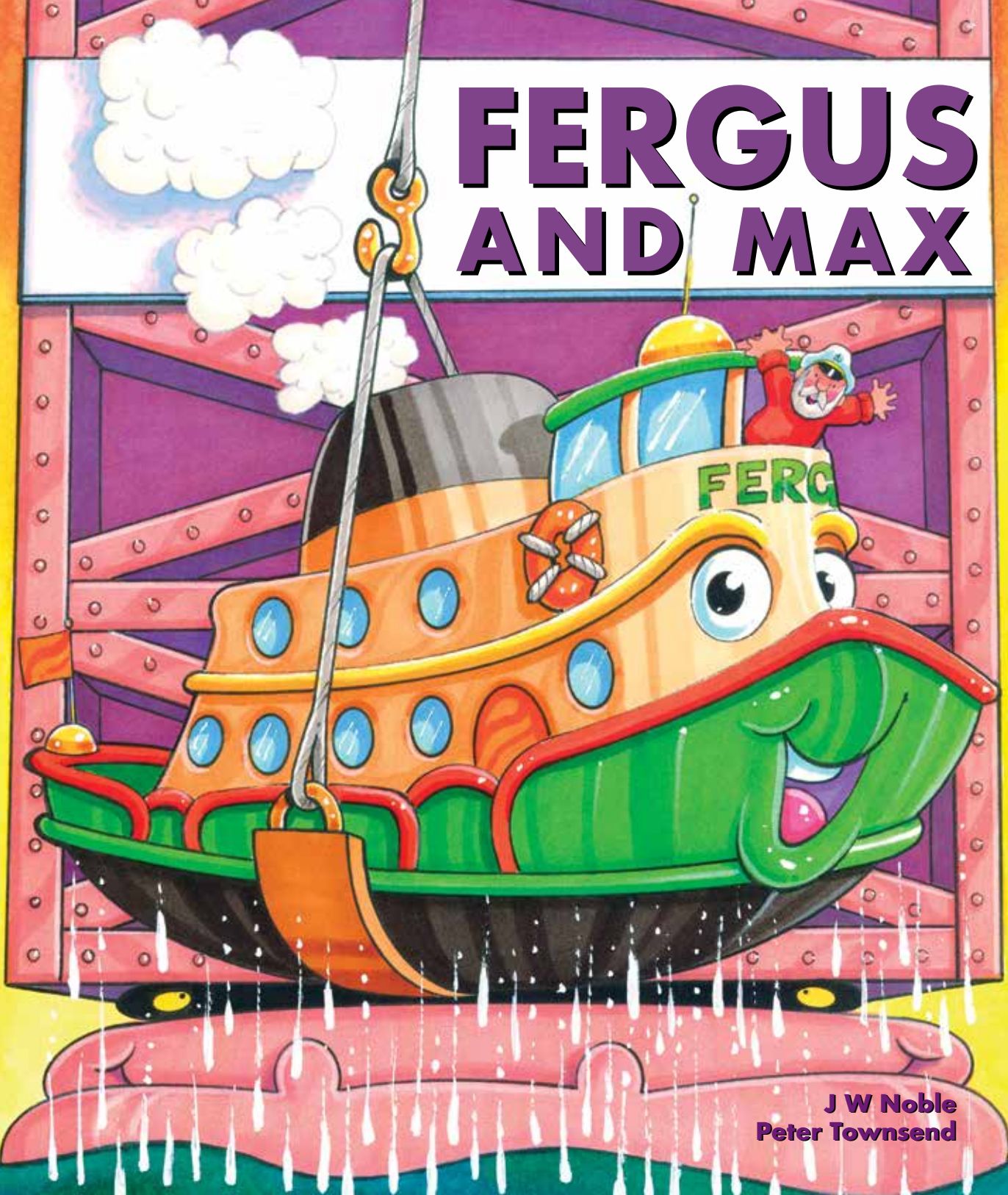


FERGUS AND MAX



J W Noble
Peter Townsend



FERGUS AND MAX

**J W Noble
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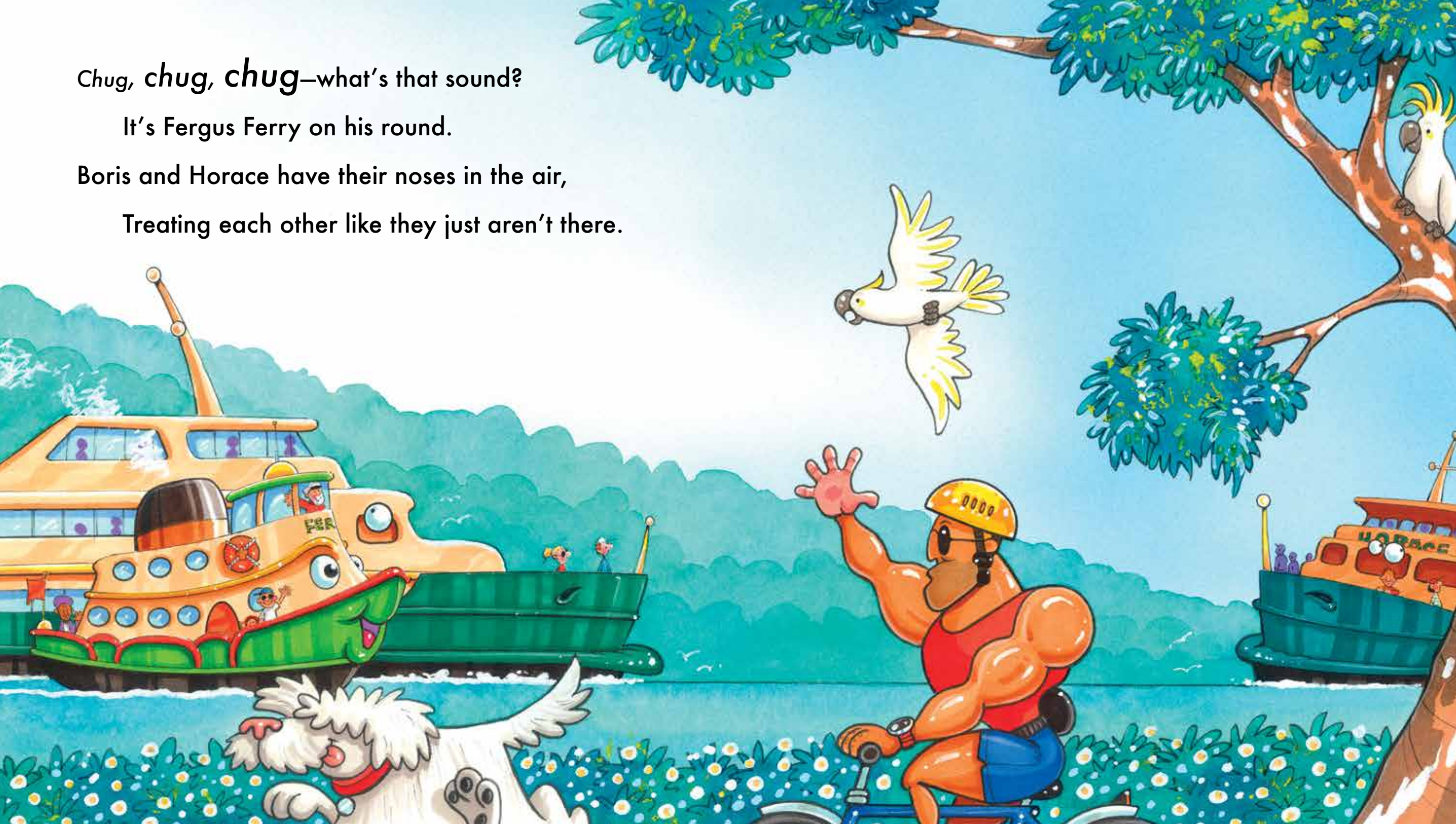
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Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

It's Fergus Ferry on his round.

Boris and Horace have their noses in the air,

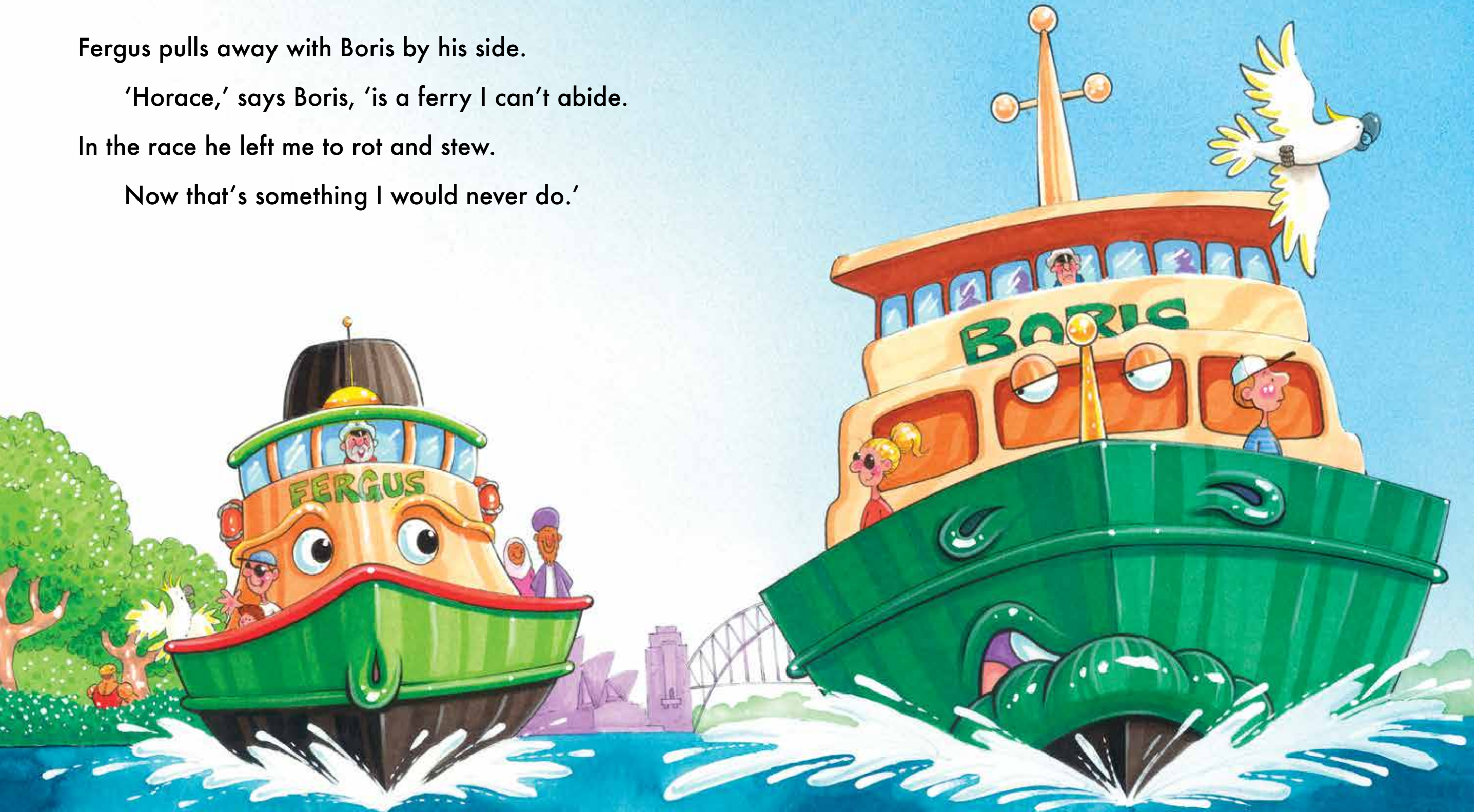
Treating each other like they just aren't there.



Fergus pulls away with Boris by his side.

‘Horace,’ says Boris, ‘is a ferry I can’t abide.
In the race he left me to rot and stew.

Now that’s something I would never do.’



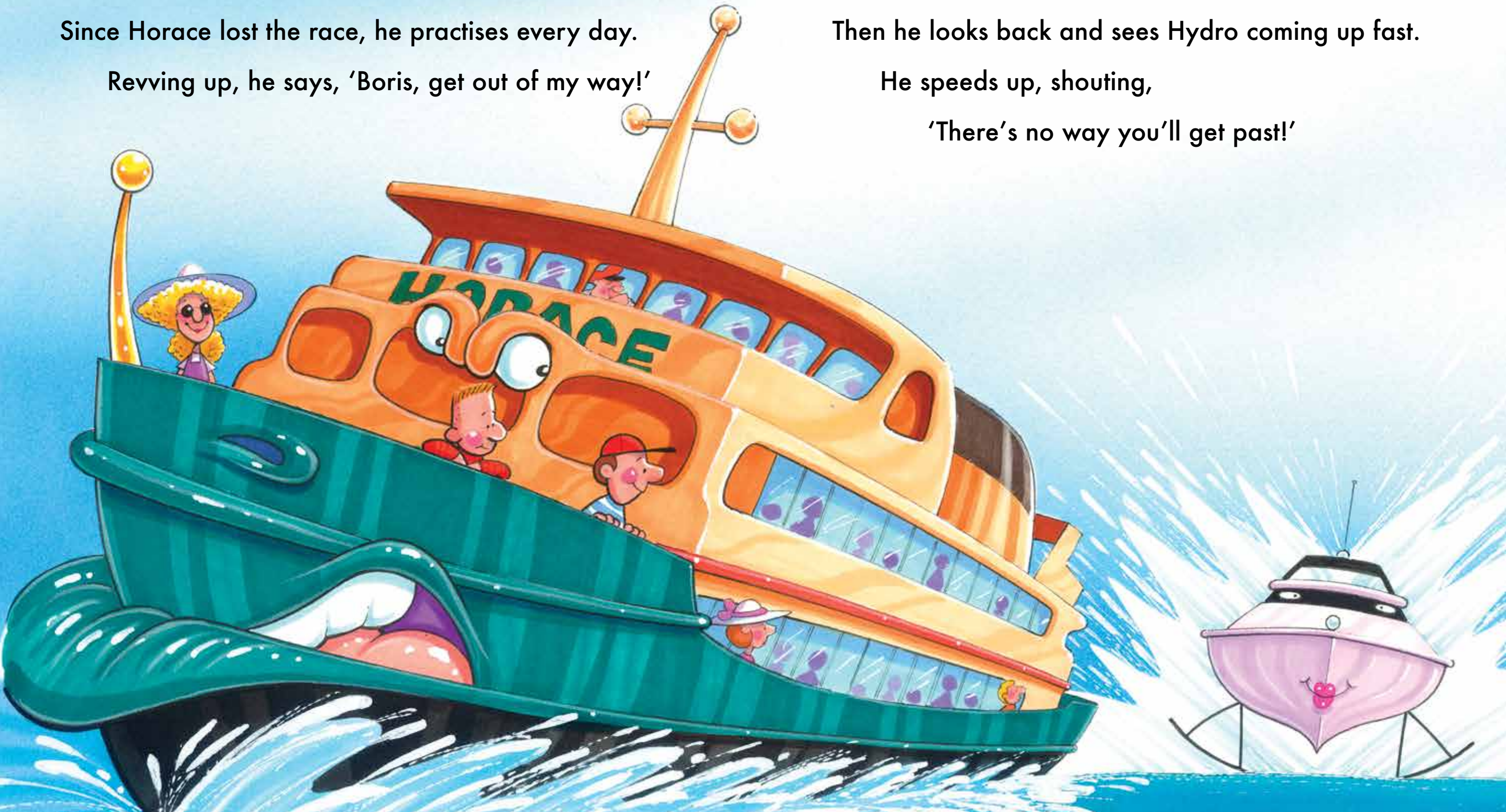
Since Horace lost the race, he practises every day.

Revving up, he says, 'Boris, get out of my way!'

Then he looks back and sees Hydro coming up fast.

He speeds up, shouting,

'There's no way you'll get past!'

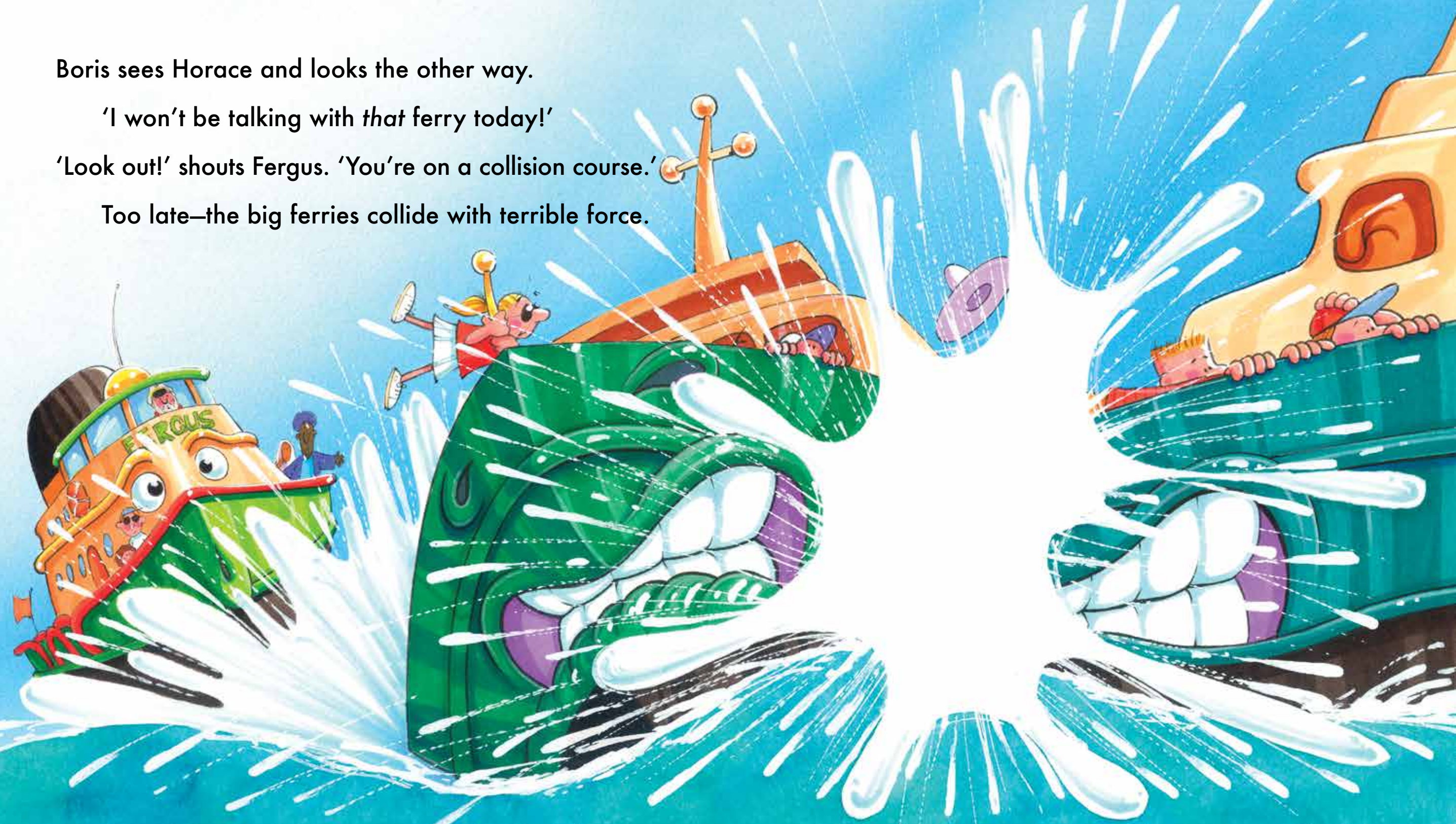


Boris sees Horace and looks the other way.

'I won't be talking with *that* ferry today!'

'Look out!' shouts Fergus. 'You're on a collision course.'

Too late—the big ferries collide with terrible force.

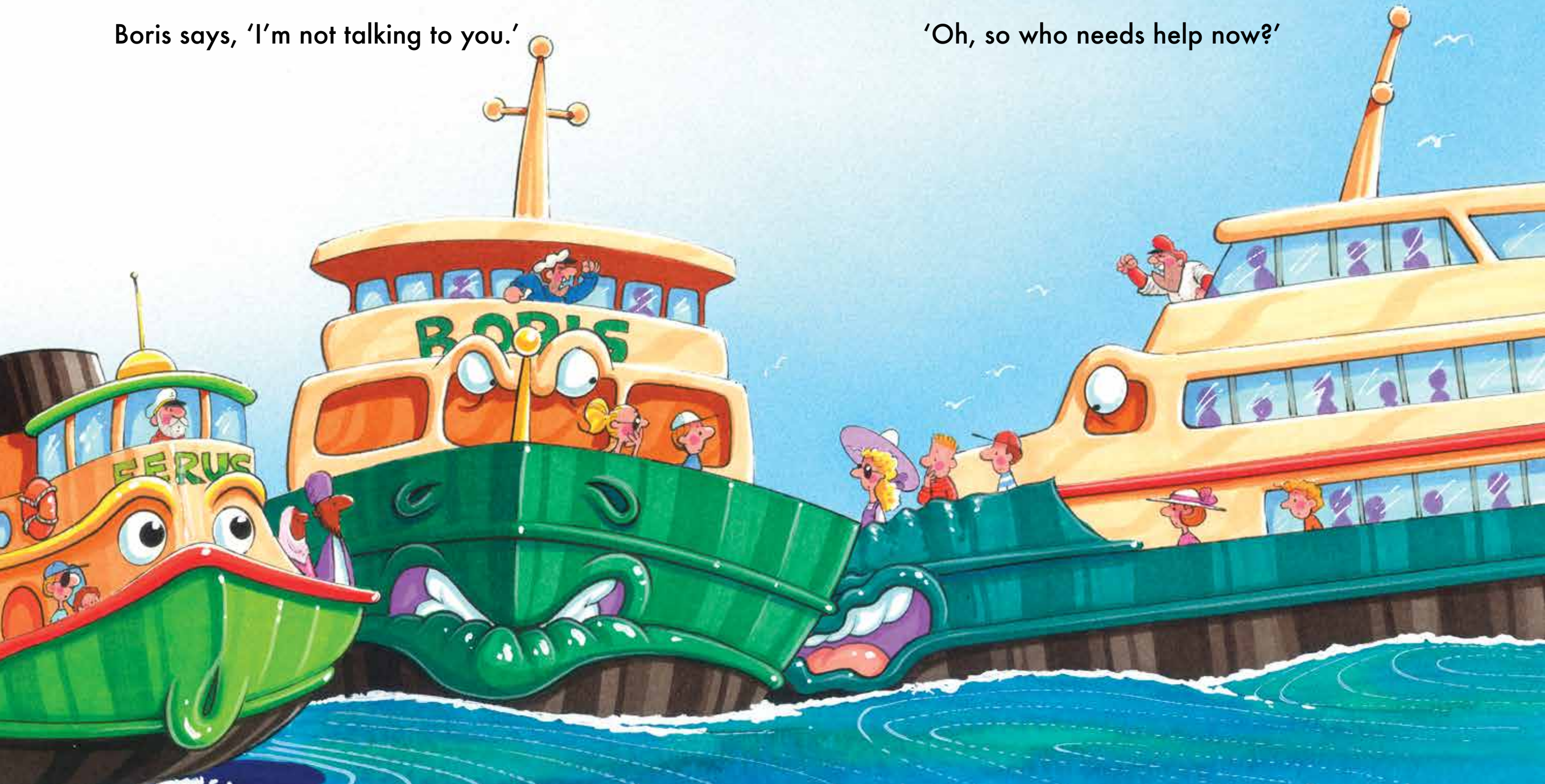


'Boris,' says Horace, 'what can we do?'

Boris says, 'I'm not talking to you.'

'But you're stuck on my bow!'

'Oh, so who needs help now?'



Water pours into Boris at a great rate.

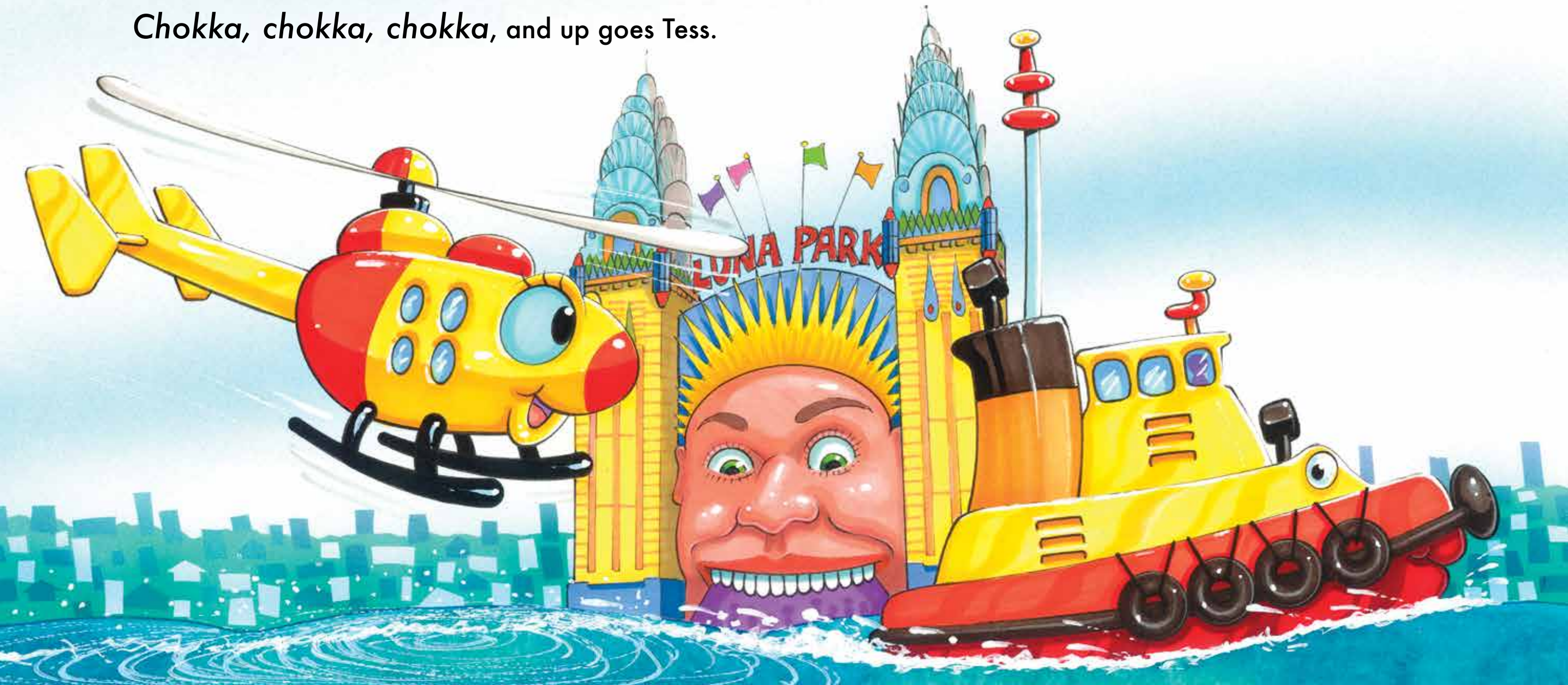
'You need help,' says Fergus, 'before it's too late.'

So quickly he sends out an SOS.

Chokka, chokka, chokka, and up goes Tess.

'George,' radios Fergus, 'we need your pump,

Because Boris has taken a massive bump.'

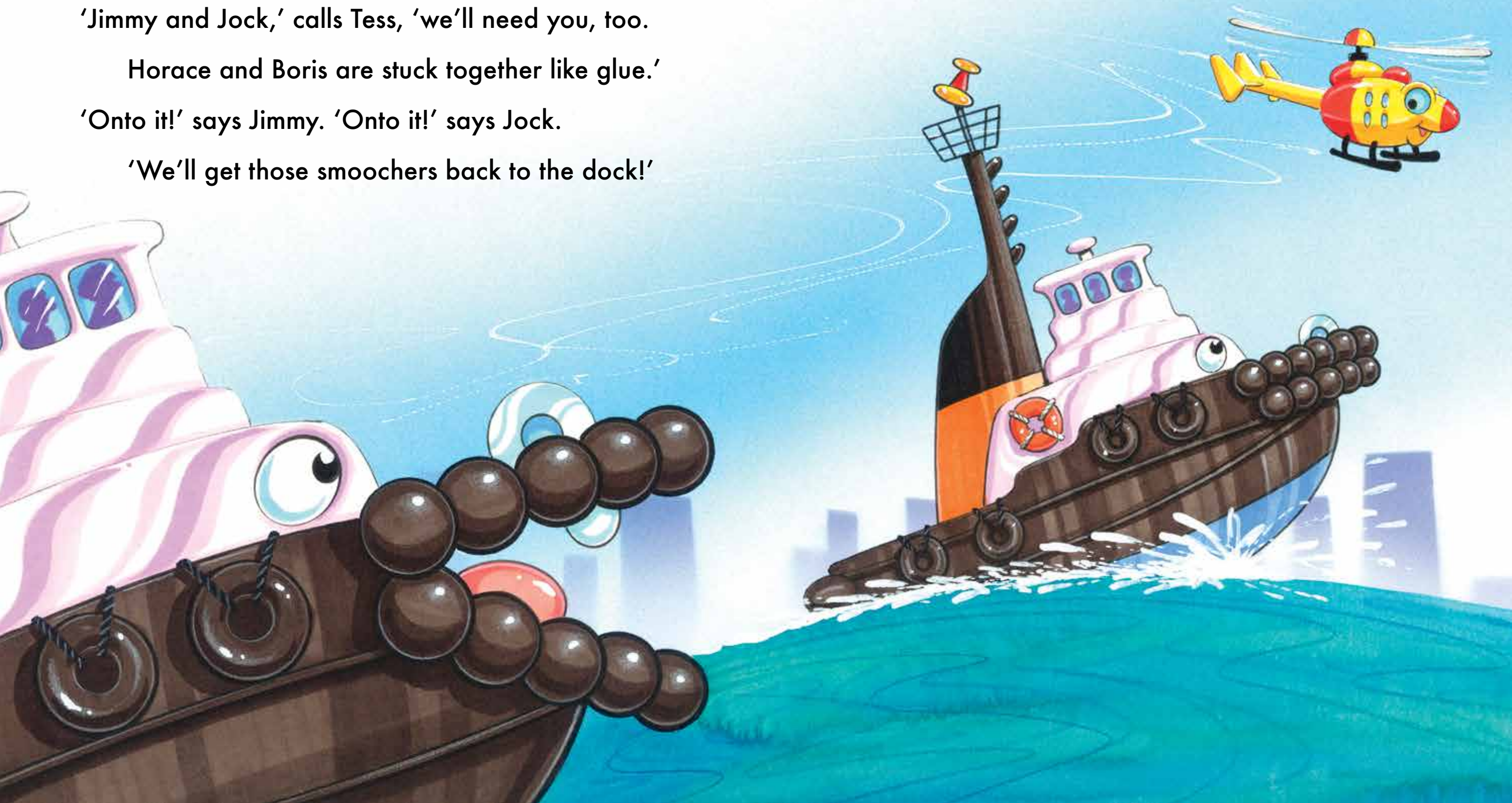


'Jimmy and Jock,' calls Tess, 'we'll need you, too.'

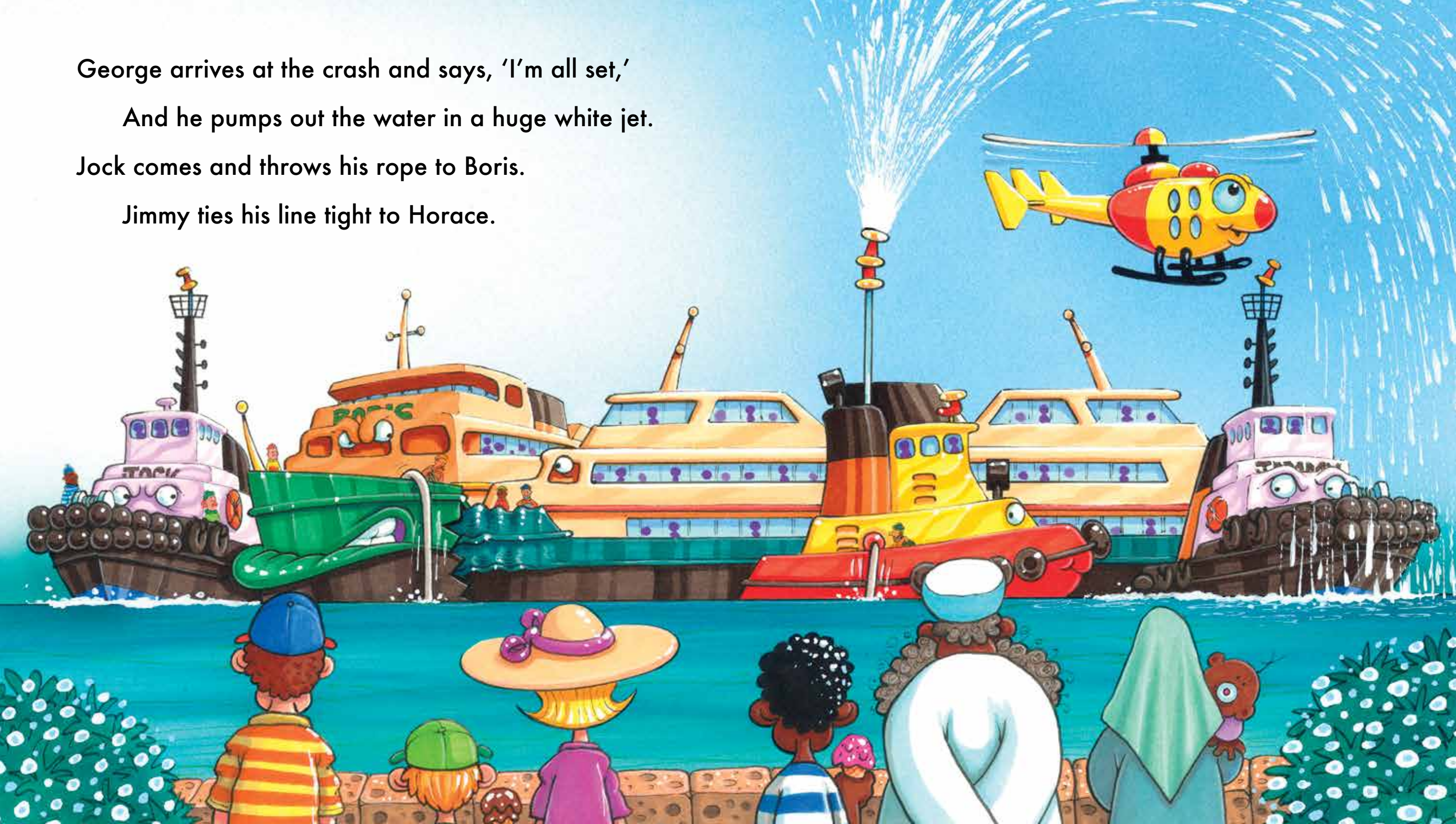
Horace and Boris are stuck together like glue.'

'Onto it!' says Jimmy. 'Onto it!' says Jock.

'We'll get those smoochers back to the dock!'



George arrives at the crash and says, 'I'm all set,'
And he pumps out the water in a huge white jet.
Jock comes and throws his rope to Boris.
Jimmy ties his line tight to Horace.



The tugs rev their engines. They're ready to start.

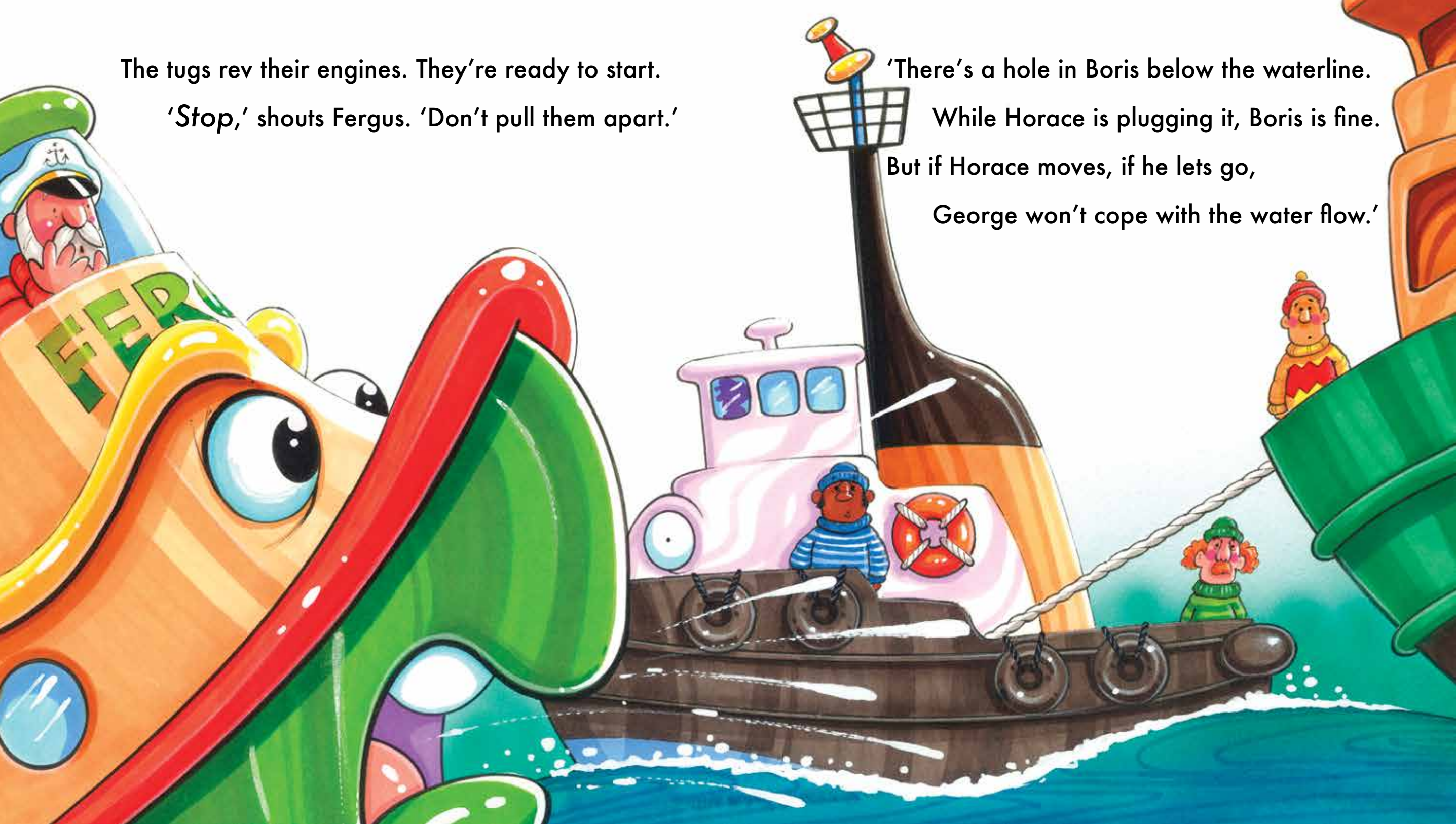
'Stop,' shouts Fergus. 'Don't pull them apart.'

'There's a hole in Boris below the waterline.

While Horace is plugging it, Boris is fine.

But if Horace moves, if he lets go,

George won't cope with the water flow.'

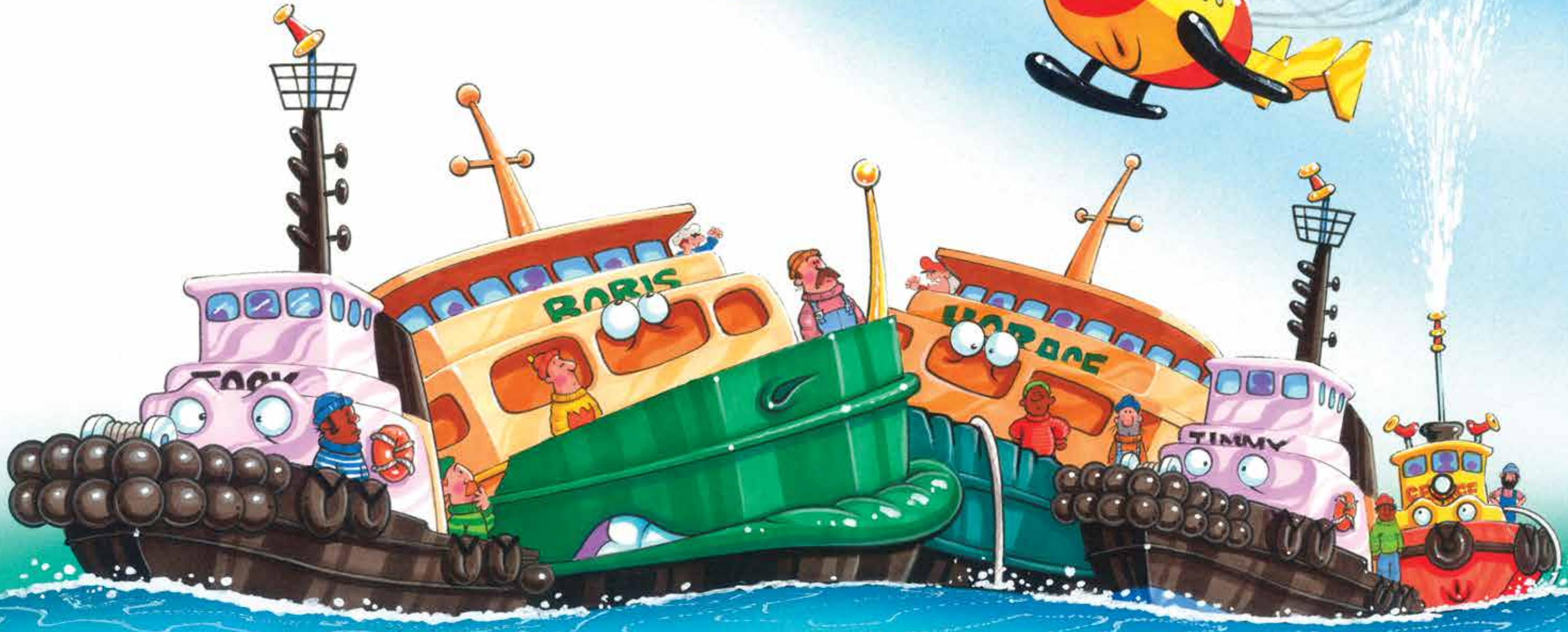


'That's true,' says Tess. 'They won't survive the trip

Unless we leave them joined at the hip.'

Fergus chugs off. Jimmy and Jock start to tow.

To stop Boris sinking, they have to go slow.



'Thank goodness,' says Boris. 'We're in the clear.'

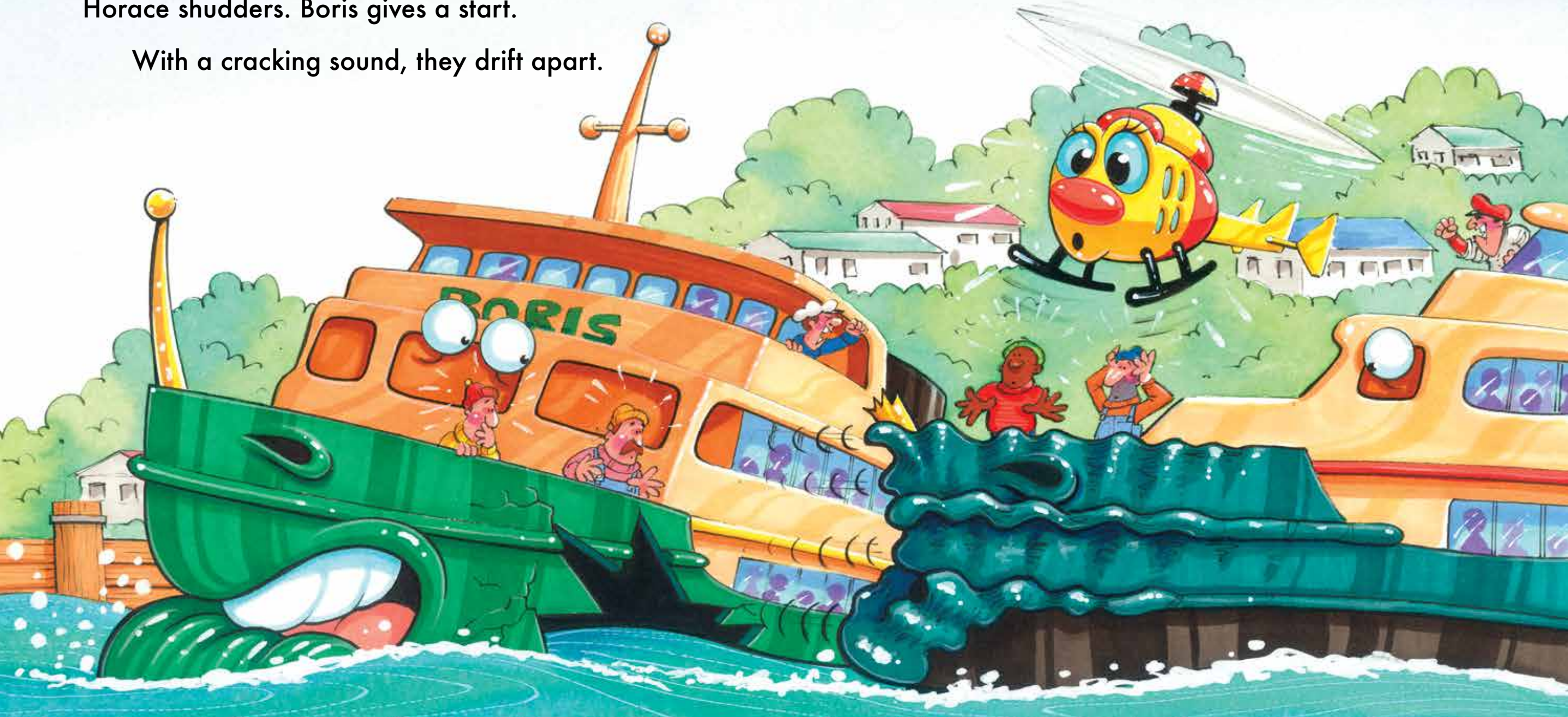
But then he lunges for the pier.

Horace shudders. Boris gives a start.

With a cracking sound, they drift apart.

'Do something!' shouts Boris. 'You'd better rush.'

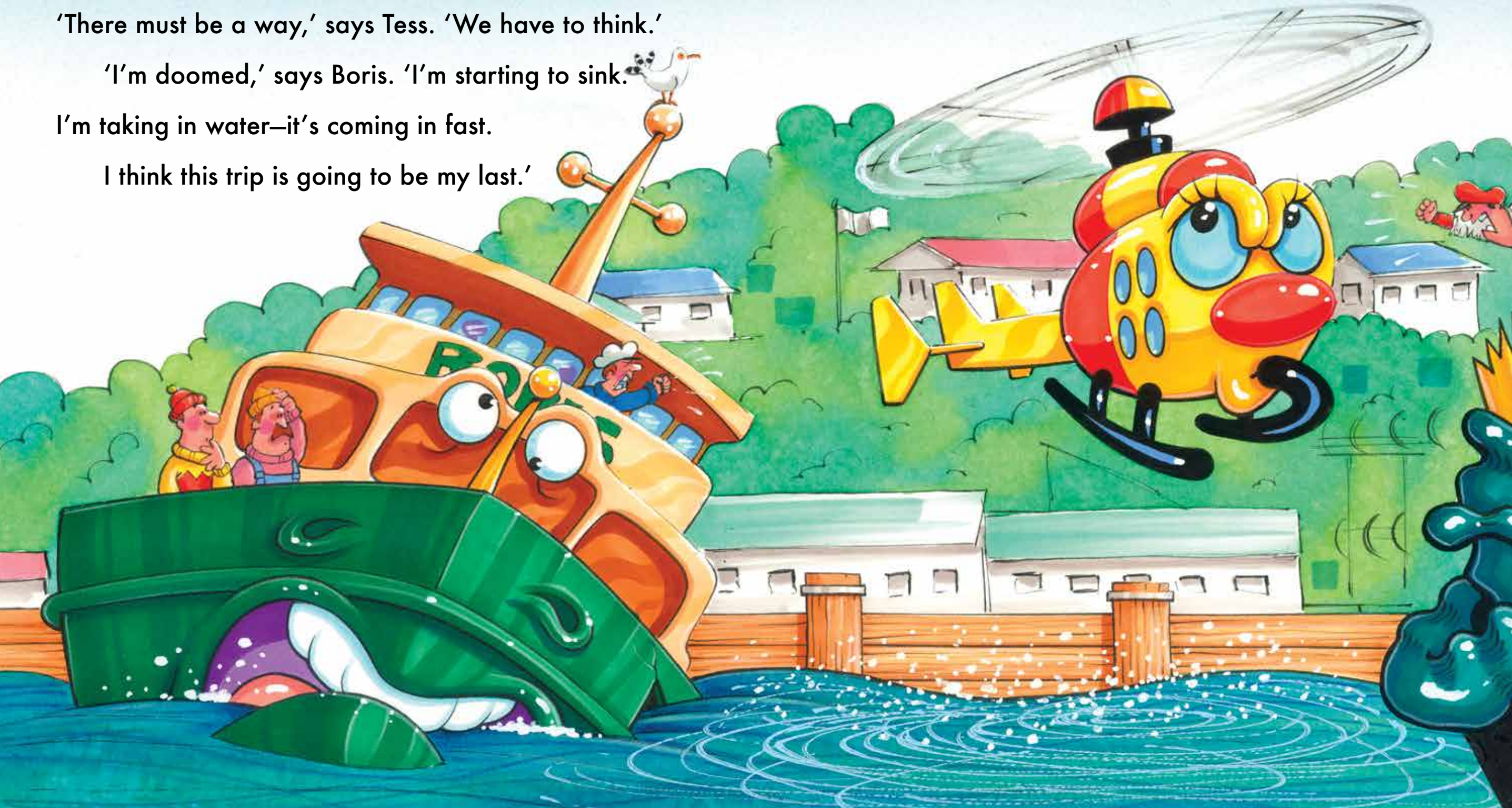
Water's coming in—it's starting to gush.'



'There must be a way,' says Tess. 'We have to think.'

'I'm doomed,' says Boris. 'I'm starting to sink.
I'm taking in water—it's coming in fast.'

I think this trip is going to be my last.'

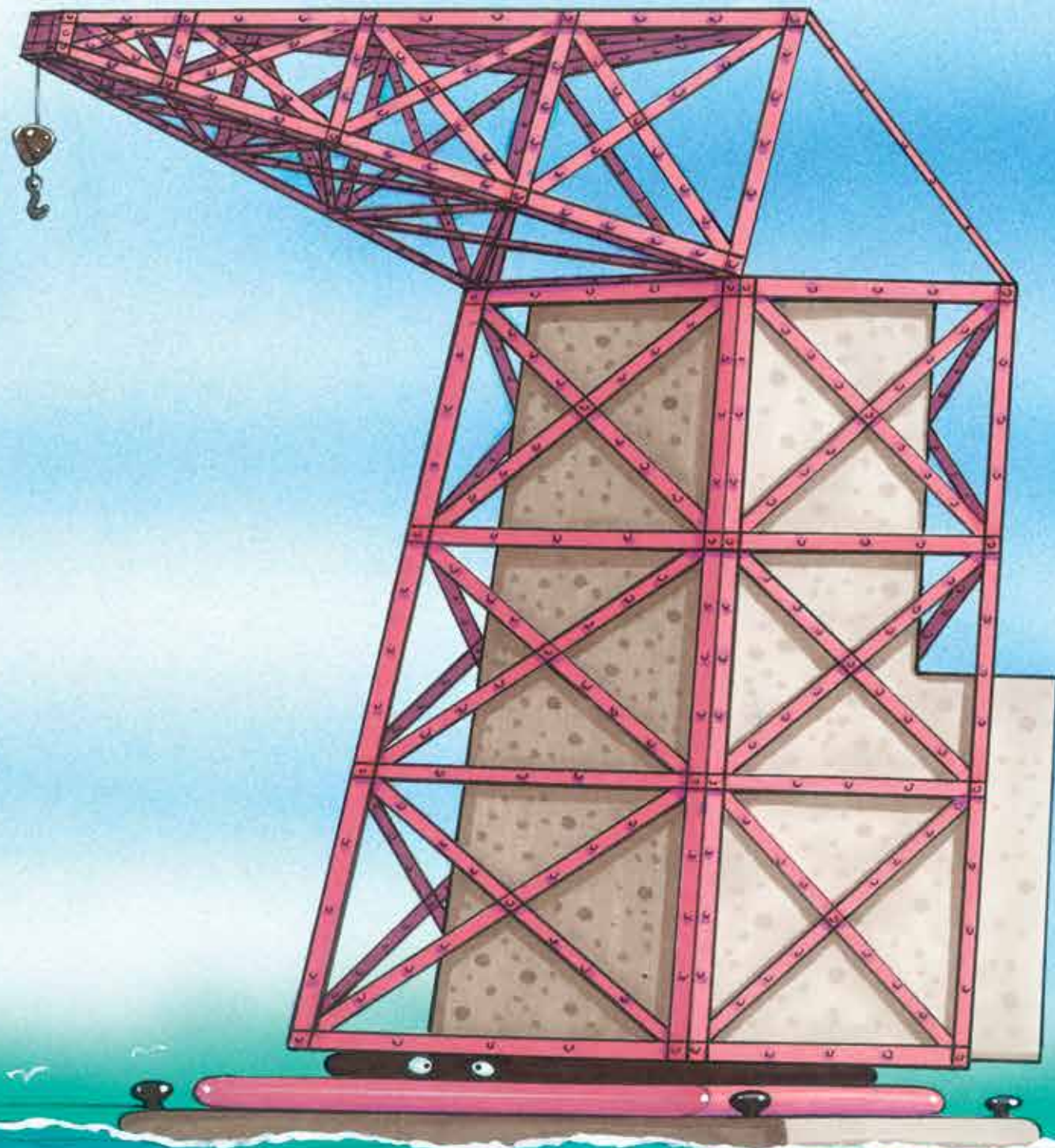


Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

It's Fergus Ferry and look what he's found!

He's towing a vessel—it's Max the crane.

Hooray for Fergus! He's done it again.



They attach the hook. Max turns the winch

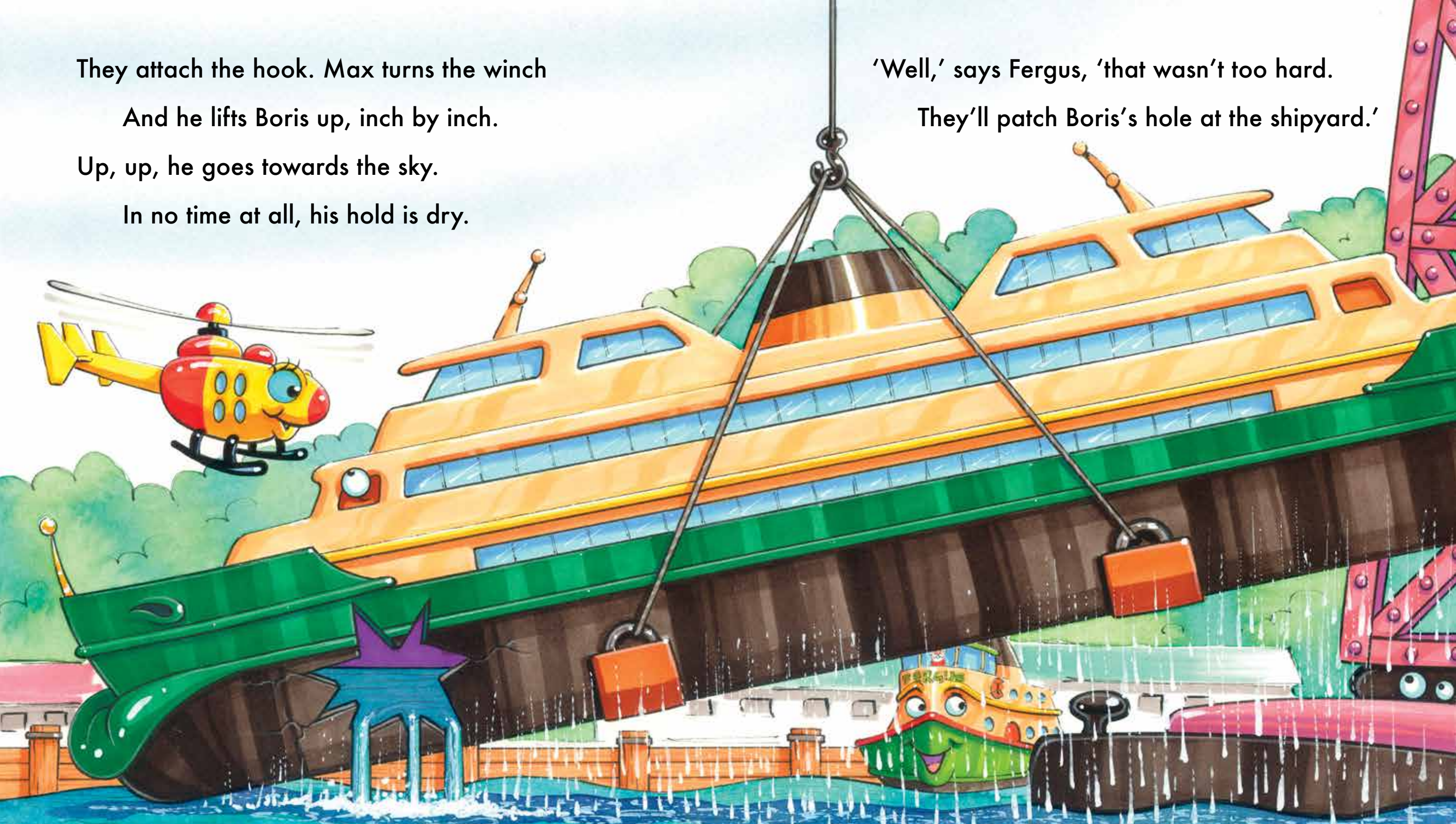
And he lifts Boris up, inch by inch.

Up, up, he goes towards the sky.

In no time at all, his hold is dry.

'Well,' says Fergus, 'that wasn't too hard.

They'll patch Boris's hole at the shipyard.'



Later Joe says, 'Fergus, what got you thinking

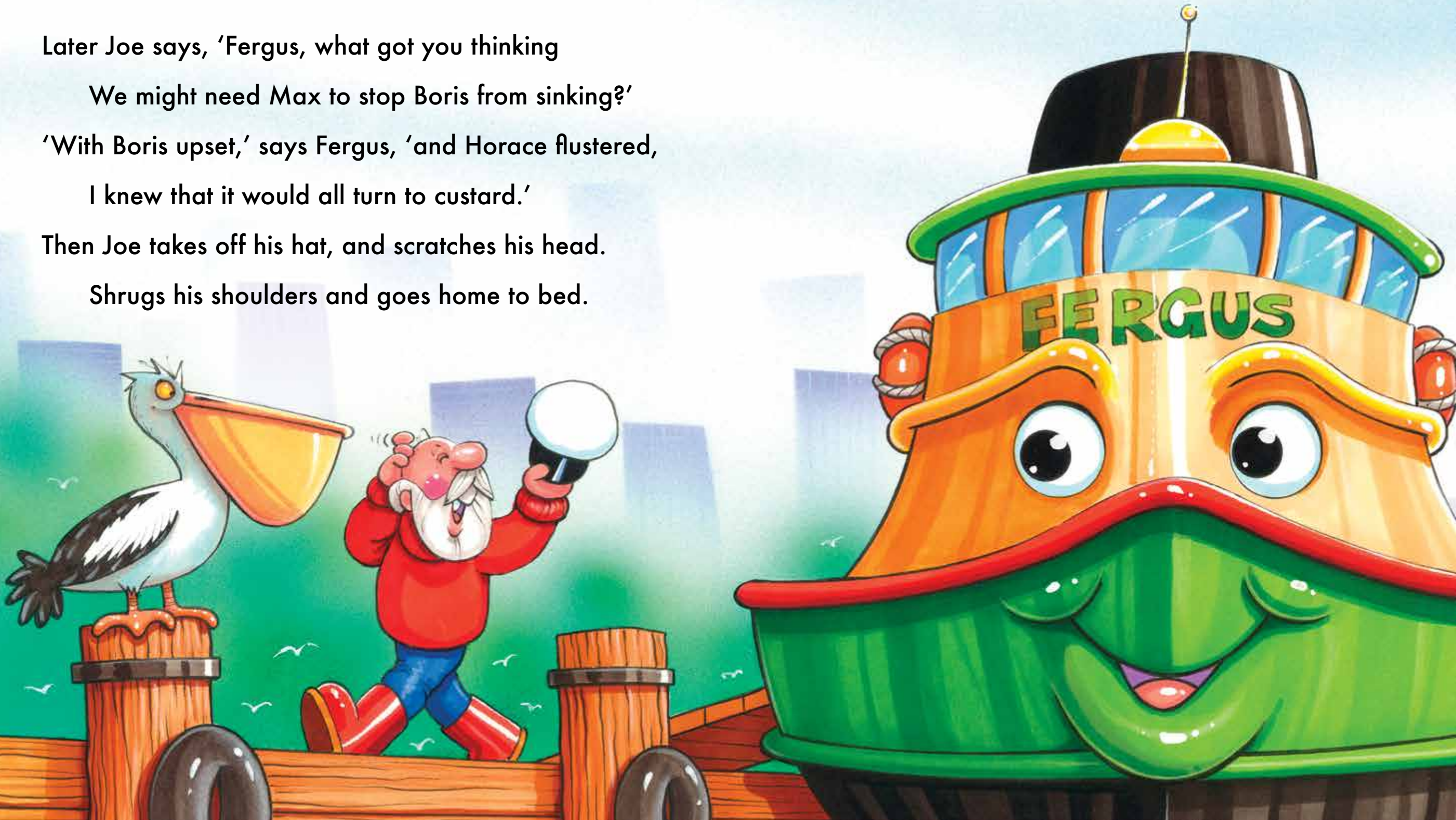
We might need Max to stop Boris from sinking?'

'With Boris upset,' says Fergus, 'and Horace flustered,

I knew that it would all turn to custard.'

Then Joe takes off his hat, and scratches his head.

Shrugs his shoulders and goes home to bed.



Keep your nerve!

For Tom

JWN

Sri Mata Amritanandamayi

PT

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