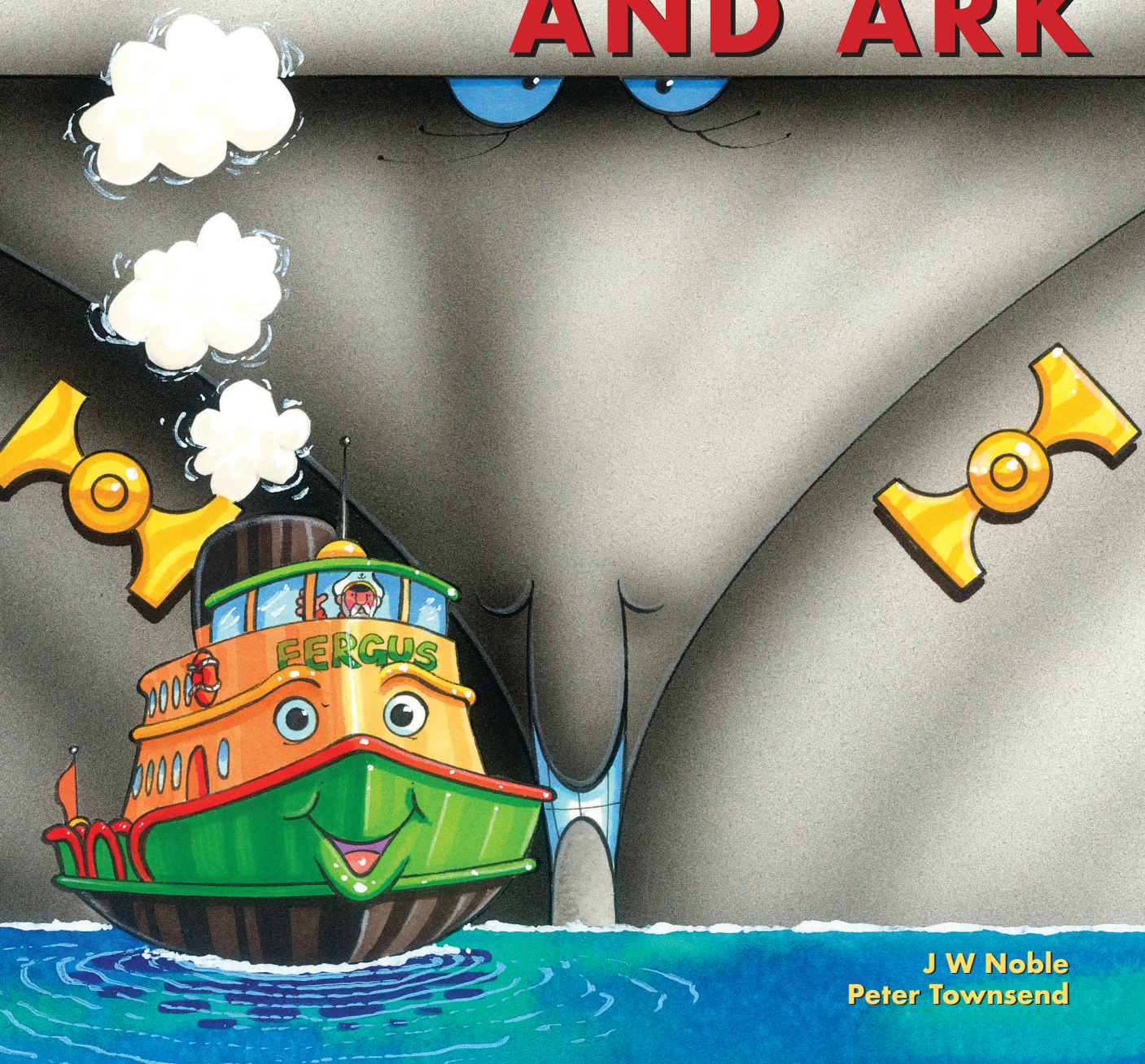
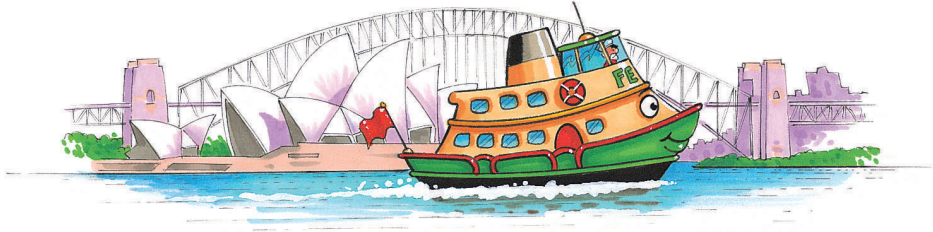


FERGUS AND ARK



J W Noble
Peter Townsend



FERGUS AND ARK

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Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

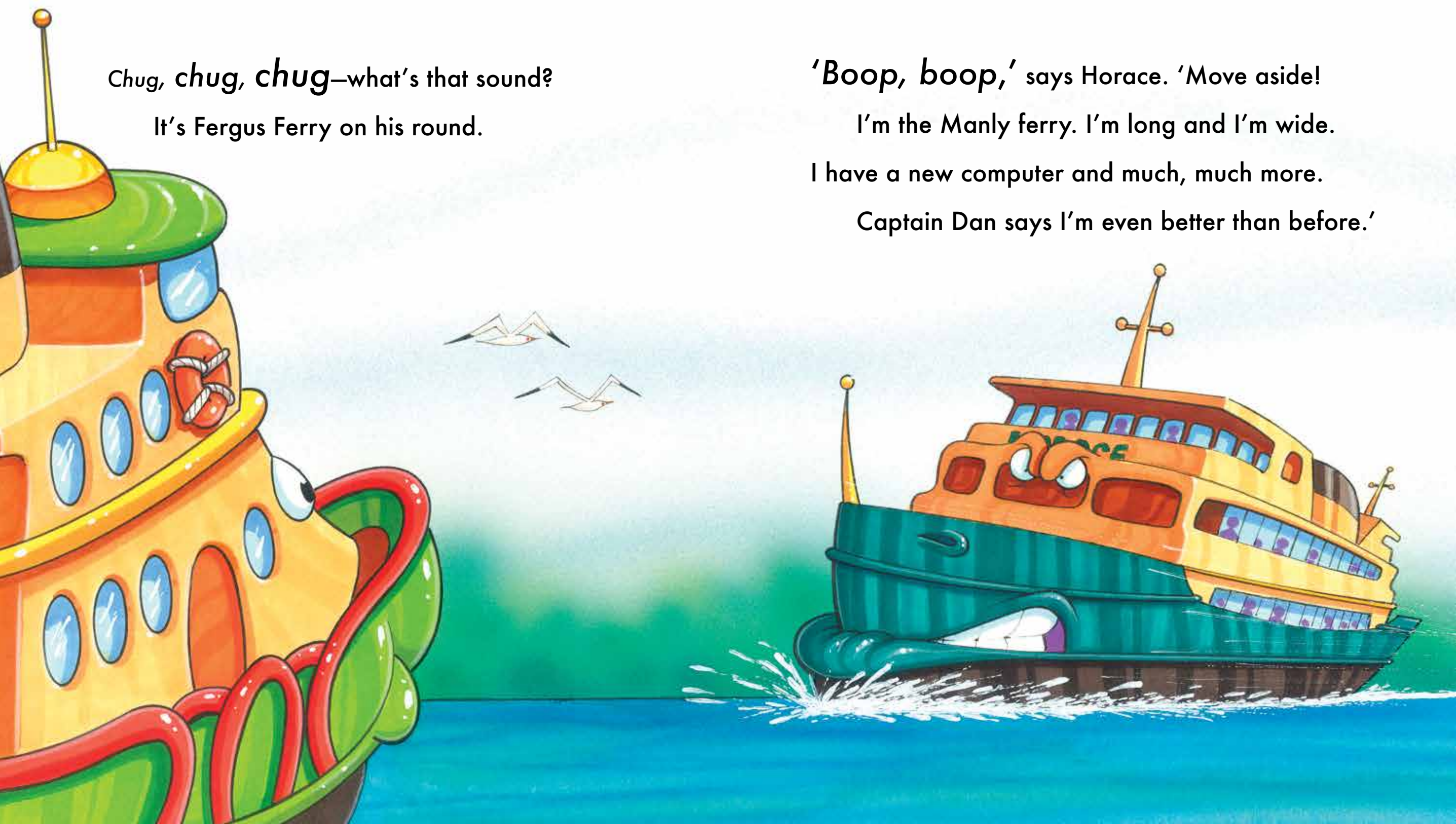
It's Fergus Ferry on his round.

'Boop, boop,' says Horace. 'Move aside!

I'm the Manly ferry. I'm long and I'm wide.

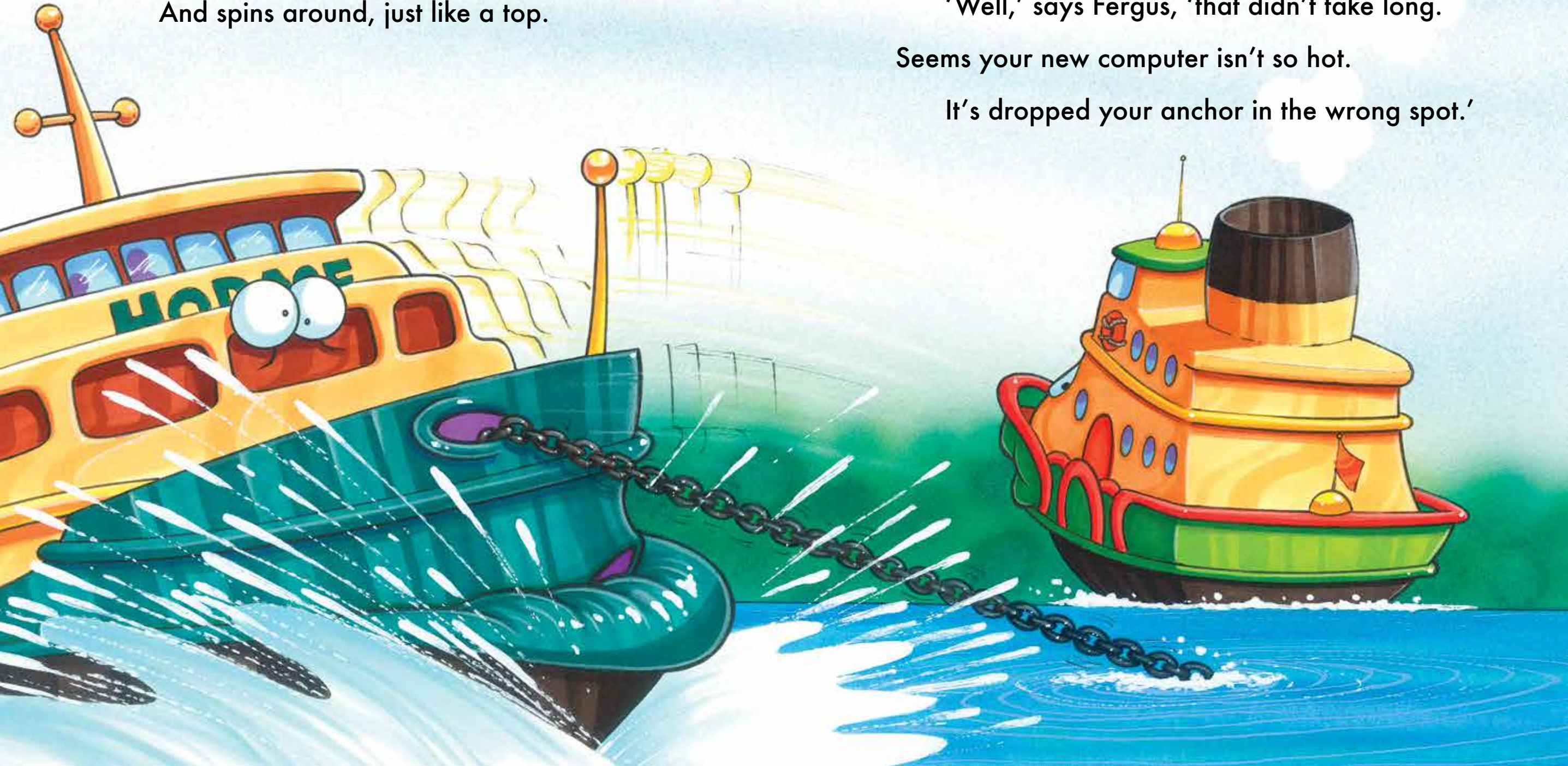
I have a new computer and much, much more.

Captain Dan says I'm even better than before.'



Crunch! Horace comes to a grinding stop
And spins around, just like a top.

'Hey!' shouts Horace. 'What's gone wrong?'
'Well,' says Fergus, 'that didn't take long.
Seems your new computer isn't so hot.
It's dropped your anchor in the wrong spot.'



'Now your propeller has snagged
the anchor chain
And you've stopped in the middle
of the shipping lane.

You'd better do something, and do it fast
Because Ark the carrier is due to come past.'

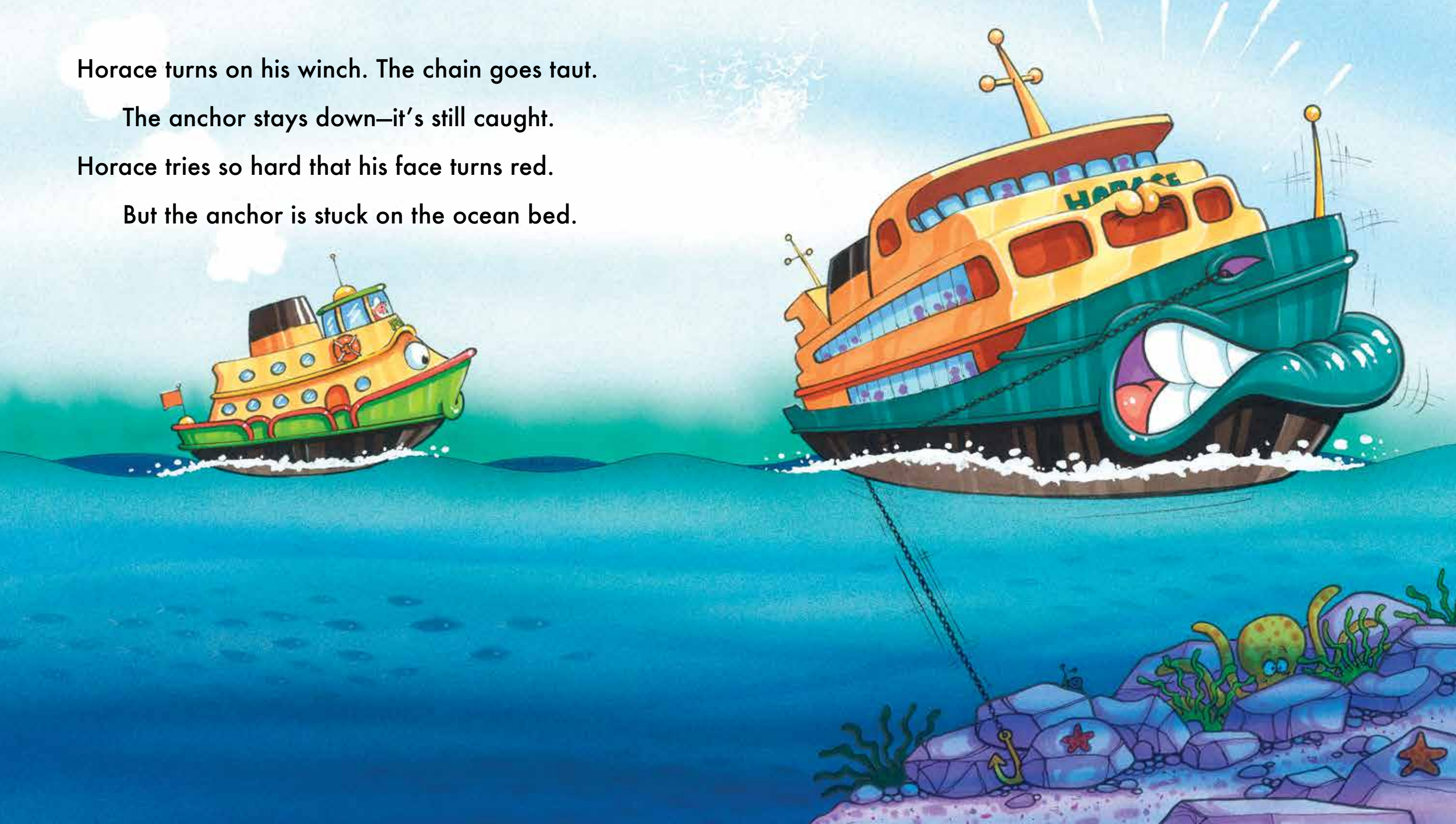


Horace turns on his winch. The chain goes taut.

The anchor stays down—it's still caught.

Horace tries so hard that his face turns red.

But the anchor is stuck on the ocean bed.

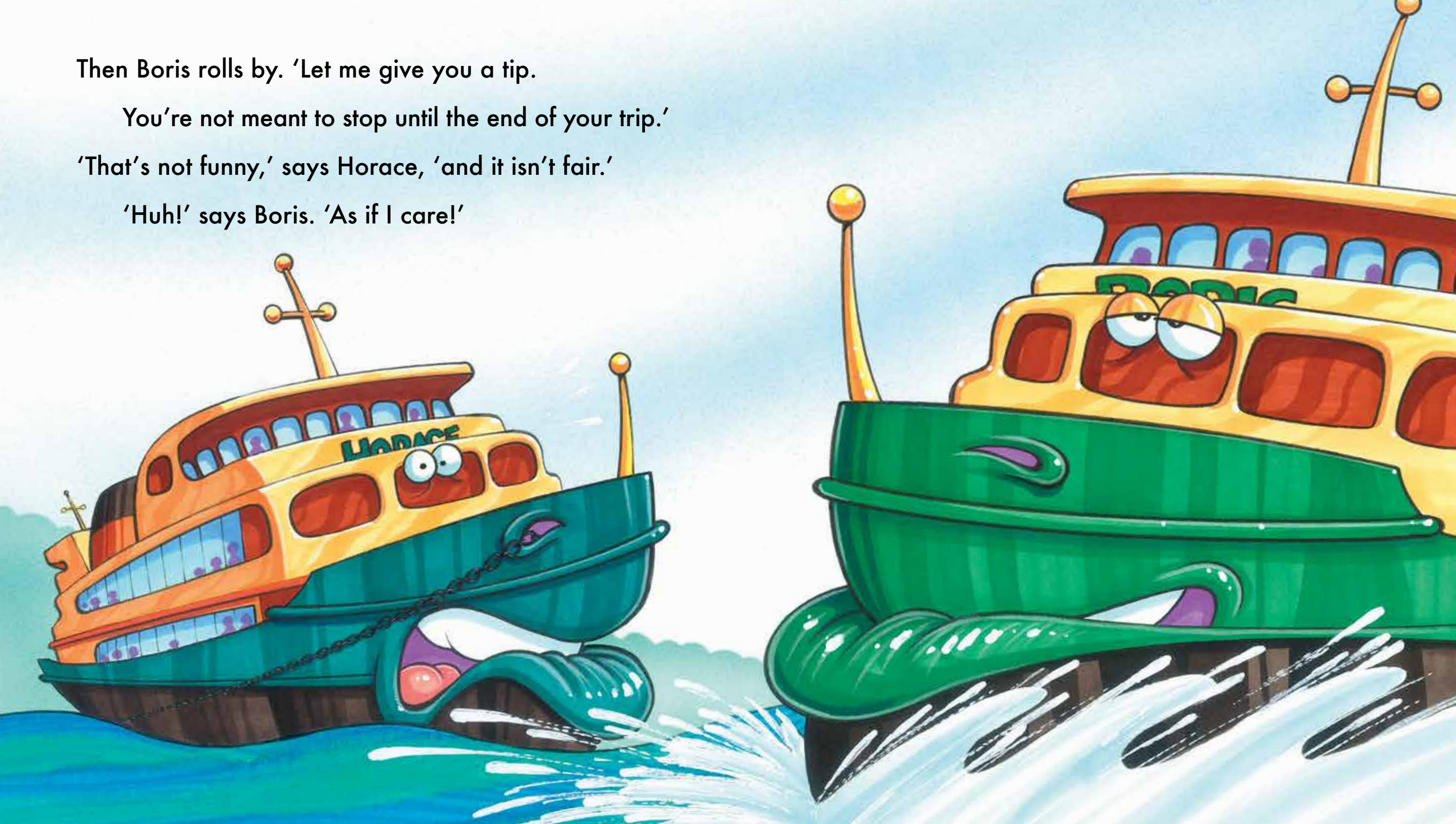


Then Boris rolls by. 'Let me give you a tip.

You're not meant to stop until the end of your trip.'

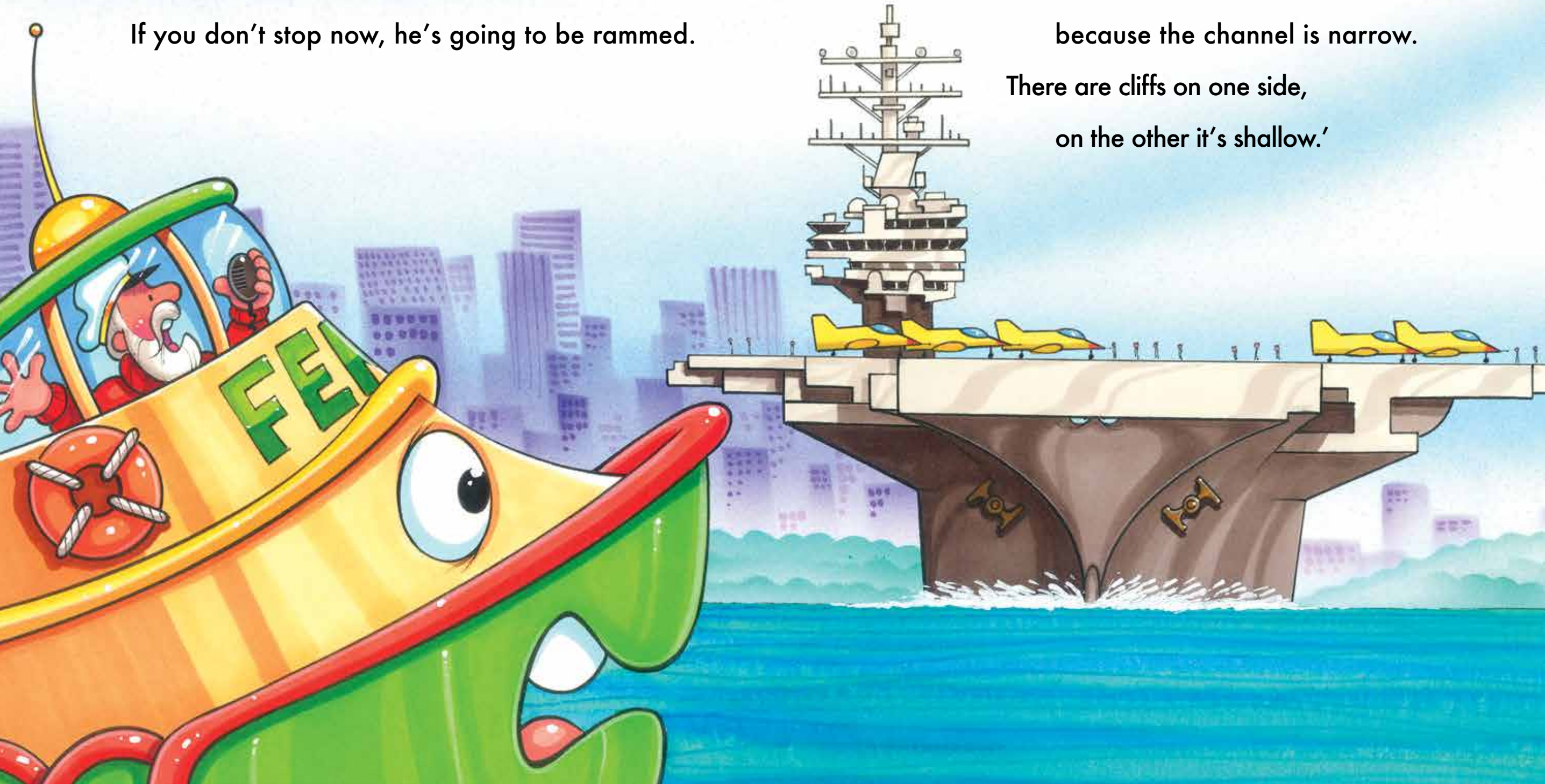
'That's not funny,' says Horace, 'and it isn't fair.'

'Huh!' says Boris. 'As if I care!'



Fergus radios Ark. 'Horace's anchor is jammed.
If you don't stop now, he's going to be rammed.'

You can't get past him,
because the channel is narrow.
There are cliffs on one side,
on the other it's shallow.'



Ark spots Horace and sees there's no room to turn.

'Understood,' he says. 'I'll try going full astern.
But I'm going so fast, I don't think that will do.

If Horace doesn't move, he'll be sliced in two.'



Captain Dan hears Ark and runs to the cabin door.

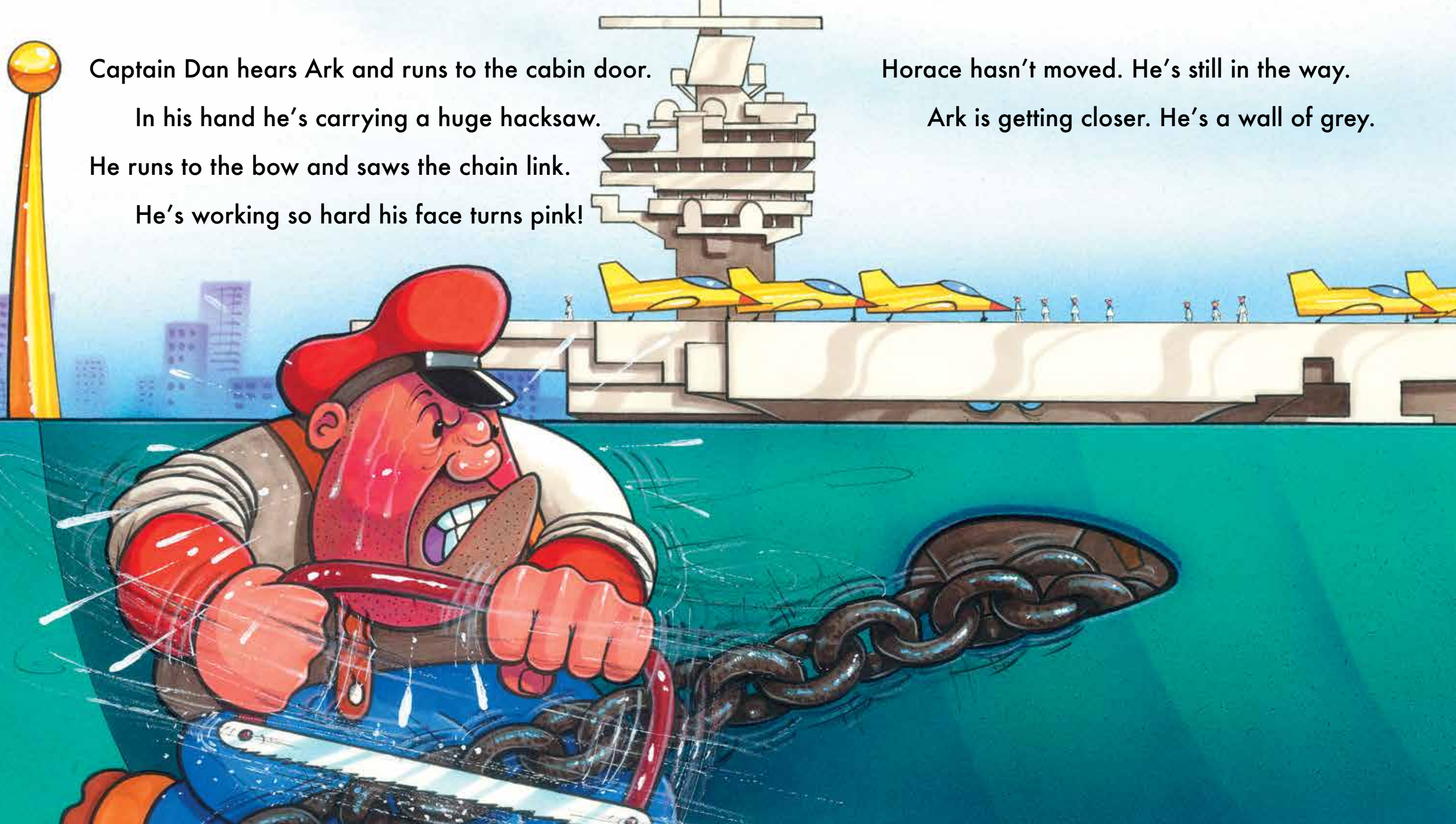
In his hand he's carrying a huge hacksaw.

He runs to the bow and saws the chain link.

He's working so hard his face turns pink!

Horace hasn't moved. He's still in the way.

Ark is getting closer. He's a wall of grey.



And closer ...

Captain Dan is sawing, he's sawing like mad.

'If I don't cut the chain, this is going to be bad.'



And closer ...

Dan's still sawing like a man possessed.

Ark is so close, there's no time for a rest.



And closer still ...

Ark looms over Horace, like a huge grey cliff.

Dan is so scared now that he's frozen stiff.

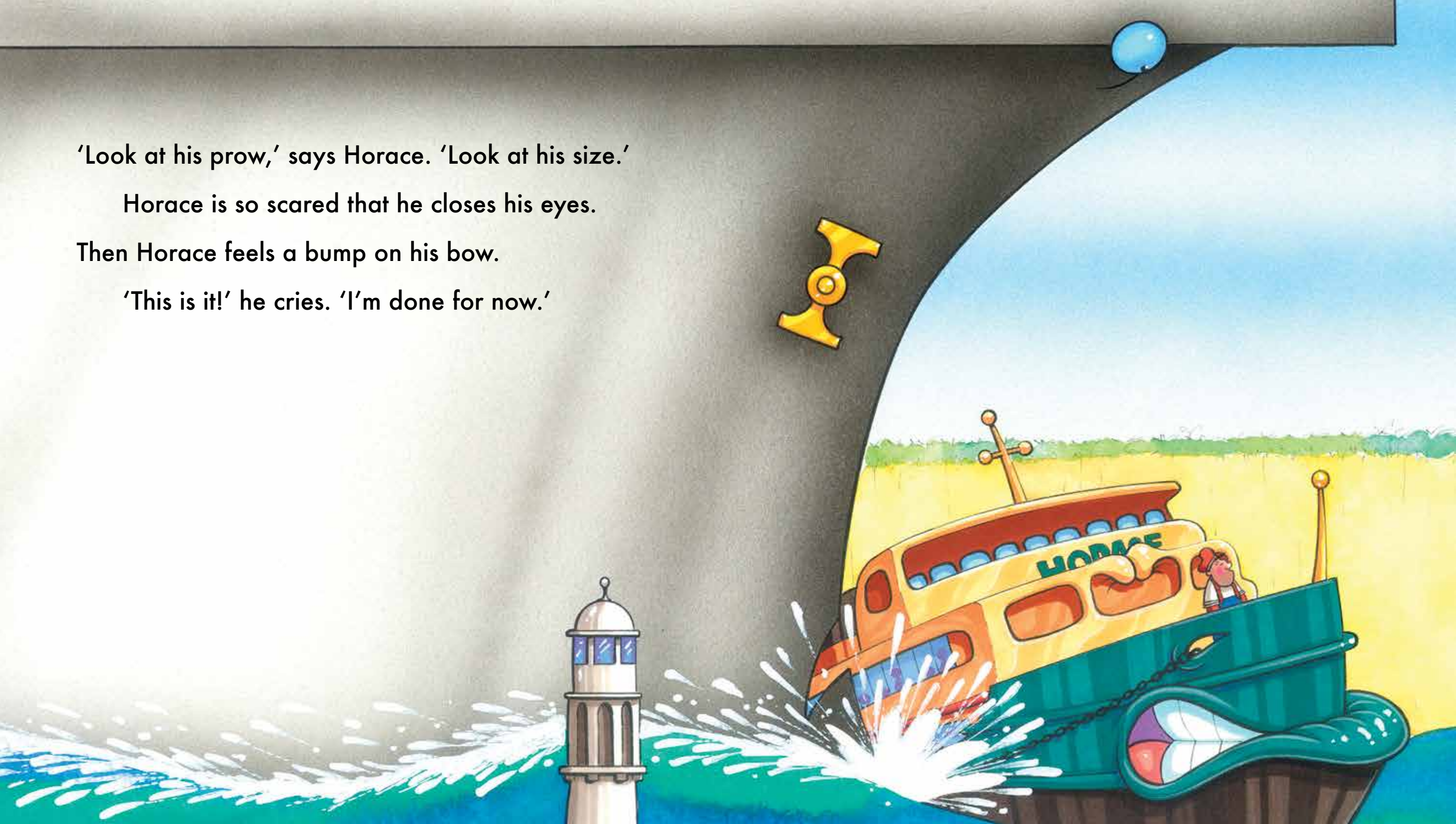


'Look at his prow,' says Horace. 'Look at his size.'

Horace is so scared that he closes his eyes.

Then Horace feels a bump on his bow.

'This is it!' he cries. 'I'm done for now.'

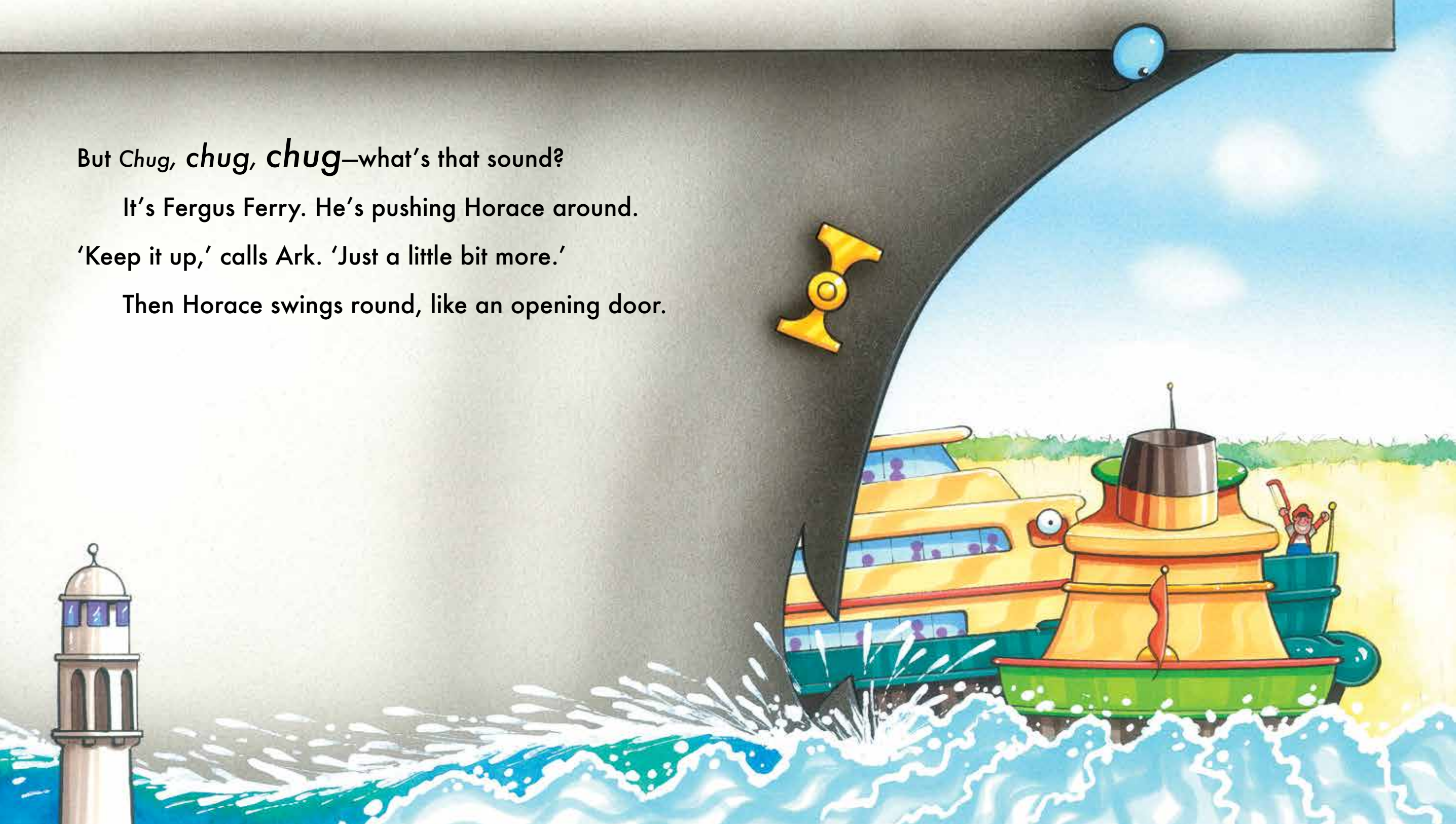


But *Chug, chug, chug*—what's that sound?

It's Fergus Ferry. He's pushing Horace around.

'Keep it up,' calls Ark. 'Just a little bit more.'

Then Horace swings round, like an opening door.



'Well done, Fergus,' says Ark. 'Now I can get past.'
He sails on through and gives his whistle a blast.

Dan keeps sawing until Horace's anchor is free.
Then Fergus chugs off, back to Circular Quay.



'Well,' says Joe, 'that was touch and go!

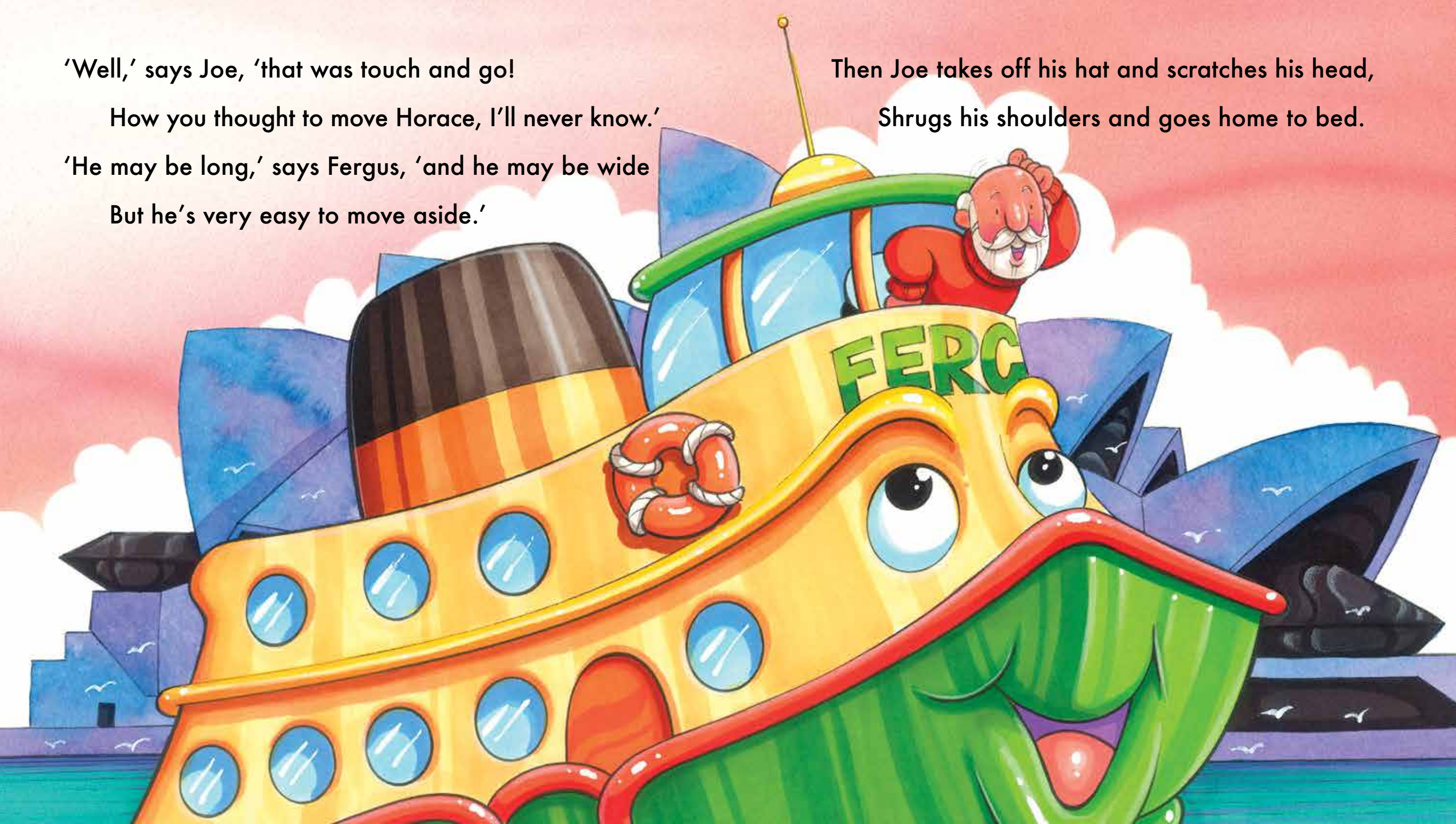
How you thought to move Horace, I'll never know.'

'He may be long,' says Fergus, 'and he may be wide

But he's very easy to move aside.'

Then Joe takes off his hat and scratches his head,

Shrugs his shoulders and goes home to bed.



For Tim Spark

JWN

Sri Mata Amritanandamayi

PT

Snowball Press Pty Limited (ACN 110 061 142)
P.O. Box A2619, Sydney South, NSW 1235
☎ + 612 9518 9999
info@fergusferry.com

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