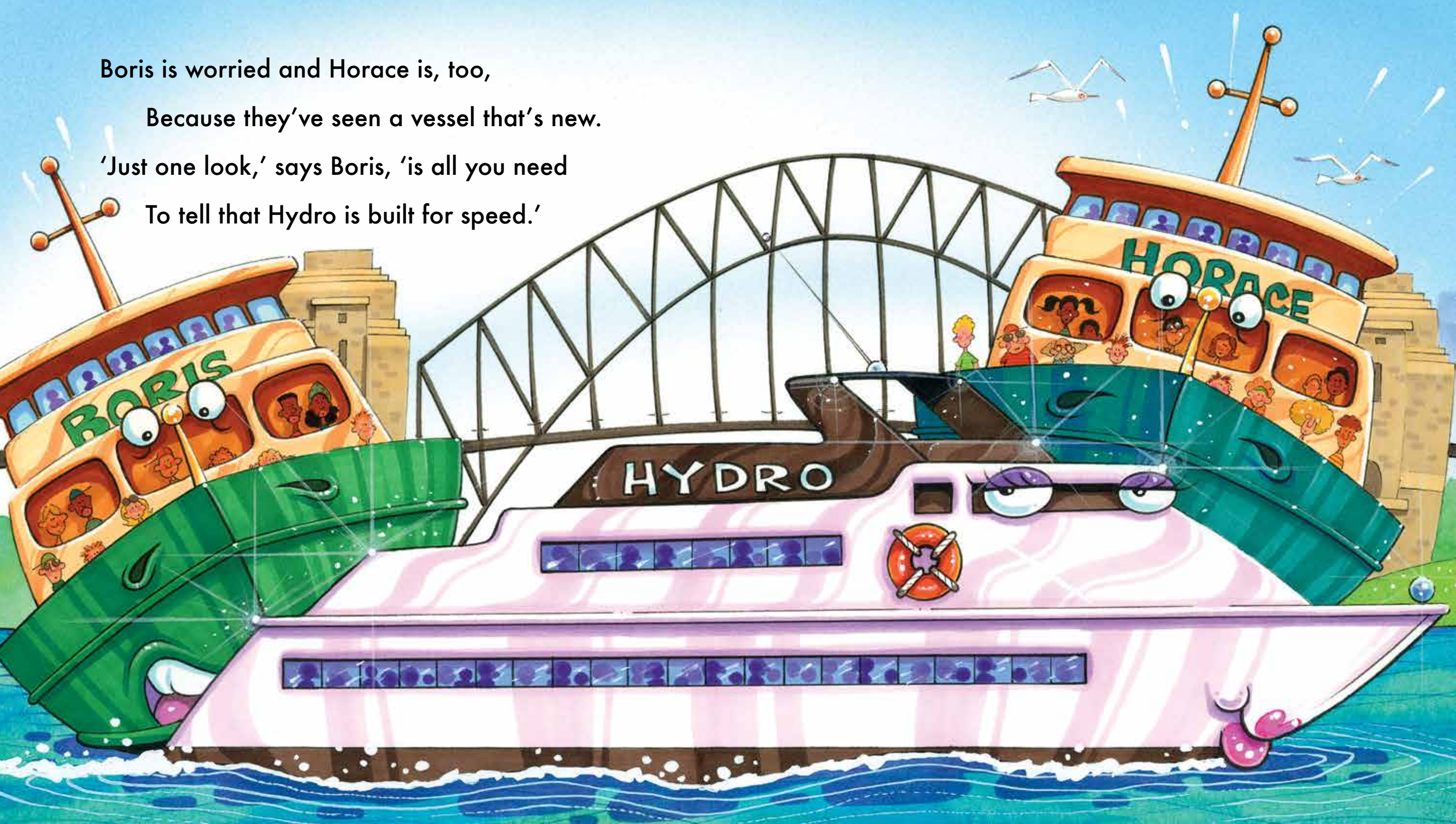
It's Fergus Ferry *not* on his round!

It's midsummer's day and time for the race

When all the ferries try for first place.



Boris is worried and Horace is, too,
Because they've seen a vessel that's new.
'Just one look,' says Boris, 'is all you need
To tell that Hydro is built for speed.'



They're at the line. *Bang* goes the gun.

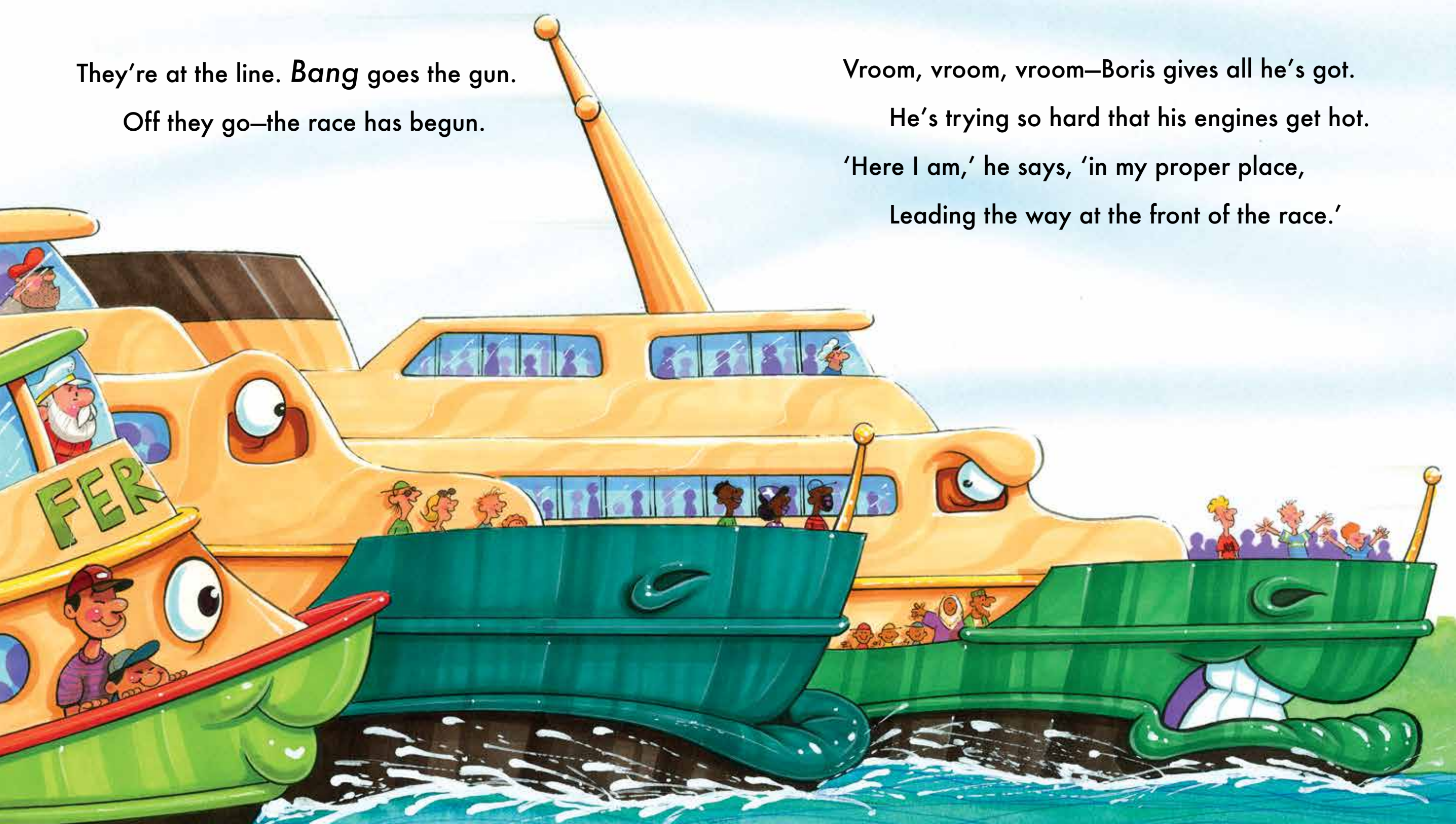
Off they go—the race has begun.

Vroom, vroom, vroom—Boris gives all he's got.

He's trying so hard that his engines get hot.

'Here I am,' he says, 'in my proper place,

Leading the way at the front of the race.'



Then Horace gives his engines a burst.

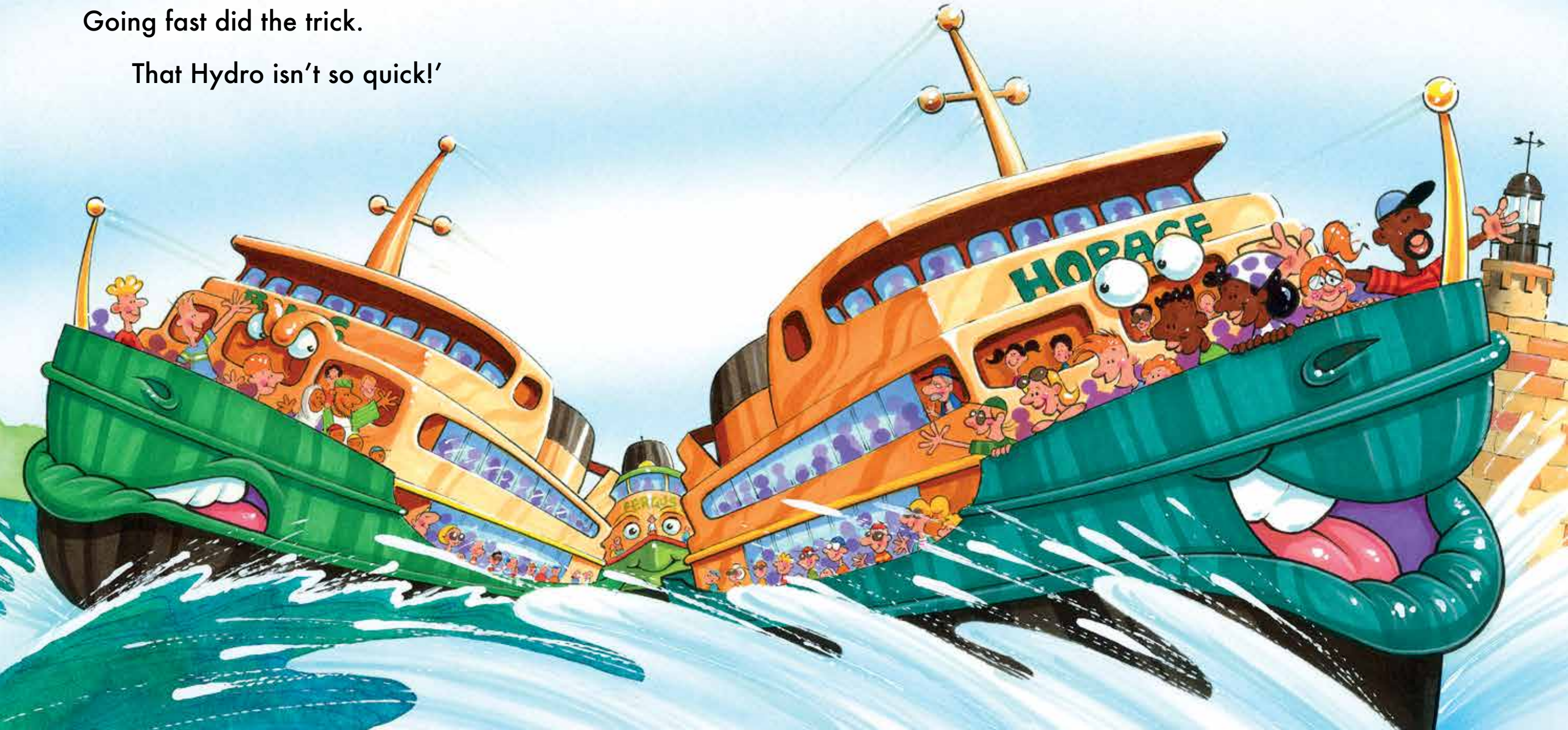
'I've passed you, Boris. Now who's first?

Going fast did the trick.

That Hydro isn't so quick!'

Boris revs his engines. 'I'm coming through.

I'm the one who should be in front, not you.'



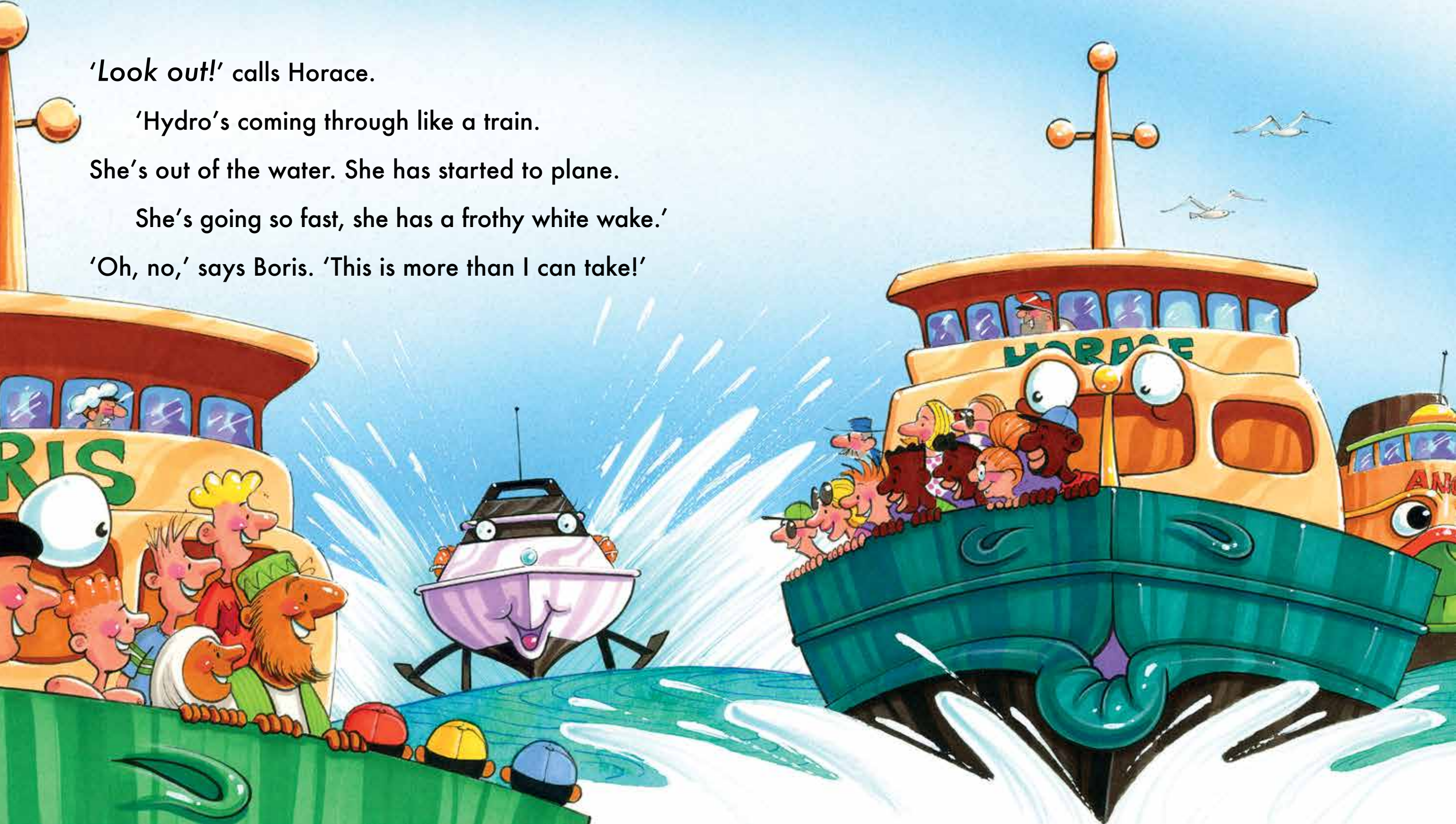
'Look out!' calls Horace.

'Hydro's coming through like a train.

She's out of the water. She has started to plane.

She's going so fast, she has a frothy white wake.'

'Oh, no,' says Boris. 'This is more than I can take!'



Bang! Boris bursts his engines and starts to roll.

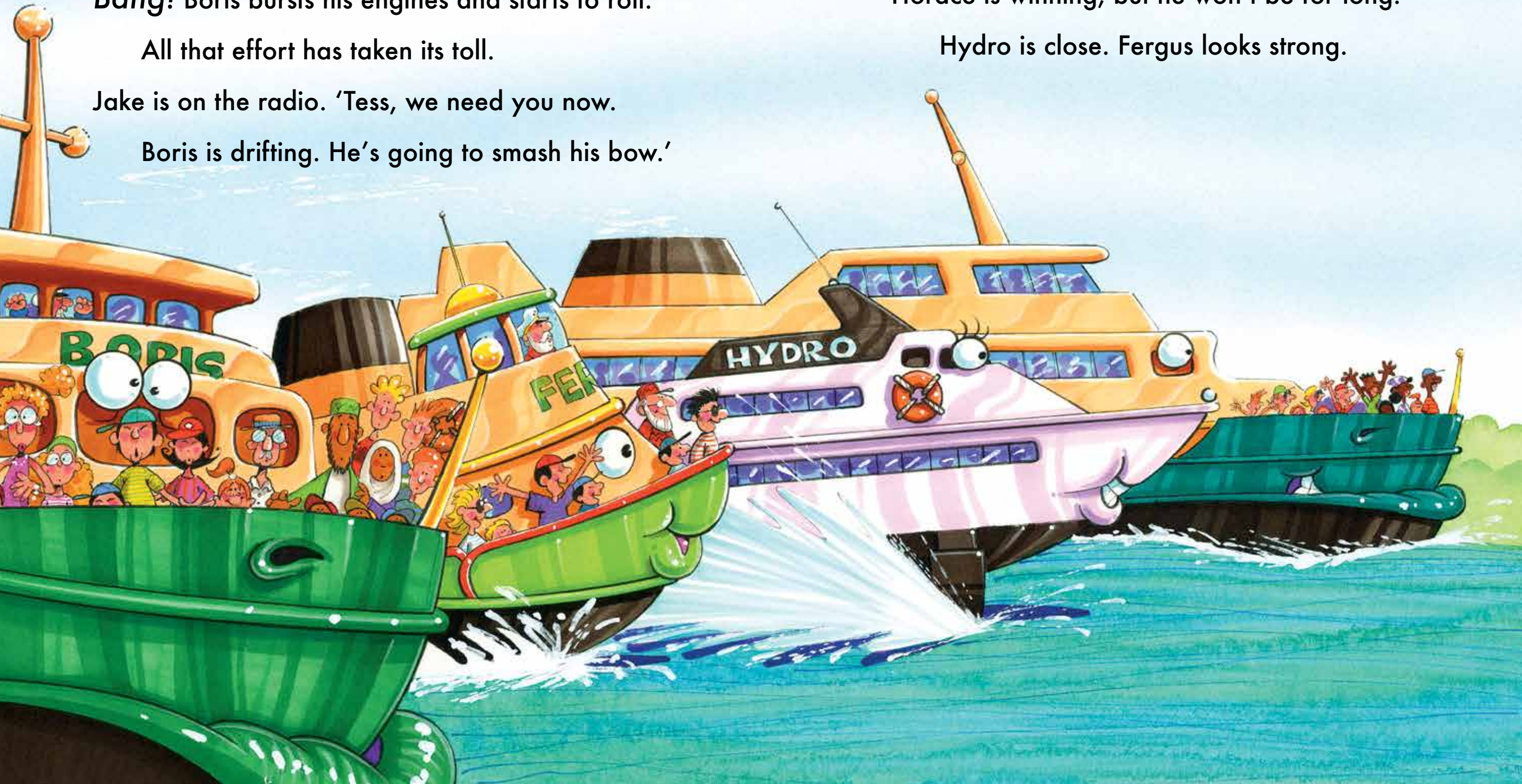
All that effort has taken its toll.

Jake is on the radio. 'Tess, we need you now.

Boris is drifting. He's going to smash his bow.'

Horace is winning, but he won't be for long.

Hydro is close. Fergus looks strong.

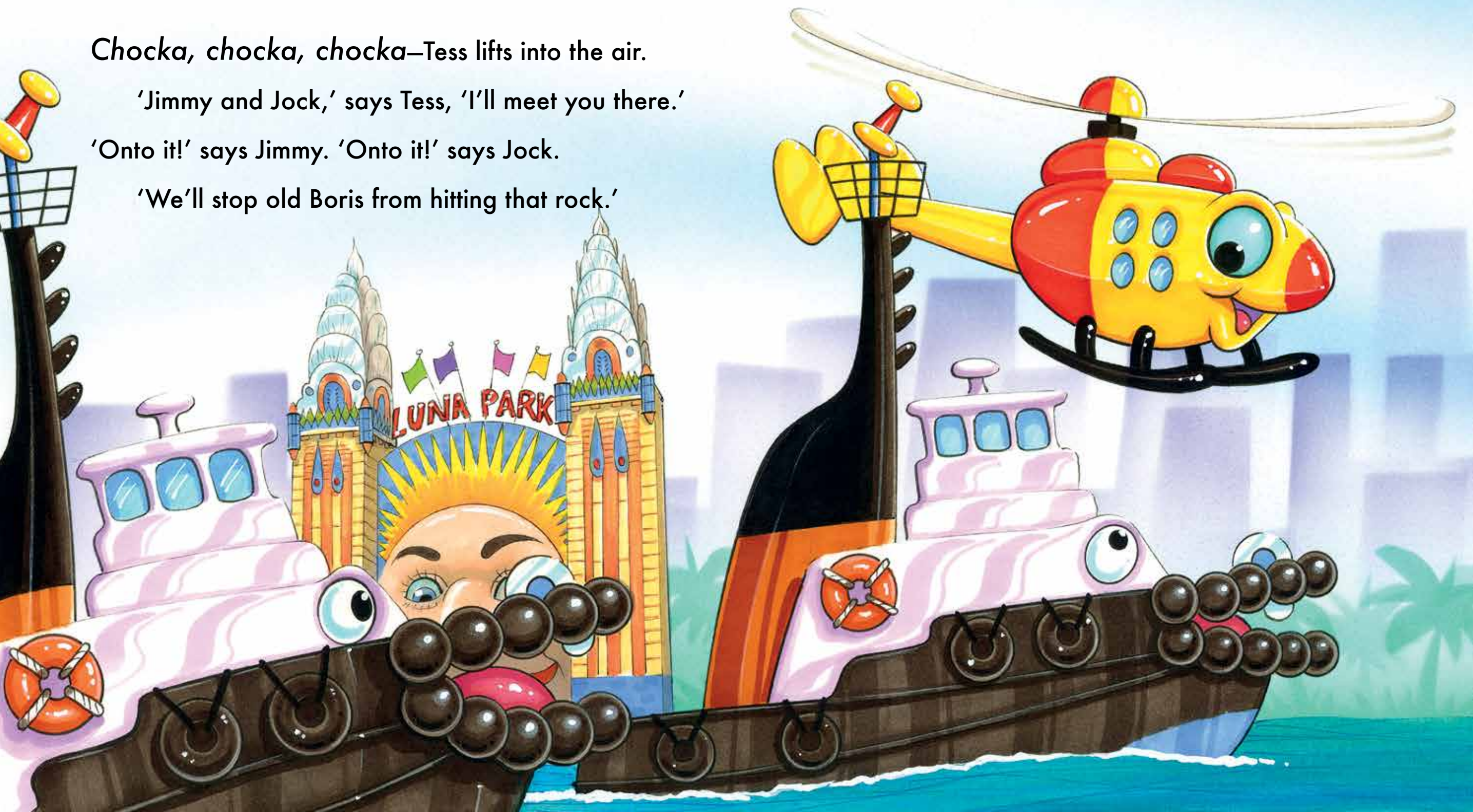


Chocka, chocka, chocka—Tess lifts into the air.

‘Jimmy and Jock,’ says Tess, ‘I’ll meet you there.’

‘Onto it!’ says Jimmy. ‘Onto it!’ says Jock.

‘We’ll stop old Boris from hitting that rock.’

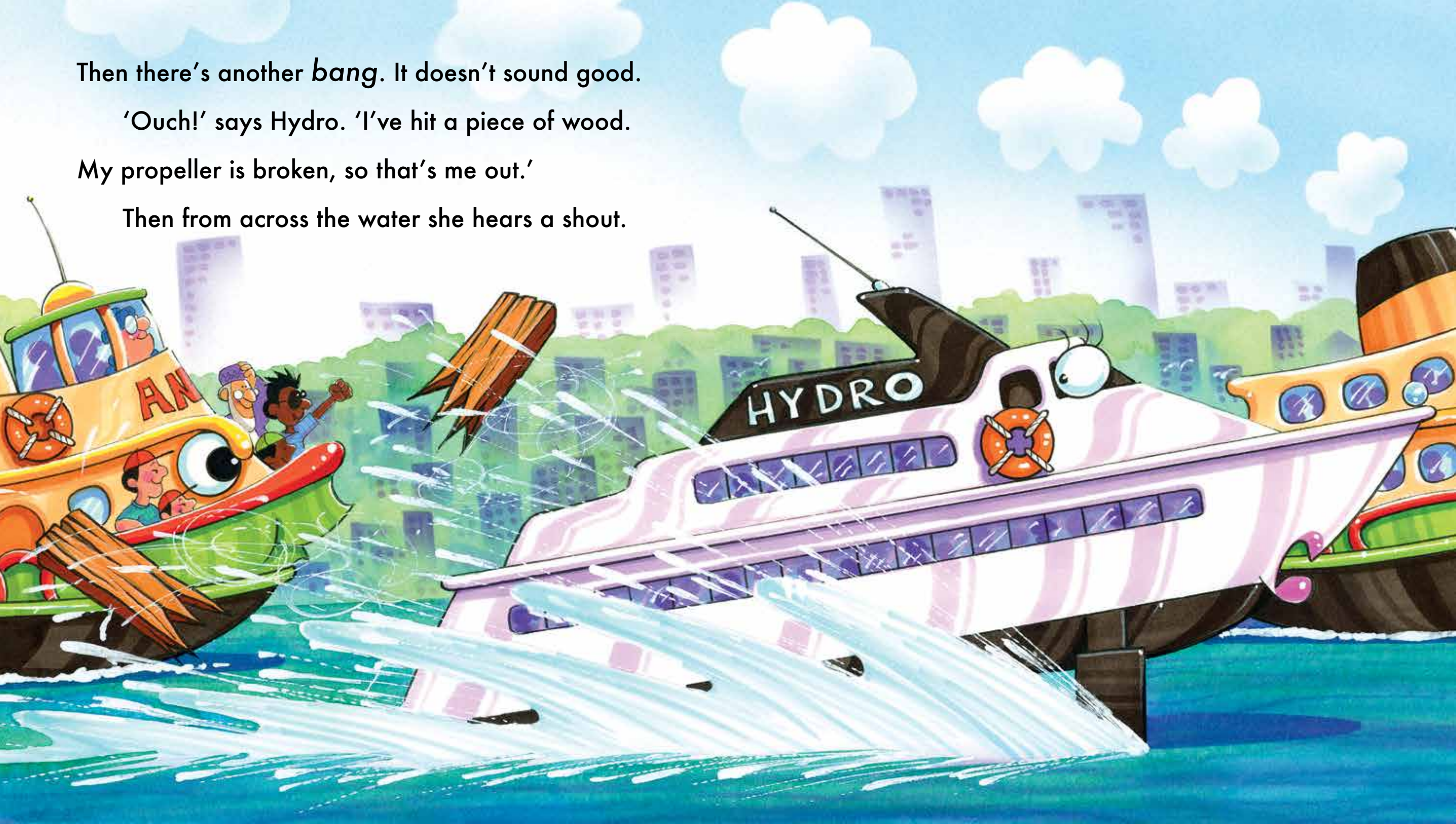


Then there's another *bang*. It doesn't sound good.

'Ouch!' says Hydro. 'I've hit a piece of wood.

My propeller is broken, so that's me out.'

Then from across the water she hears a shout.



'Horace,' shouts Boris, 'quick, lend me a hand.

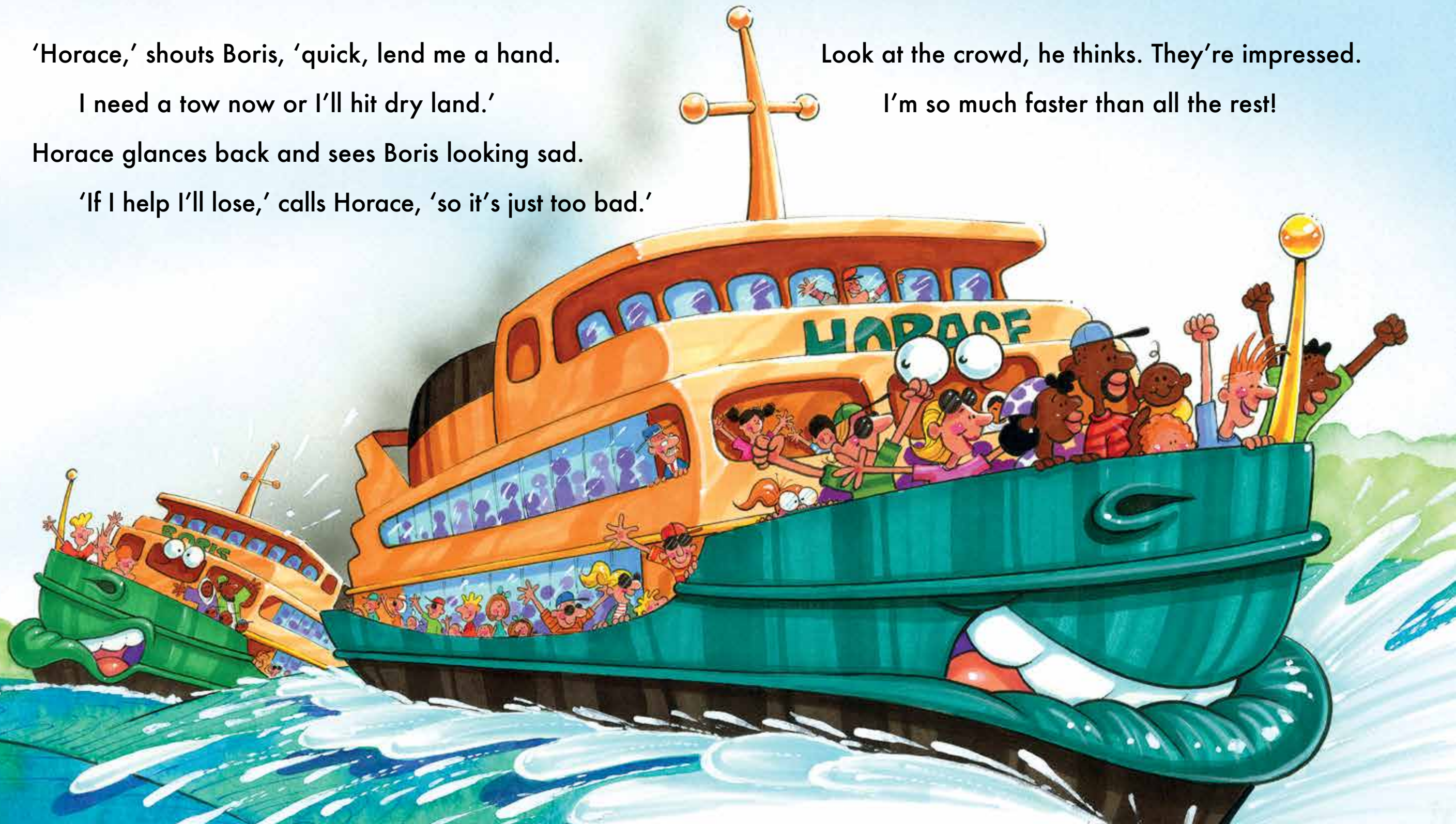
I need a tow now or I'll hit dry land.'

Horace glances back and sees Boris looking sad.

'If I help I'll lose,' calls Horace, 'so it's just too bad.'

Look at the crowd, he thinks. They're impressed.

I'm so much faster than all the rest!



The tugs arrive and throw Boris a line.

'Tie the ropes tight,' says Jock, 'and you'll be fine.'

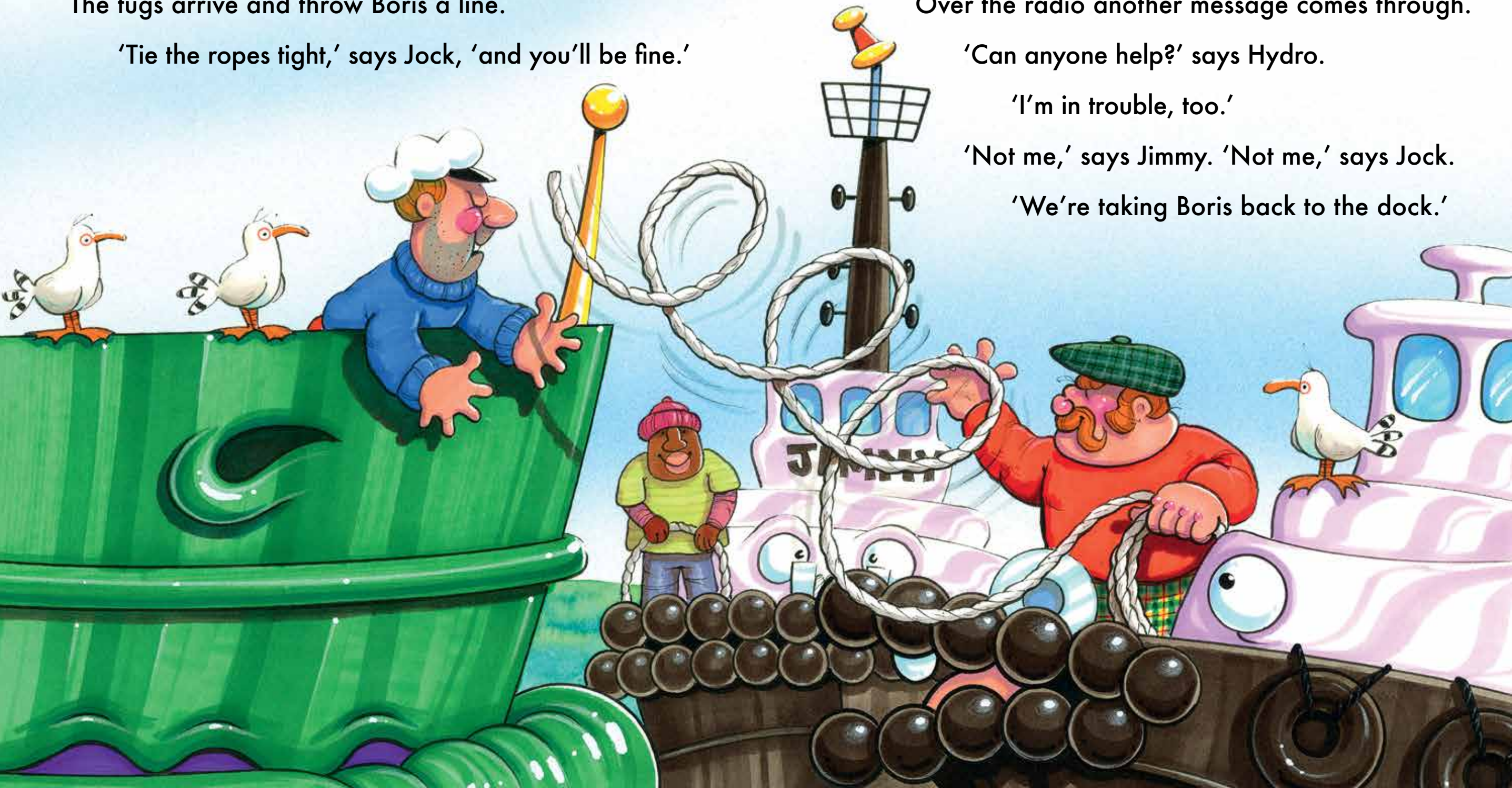
Over the radio another message comes through.

'Can anyone help?' says Hydro.

'I'm in trouble, too.'

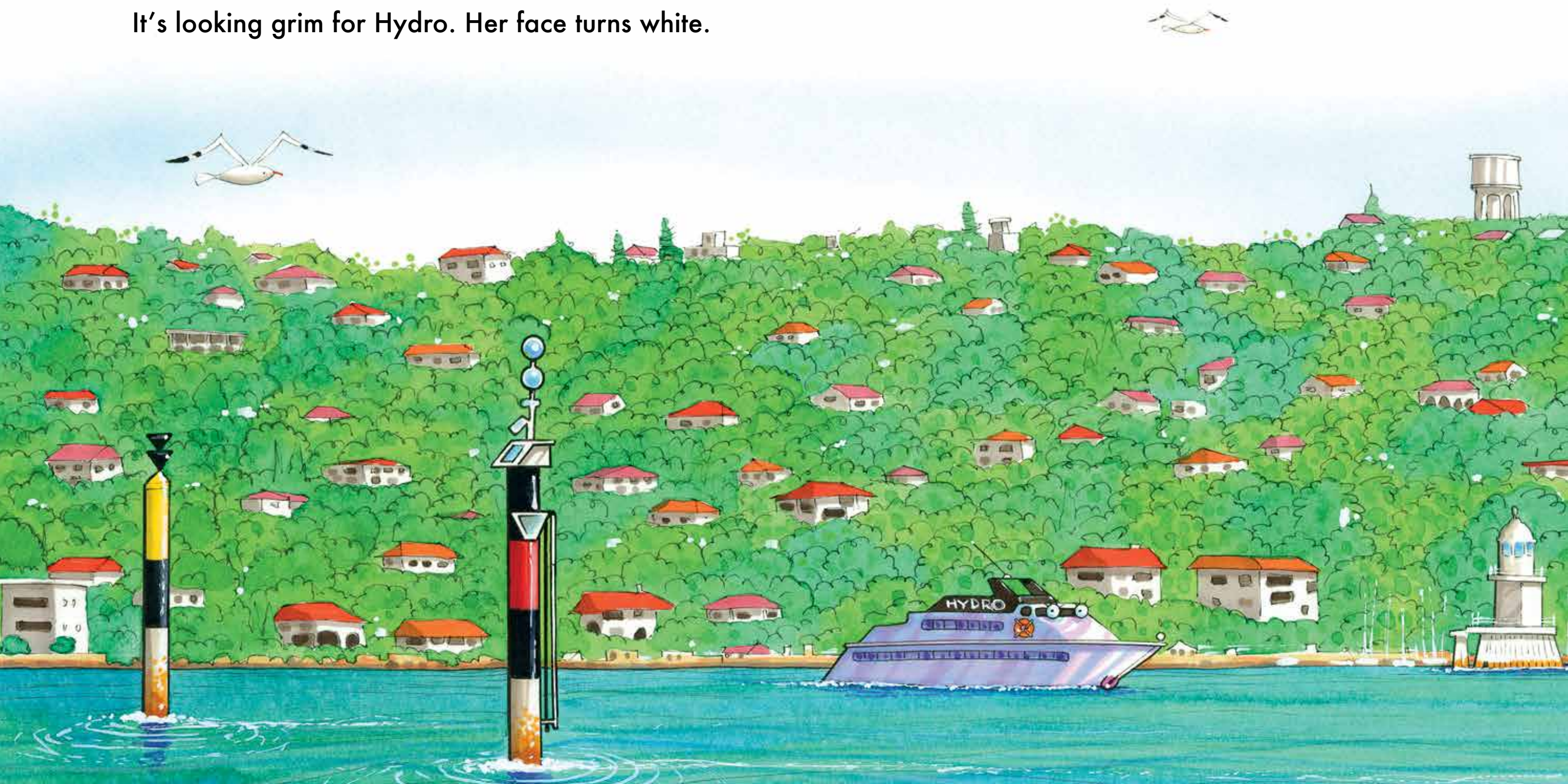
'Not me,' says Jimmy. 'Not me,' says Jock.

'We're taking Boris back to the dock.'



The race has passed. There's not a vessel in sight.

It's looking grim for Hydro. Her face turns white.

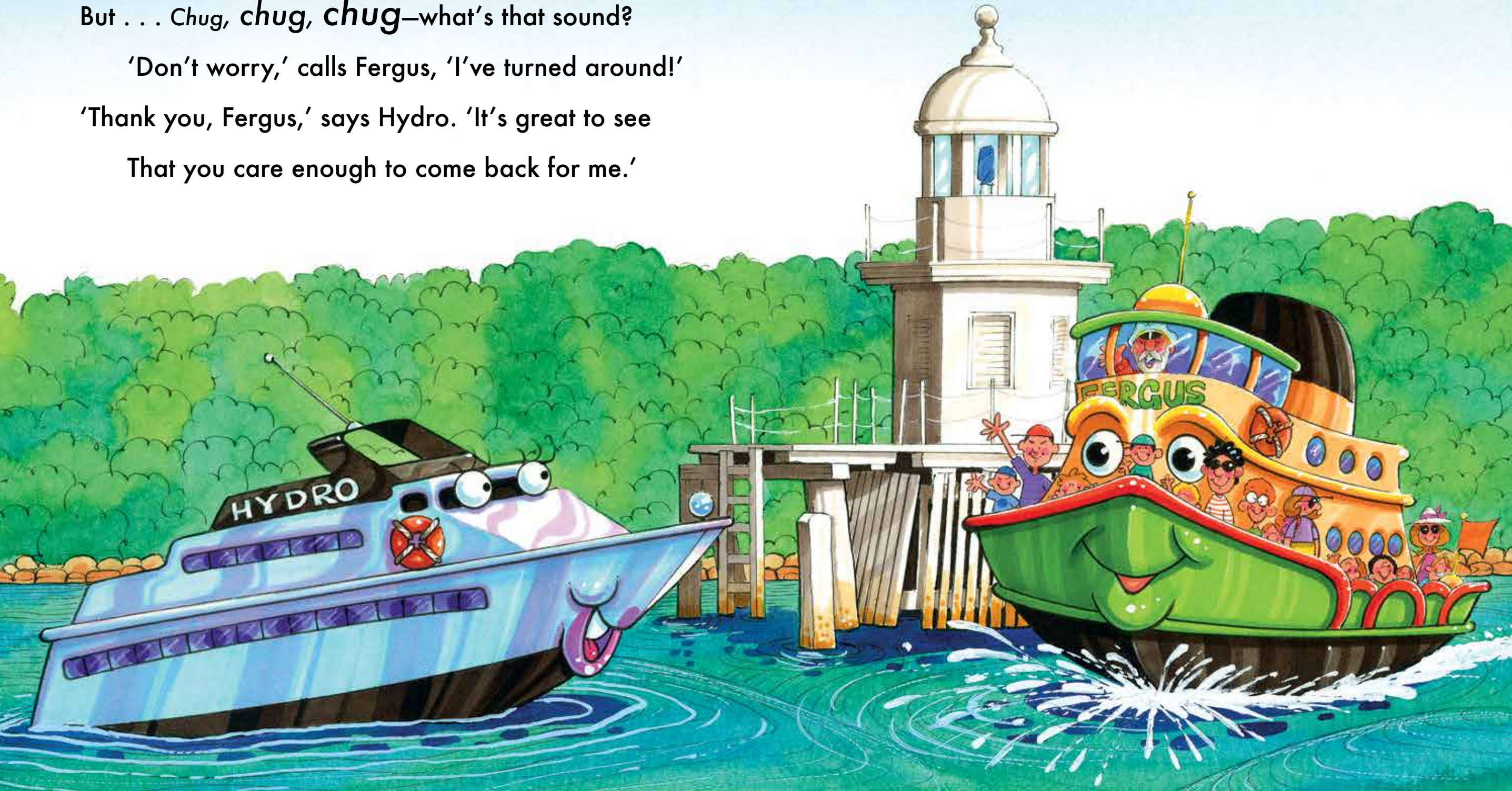


But . . . *Chug, chug, chug*—what's that sound?

'Don't worry,' calls Fergus, 'I've turned around!'

'Thank you, Fergus,' says Hydro. 'It's great to see

That you care enough to come back for me.'



Horace is grinning. He's near the end of the race.

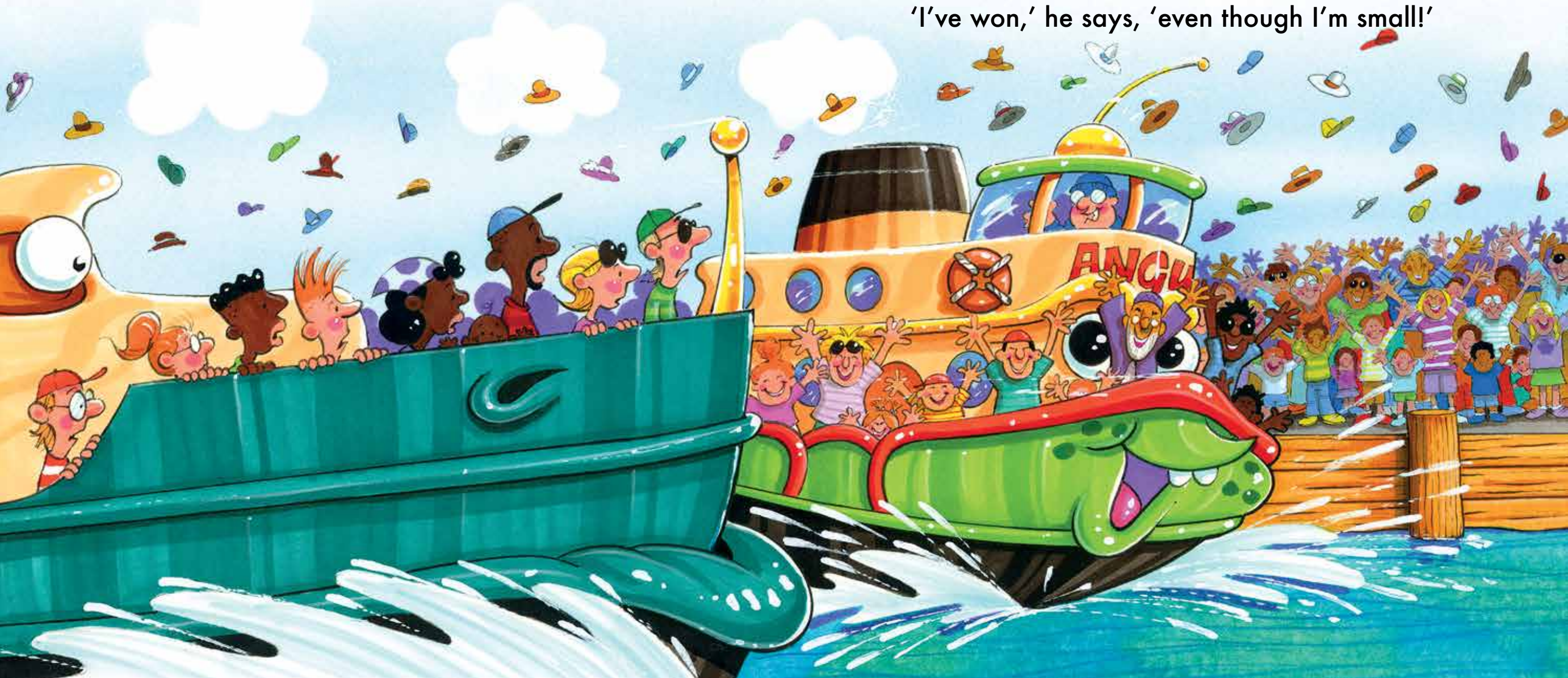
Then he sees something
that wipes the smile off his face.

'Oh, Horace,' says Angus. 'I've got news for you.

While you were watching the crowd, I snuck through.'

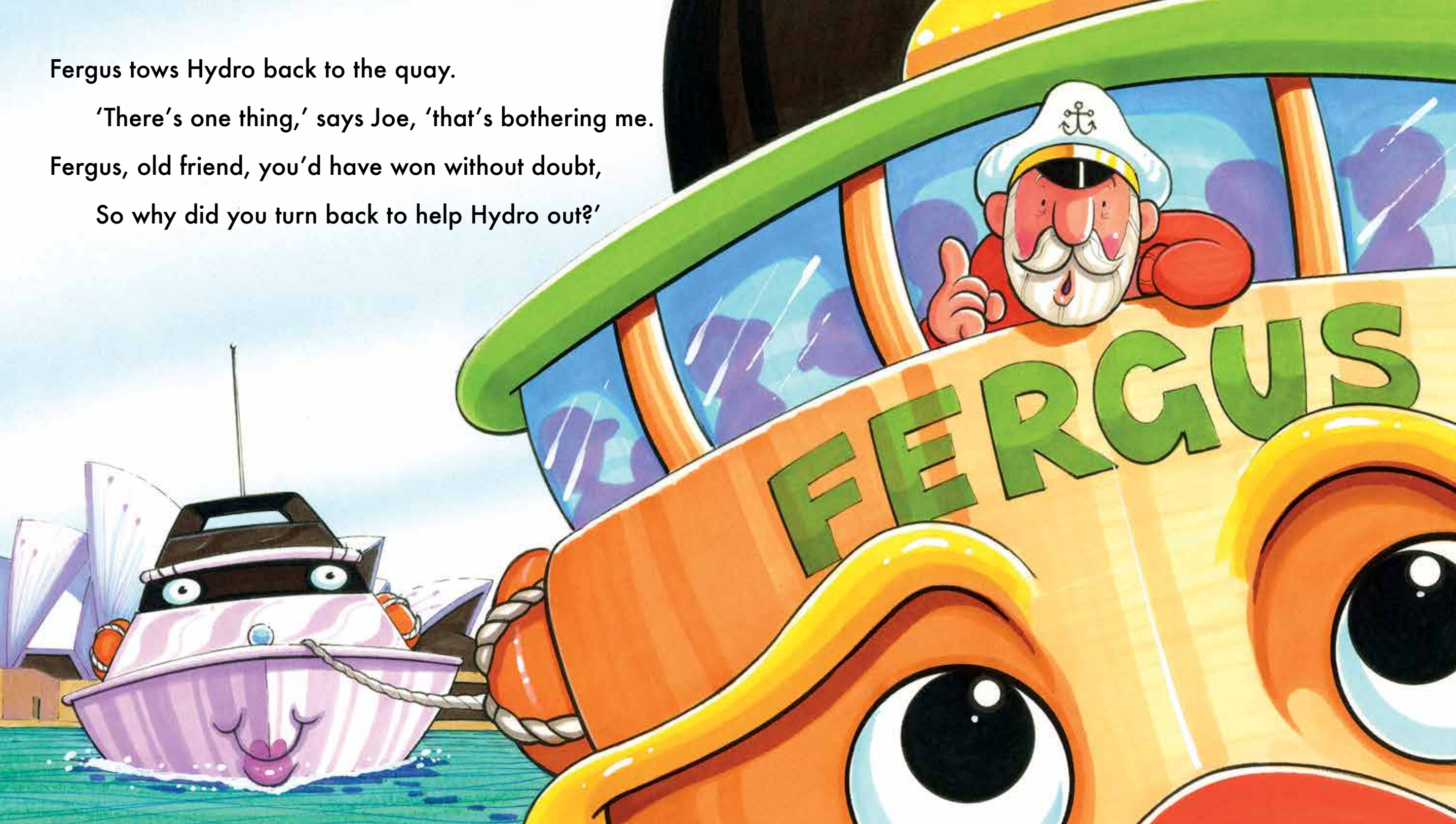
Angus finishes first, in front of them all.

'I've won,' he says, 'even though I'm small!'



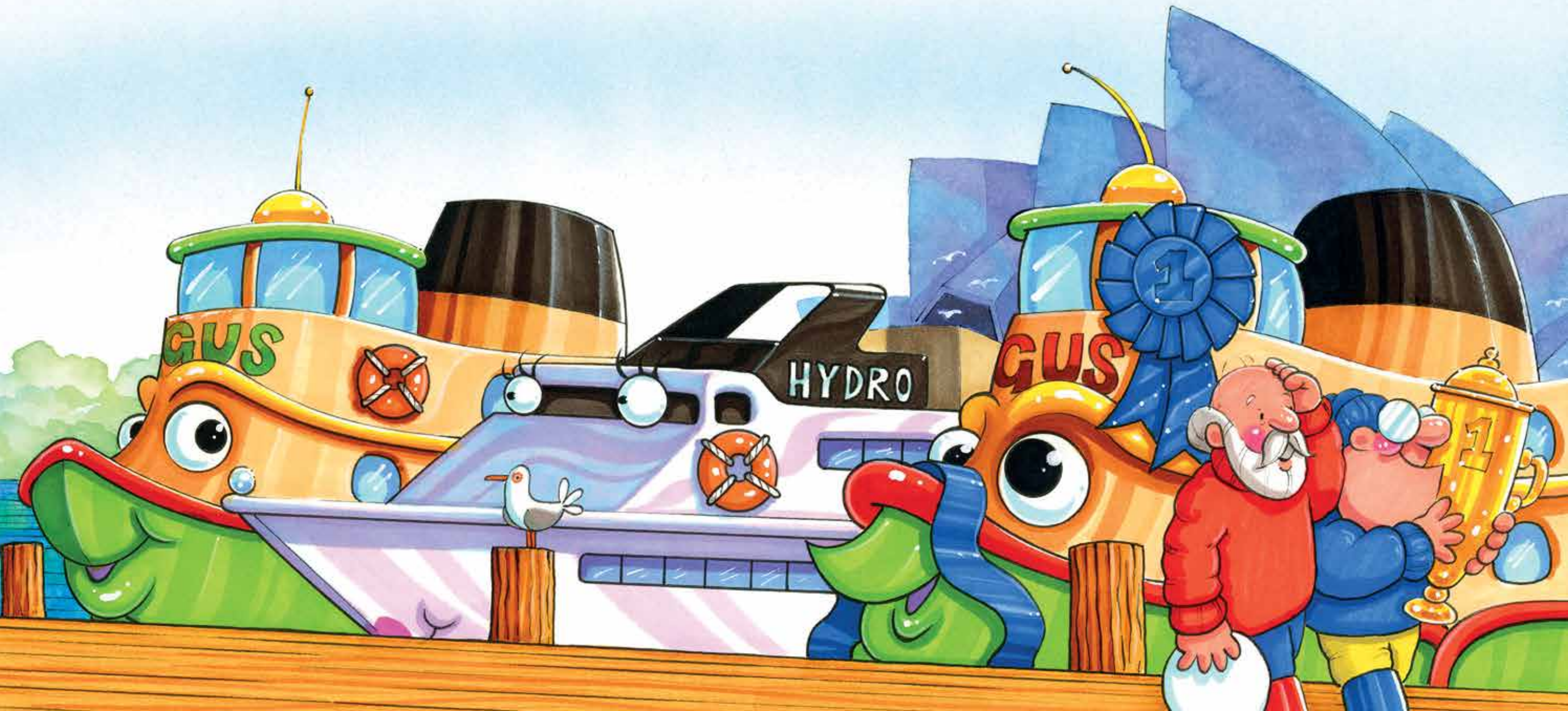
Fergus tows Hydro back to the quay.

‘There’s one thing,’ says Joe, ‘that’s bothering me.
Fergus, old friend, you’d have won without doubt,
So why did you turn back to help Hydro out?’



'To help a friend,' says Fergus, 'means more you see,
Than any trophy they could give to me.'

Then Joe takes off his hat and scratches his head
Shrugs his shoulders and goes home to bed.



Friendship sometimes means making sacrifices.

For Sarah Marshall

JWN

Sri Mata Amritanandamayi

PT

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Published by Snowball Press Pty Limited 2010.

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National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry

Author: Noble, J. W. (John Williamson)
Title: Fergus and Hydro / J. W. Noble ; illustrator, Peter Townsend.
Edition: 1st ed.
ISBN 9780980531848 (pbk.)
Target Audience: For preschool to age 6 children.
Subjects: Ferries--Juvenile fiction.
Other Authors/Contributors: Townsend, Peter, 1958-
Dewey Number: A823.4

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Typeset in Futura.

Printed in China by Imago.

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