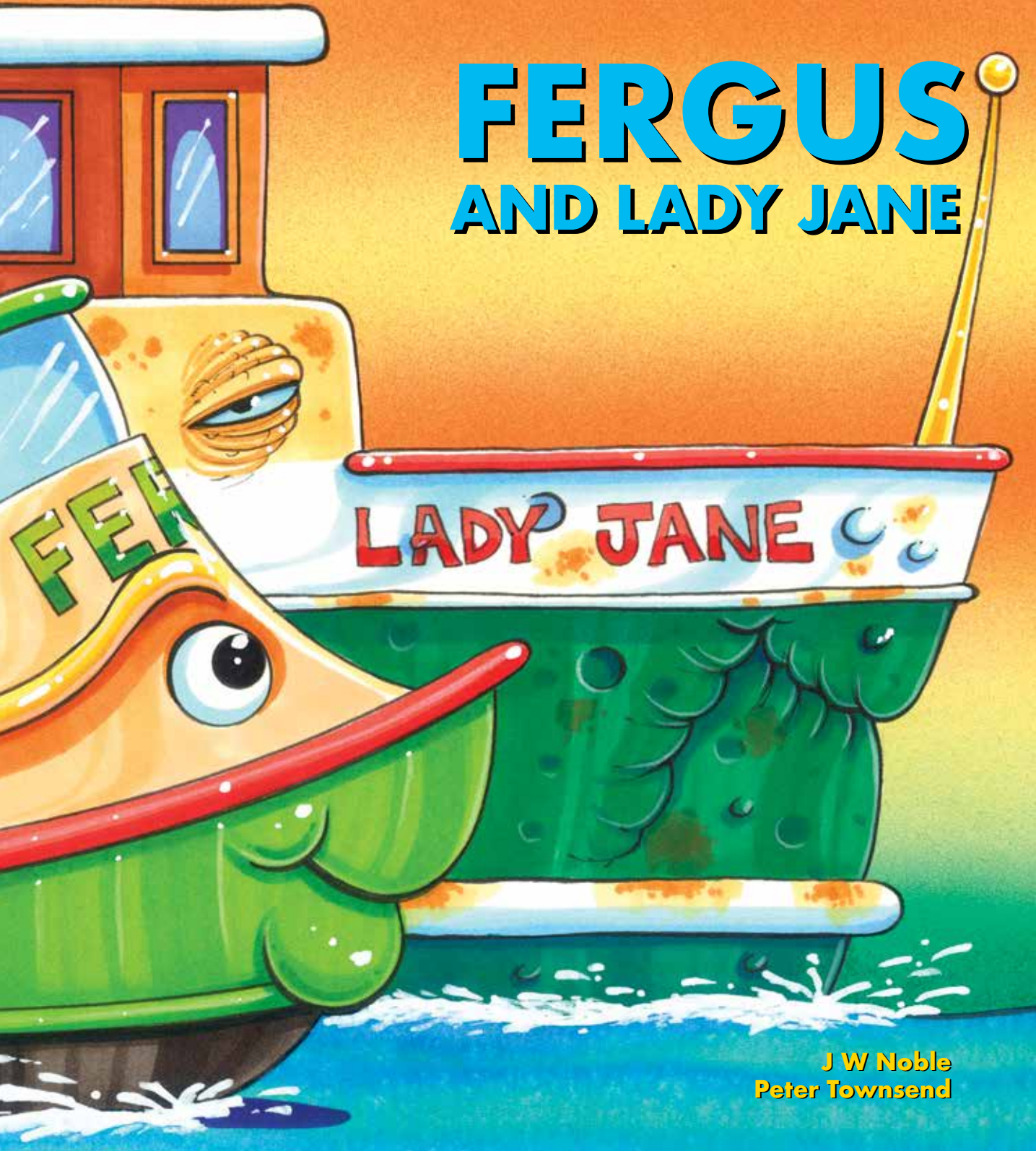


FERGUS AND LADY JANE



J W Noble
Peter Townsend



FERGUS

AND LADY JANE

J W Noble
Peter Townsend

Snwball
PRESS

www.fergusferry.com

Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

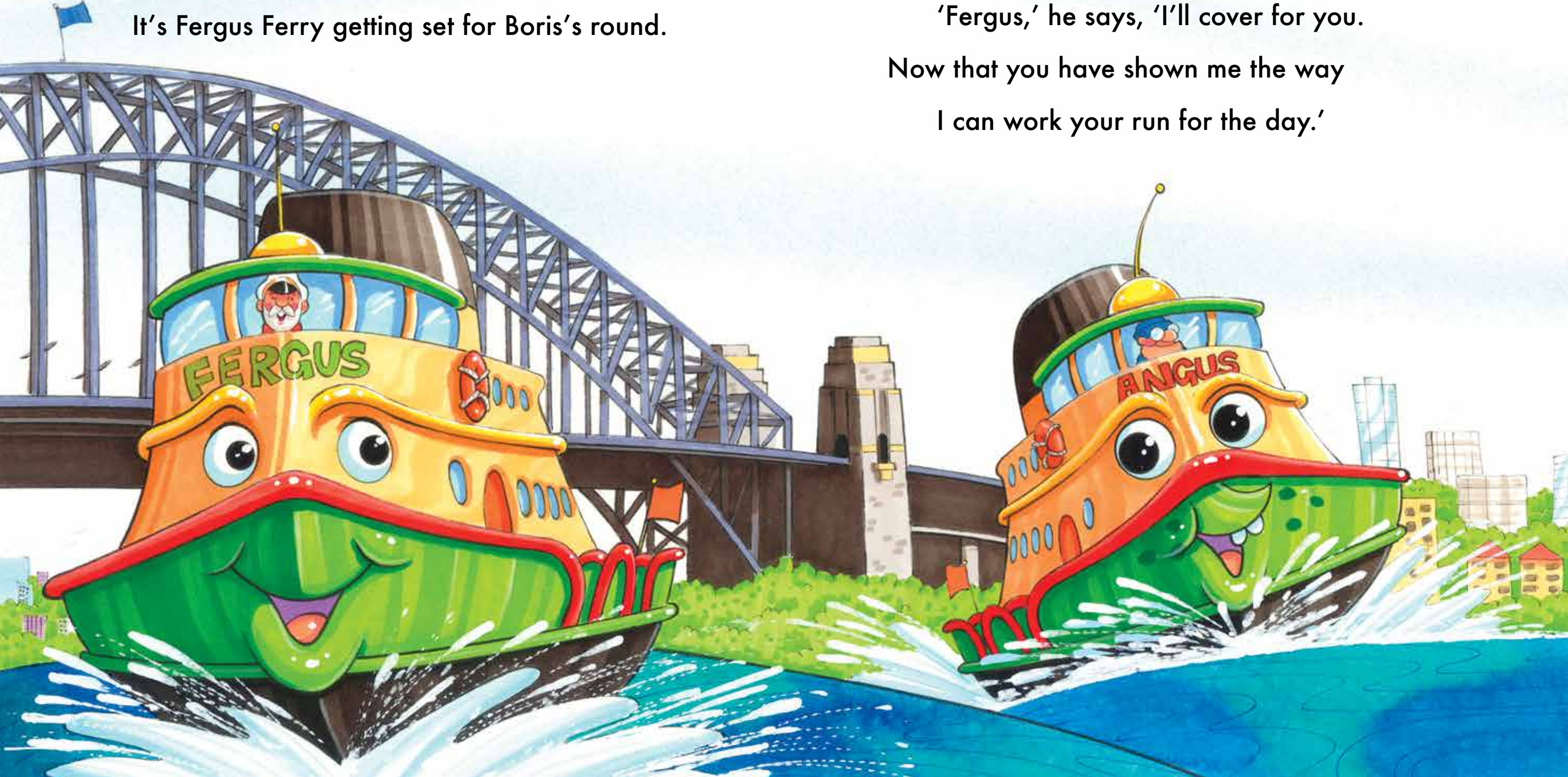
It's Fergus Ferry getting set for Boris's round.

Putt, putt, putt—here comes Angus, too.

'Fergus,' he says, 'I'll cover for you.

Now that you have shown me the way

I can work your run for the day.'



Horace and Boris have taken a knock.

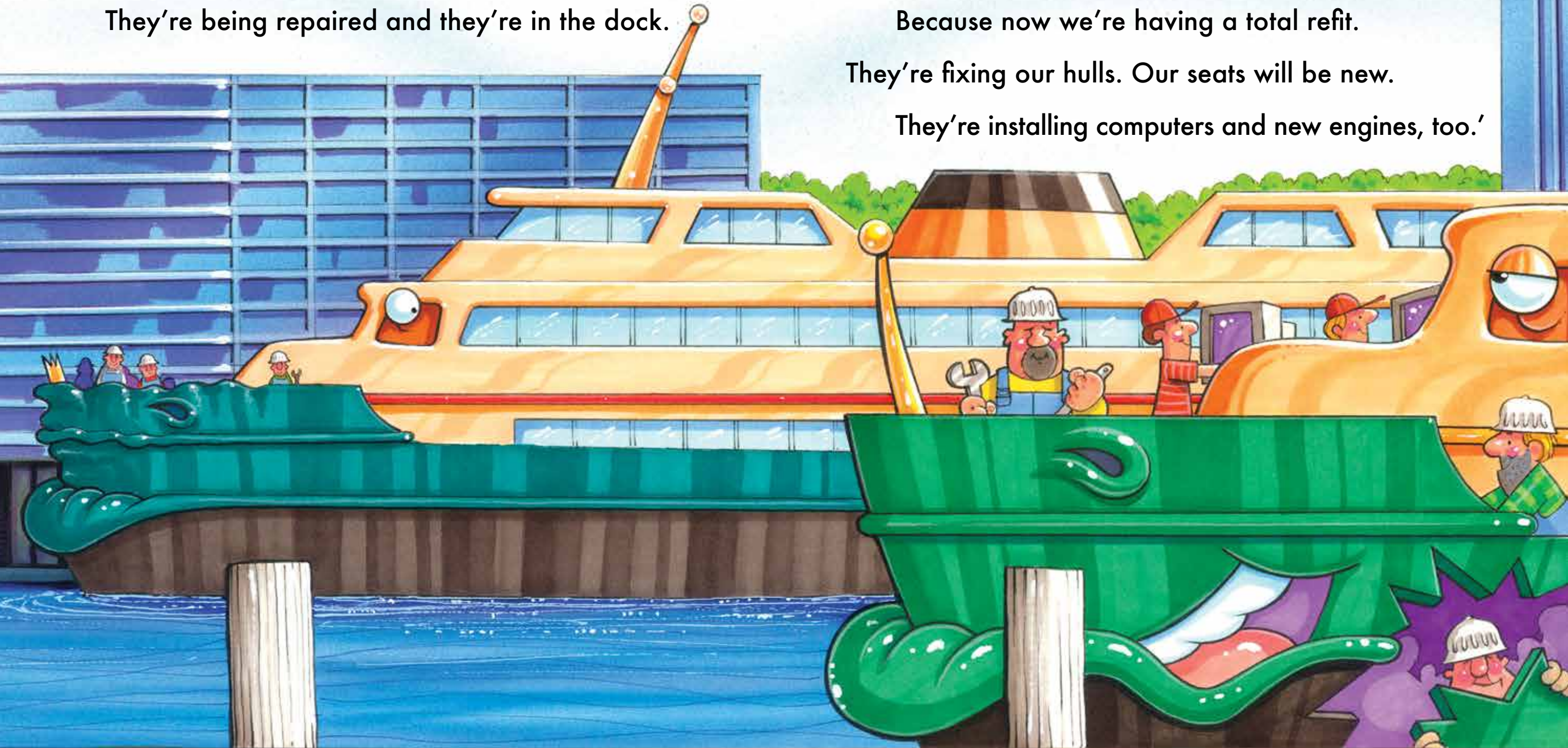
They're being repaired and they're in the dock.

'It's not so bad,' says Boris, 'that we got hit

Because now we're having a total refit.

They're fixing our hulls. Our seats will be new.

They're installing computers and new engines, too.'



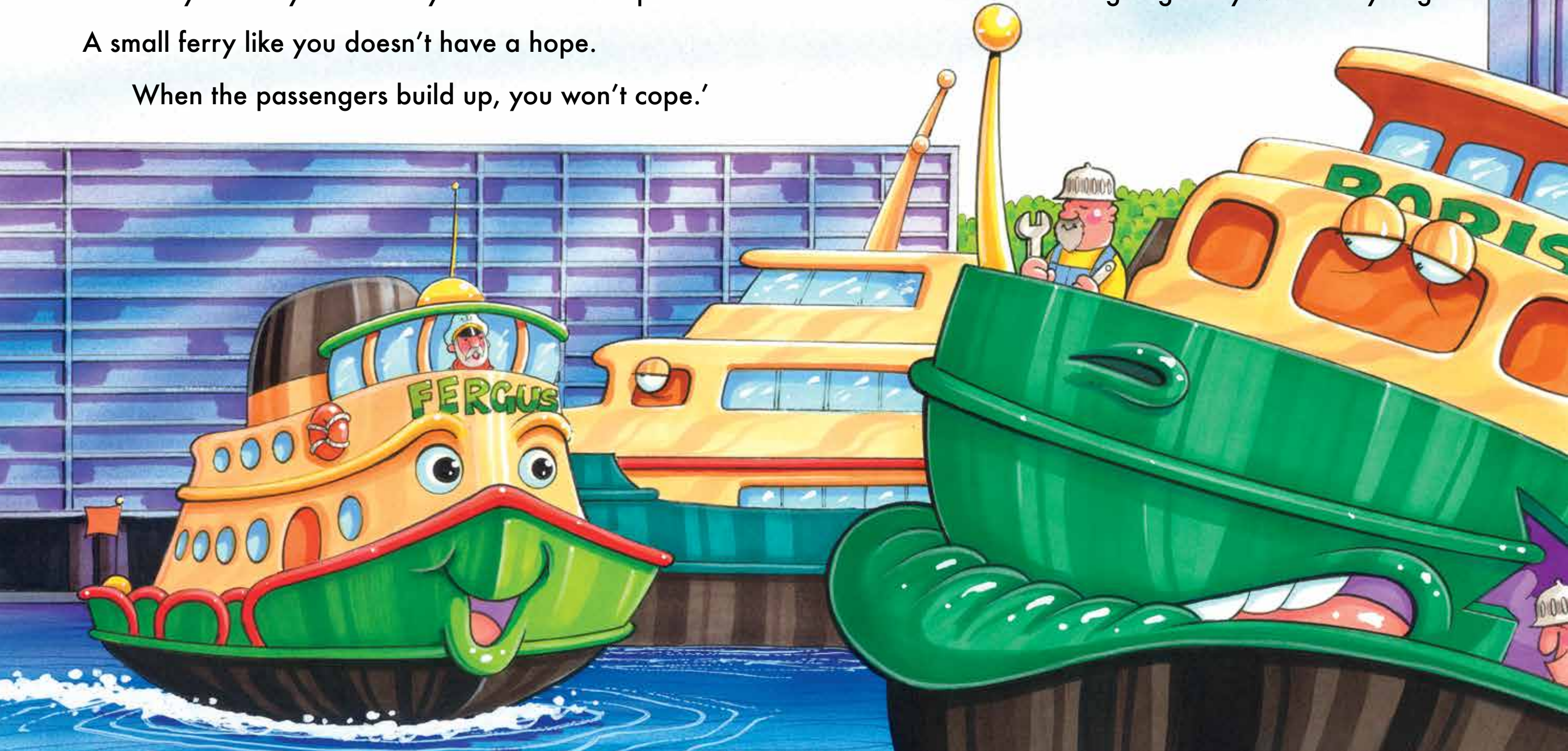
Boris looks at Fergus with a sneer on his face.

‘Do you really think that you can take our place?

A small ferry like you doesn’t have a hope.

When the passengers build up, you won’t cope.’

‘Well,’ says Fergus, ‘you may be right,
But I’m going to try with all my might.’

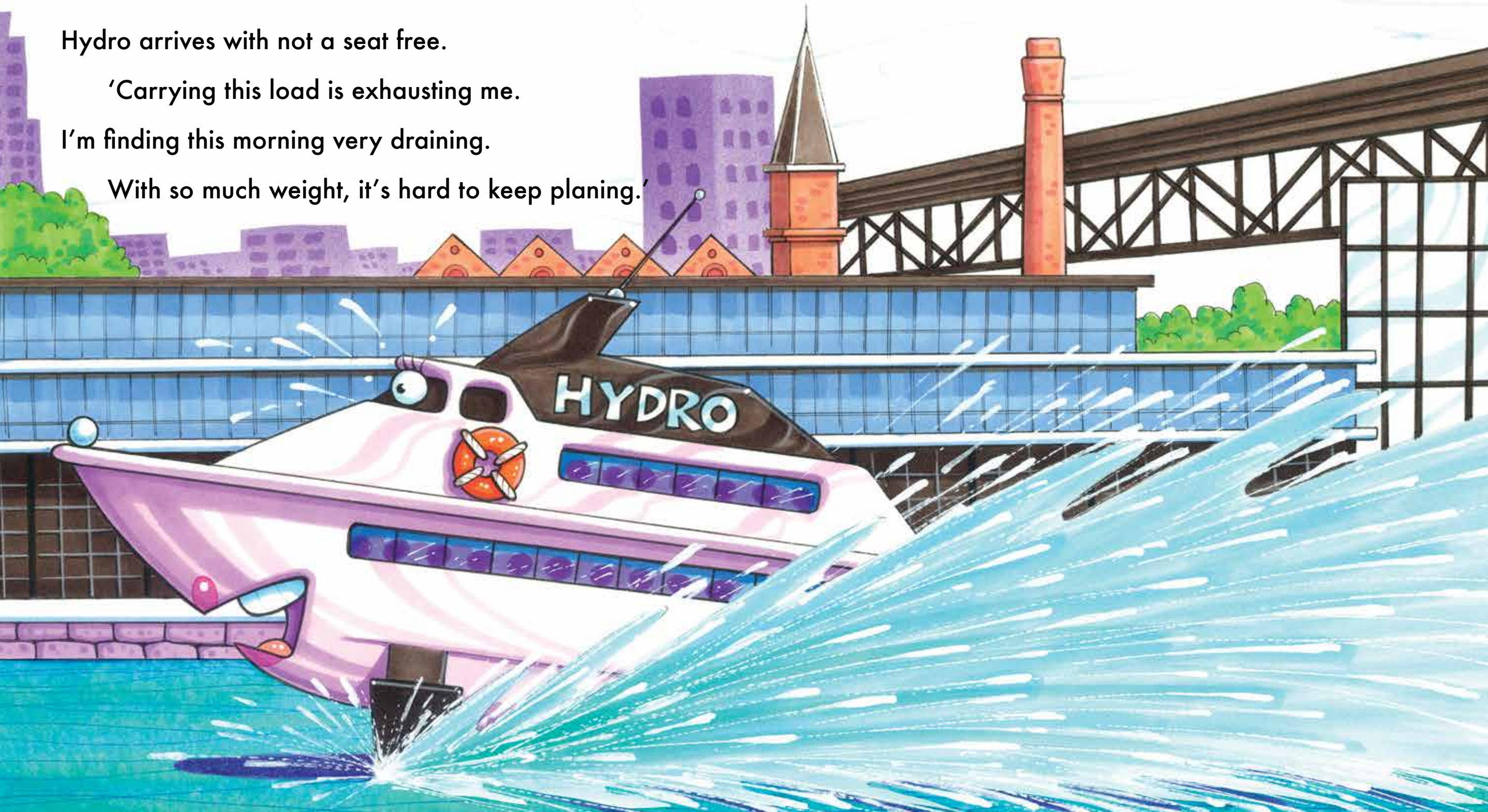


Hydro arrives with not a seat free.

'Carrying this load is exhausting me.

I'm finding this morning very draining.

With so much weight, it's hard to keep planing.'



'Fergus, can you go to Manly, while I offload here?

There's a crowd of passengers waiting at the pier.'

'Right!' says Fergus. 'Consider it done.

I'll leave right now on the Manly run.'



When Fergus gets to Manly, there's a swelling crowd.

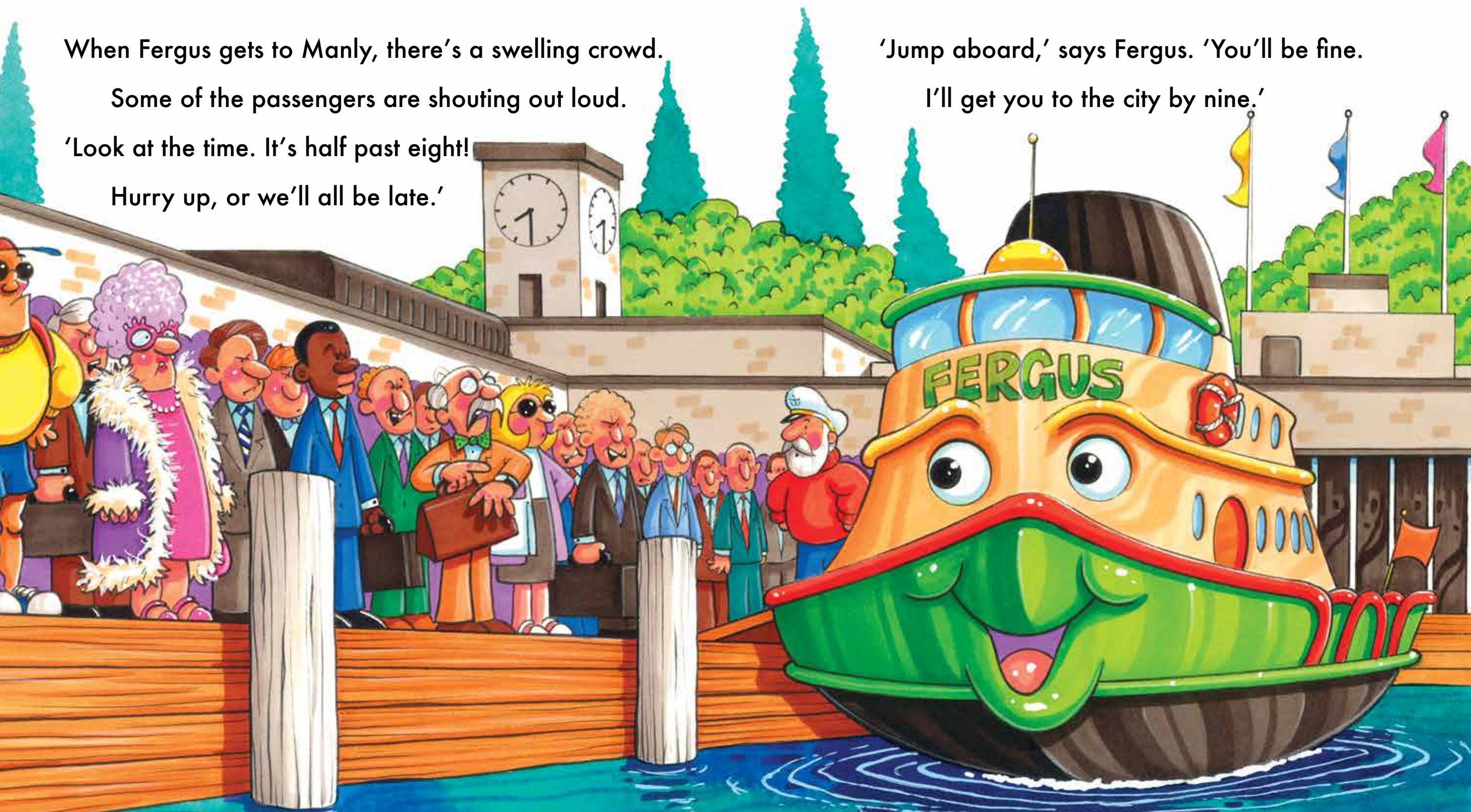
Some of the passengers are shouting out loud.

'Look at the time. It's half past eight!

Hurry up, or we'll all be late.'

'Jump aboard,' says Fergus. 'You'll be fine.

I'll get you to the city by nine.'

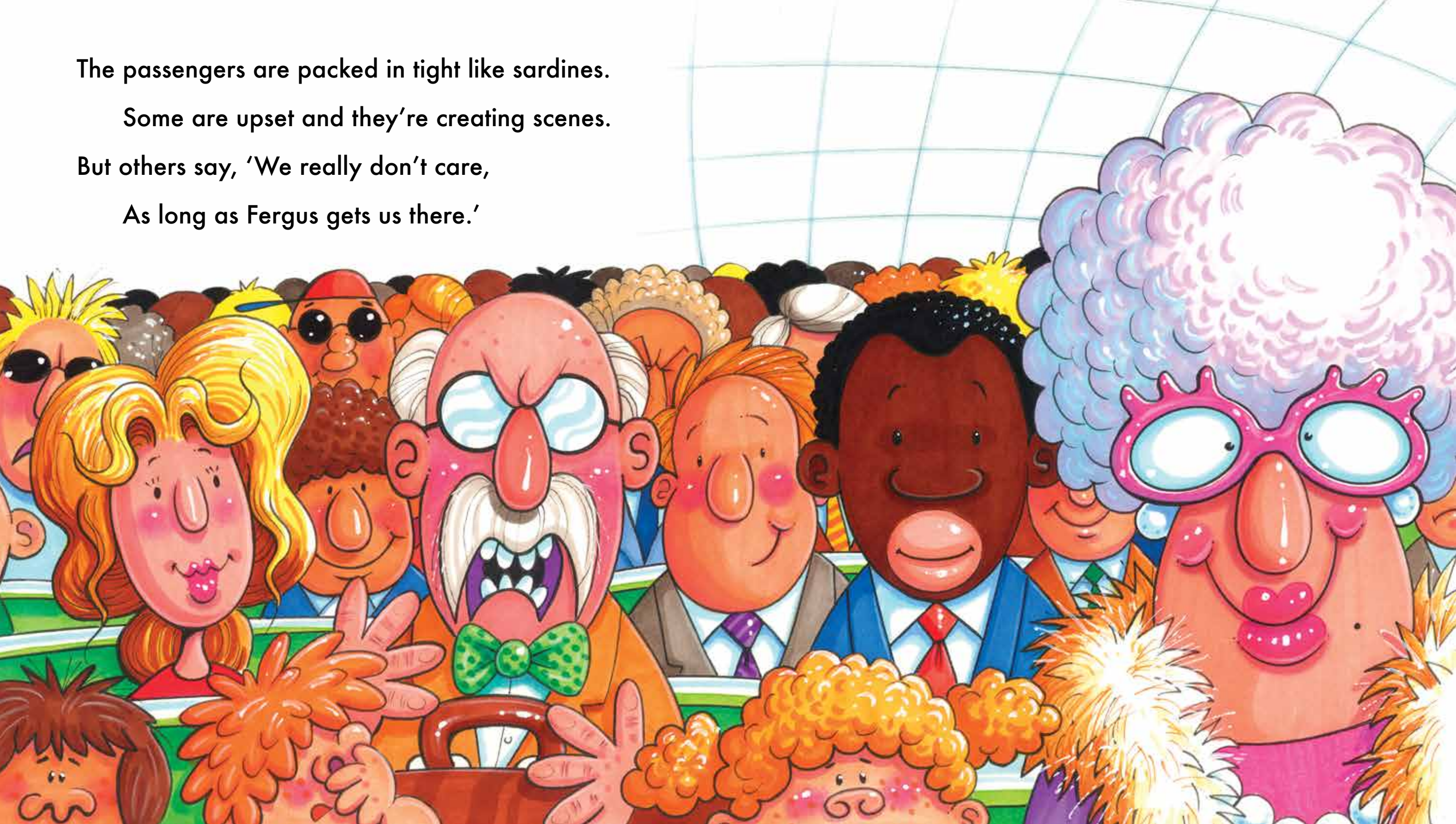


The passengers are packed in tight like sardines.

Some are upset and they're creating scenes.

But others say, 'We really don't care,

As long as Fergus gets us there.'

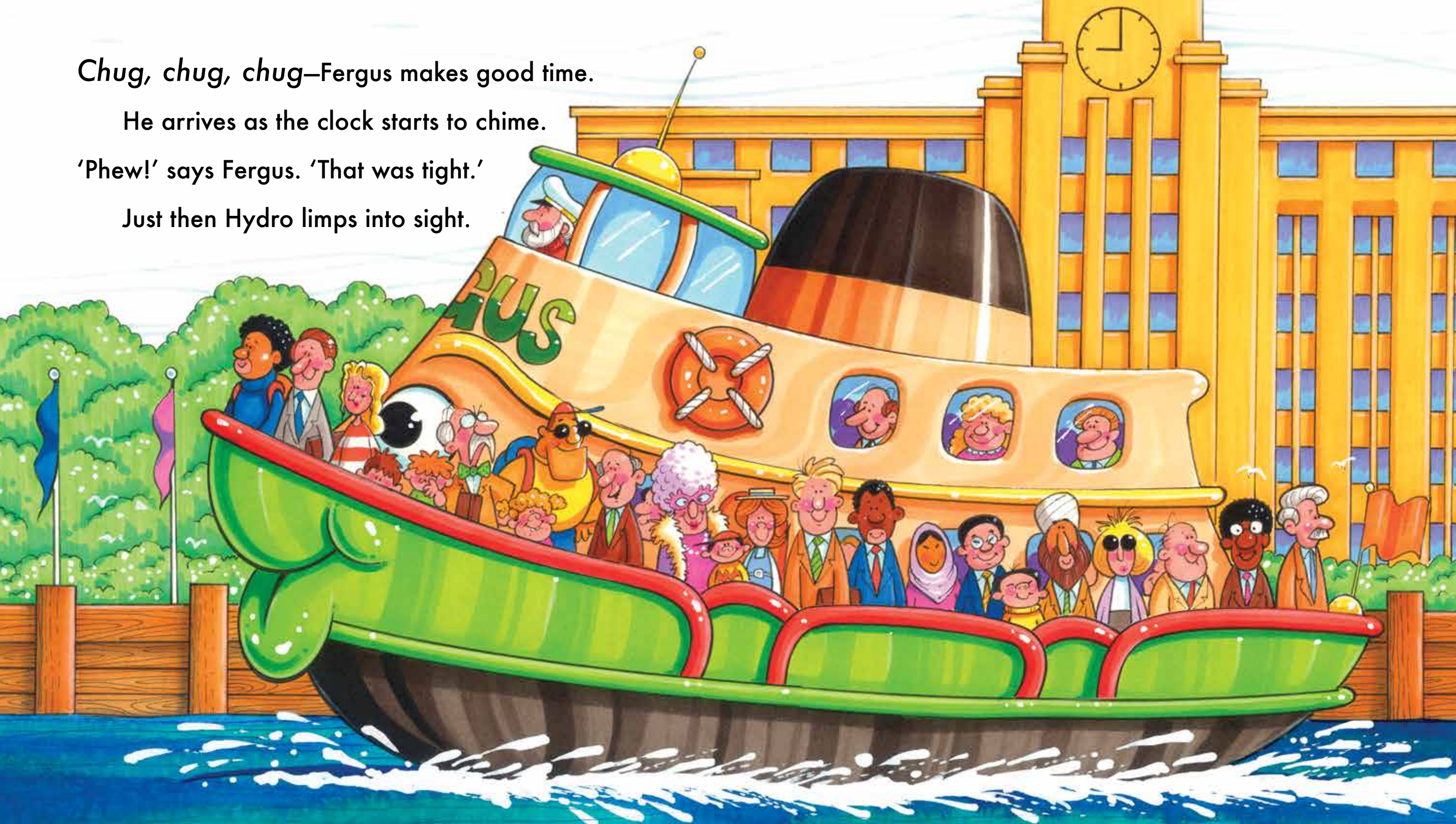


Chug, chug, chug—Fergus makes good time.

He arrives as the clock starts to chime.

'Phew!' says Fergus. 'That was tight.'

Just then Hydro limps into sight.

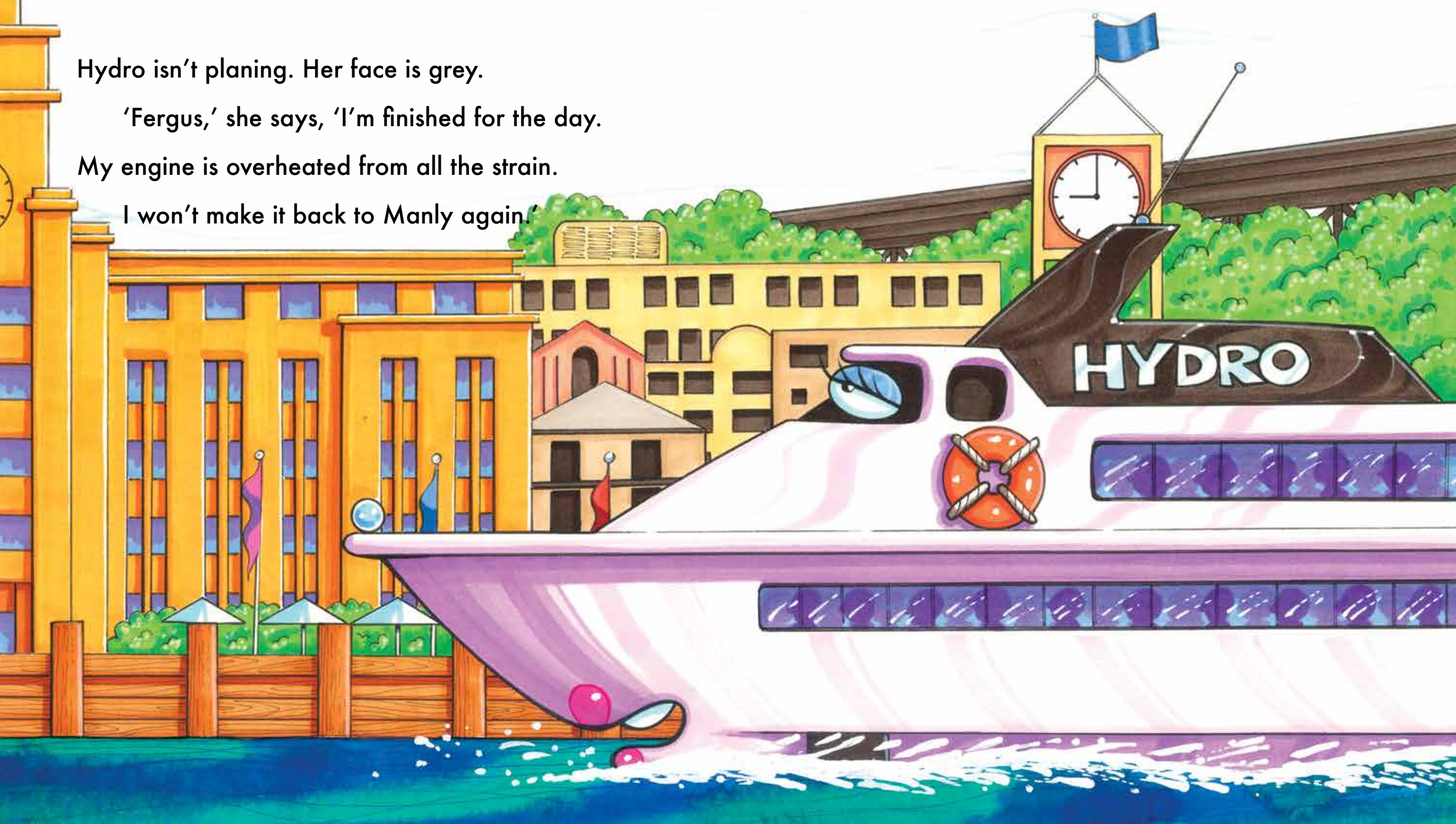


Hydro isn't planing. Her face is grey.

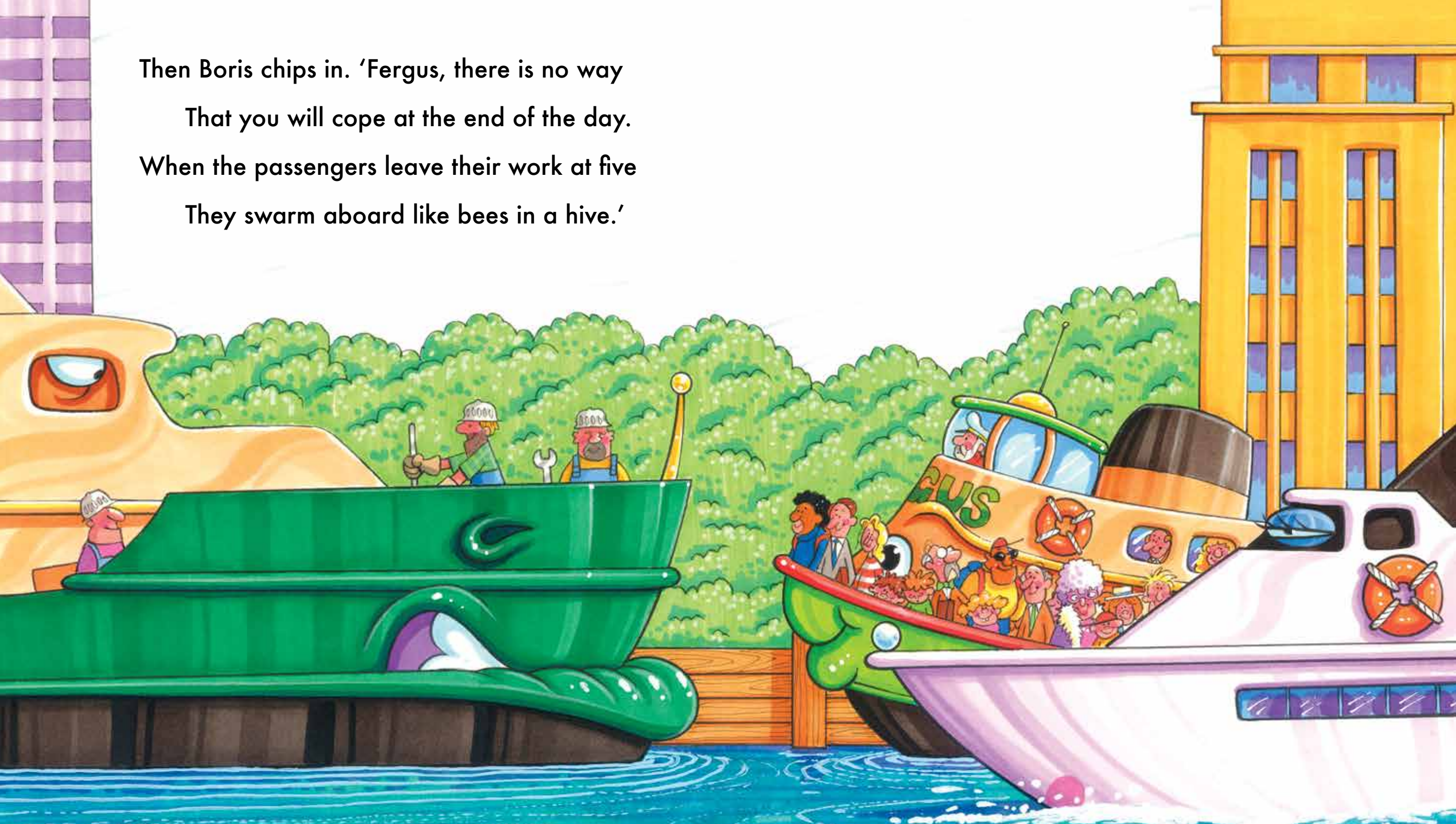
'Fergus,' she says, 'I'm finished for the day.

My engine is overheated from all the strain.

I won't make it back to Manly again.'



Then Boris chips in. 'Fergus, there is no way
That you will cope at the end of the day.
When the passengers leave their work at five
They swarm aboard like bees in a hive.'

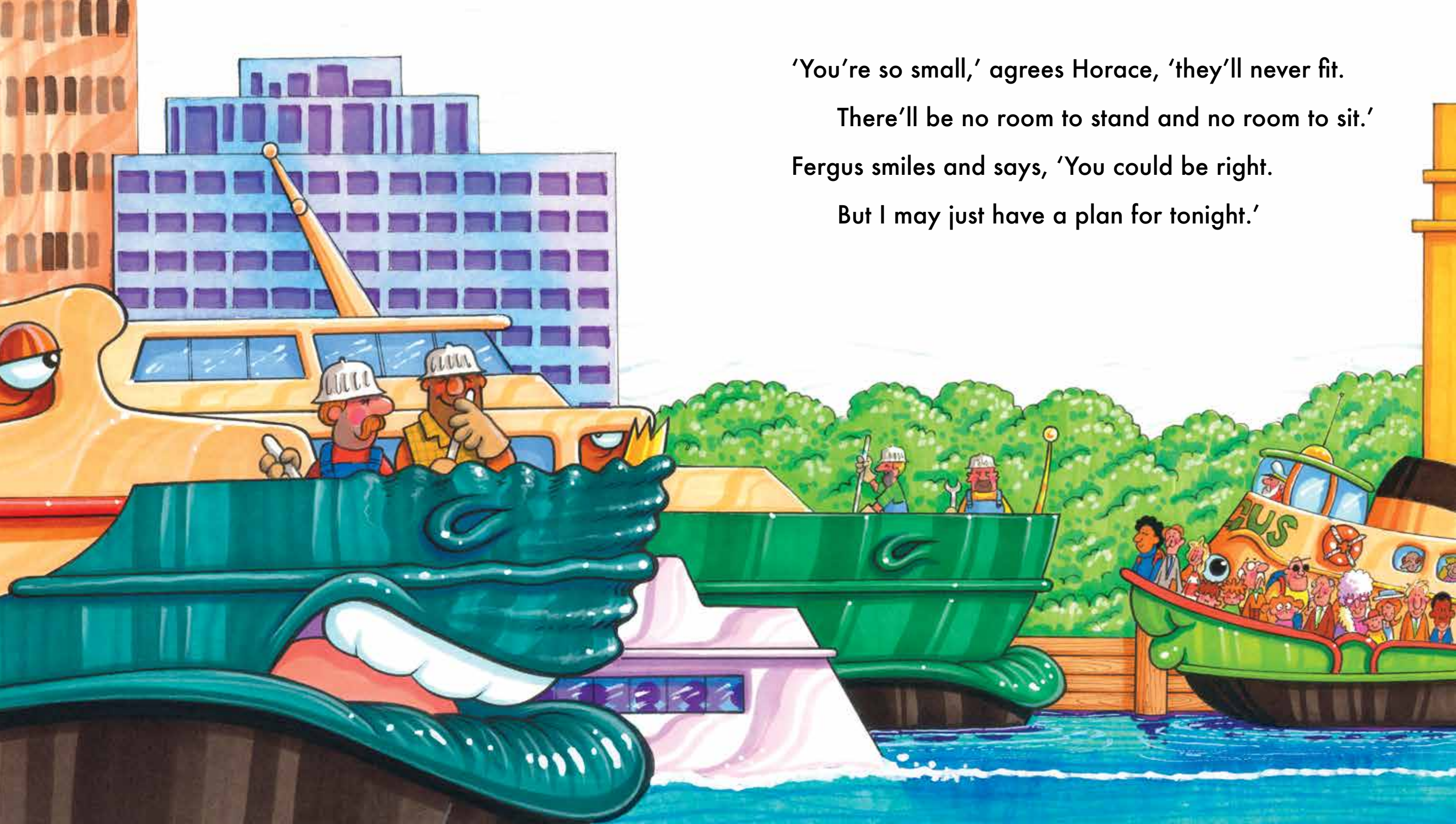


'You're so small,' agrees Horace, 'they'll never fit.'

There'll be no room to stand and no room to sit.'

Fergus smiles and says, 'You could be right.'

But I may just have a plan for tonight.'



When the passengers arrive in the evening rush
There are so many that it's a terrible crush.

The passengers grumble. They start to fuss.
'I wish,' says one, 'I had gone by bus.'
Another says, 'We won't get home tonight.'
But then they all see an amazing sight!



Chug, chug, chuff, chuff—

the passengers' eyes open wide.

Could that be Lady Jane at Fergus's side?

Yes it is! It's not a dream!

They're going to go home by steam.

'This,' says Lady Jane, 'will be a piece of cake.'

Fergus, you pick up your load. The rest I'll take.'

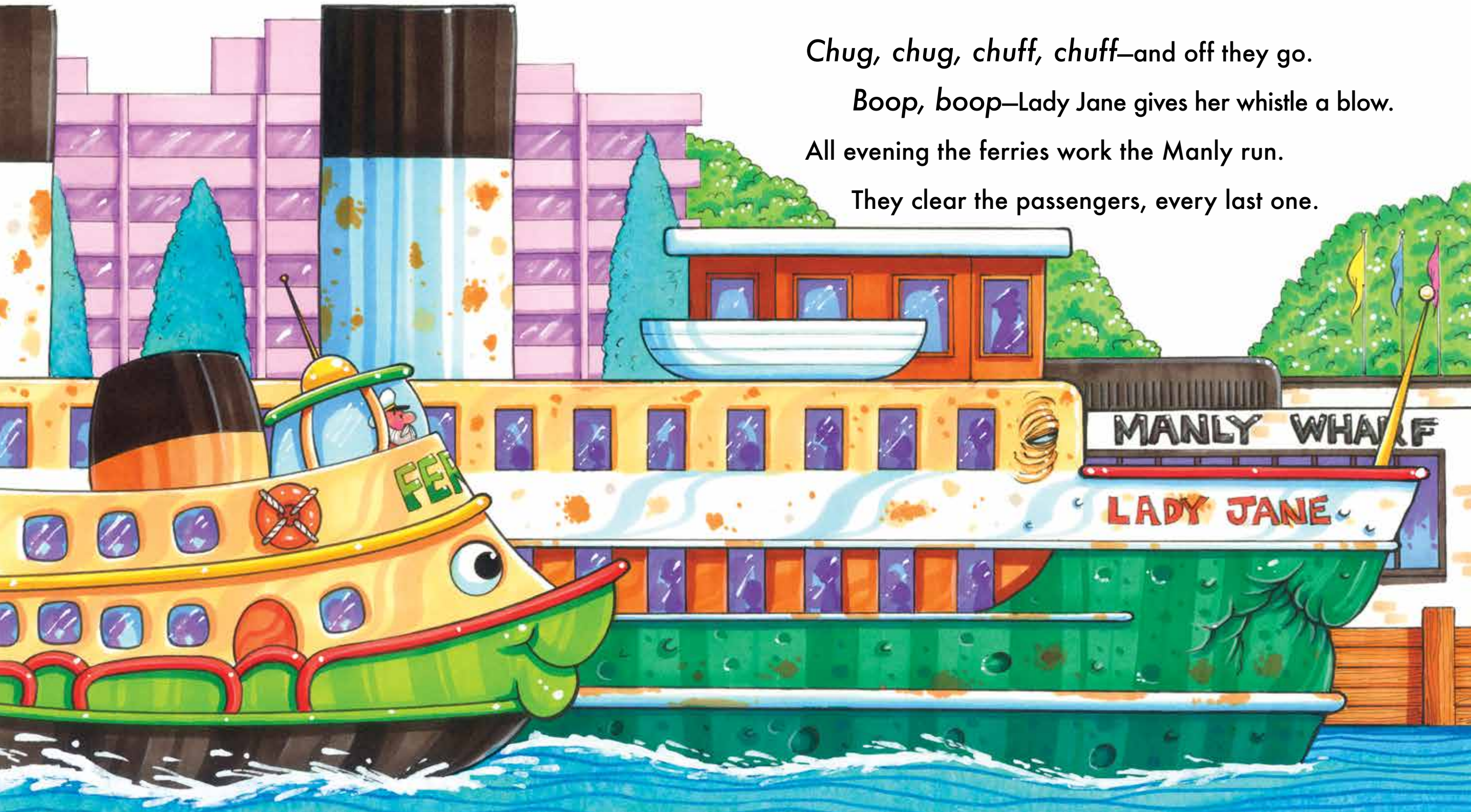


Chug, chug, chuff, chuff—and off they go.

Boop, boop—Lady Jane gives her whistle a blow.

All evening the ferries work the Manly run.

They clear the passengers, every last one.



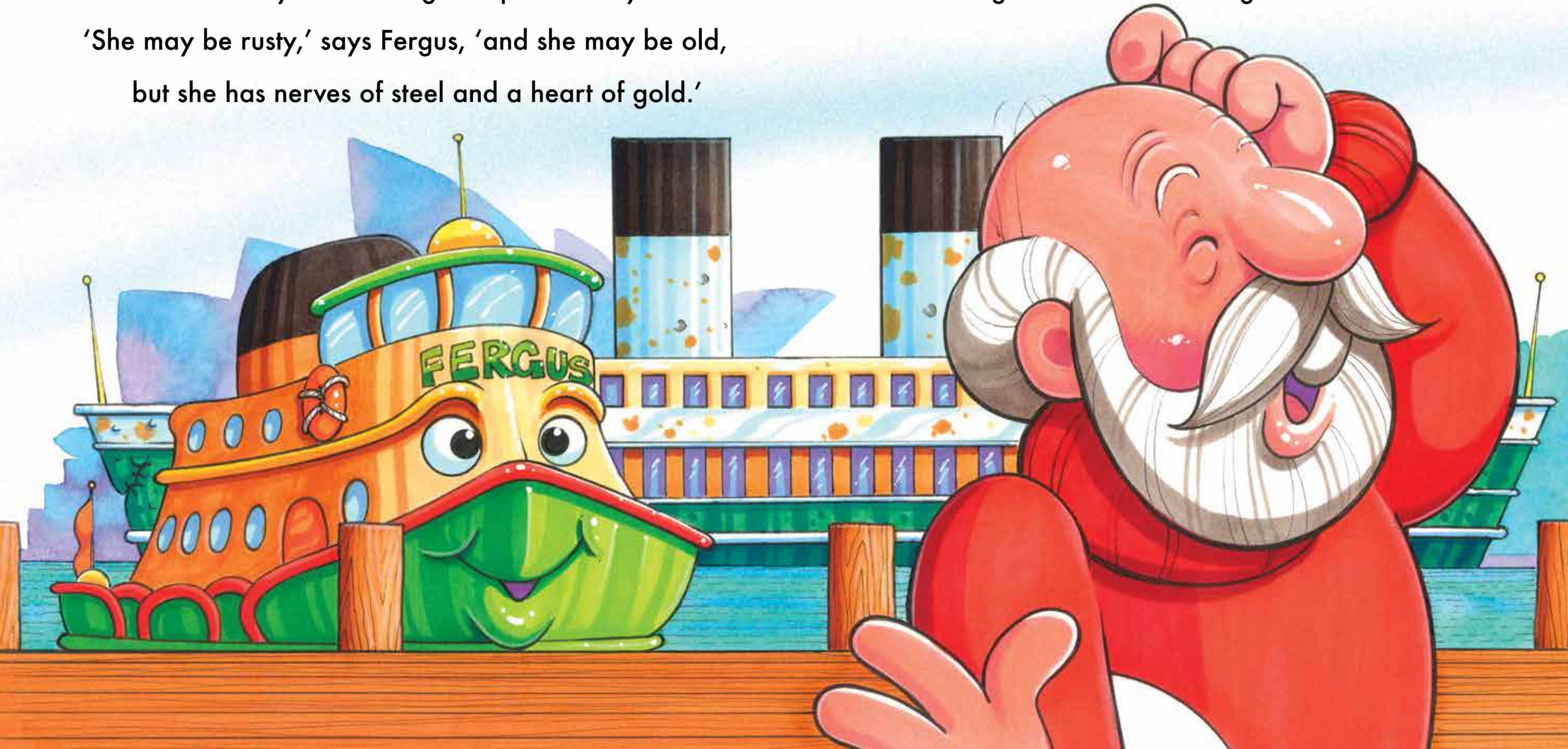
'Fergus,' says Joe, 'you've done it again.

What made you think to get help from Lady Jane?'

'She may be rusty,' says Fergus, 'and she may be old,
but she has nerves of steel and a heart of gold.'

Then Joe takes off his hat and scratches his head,

Shrugs his shoulders and goes home to bed.



Each of us has something to contribute.

For Renée

JWN

Sri Mata Amritanandamayi

PT

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