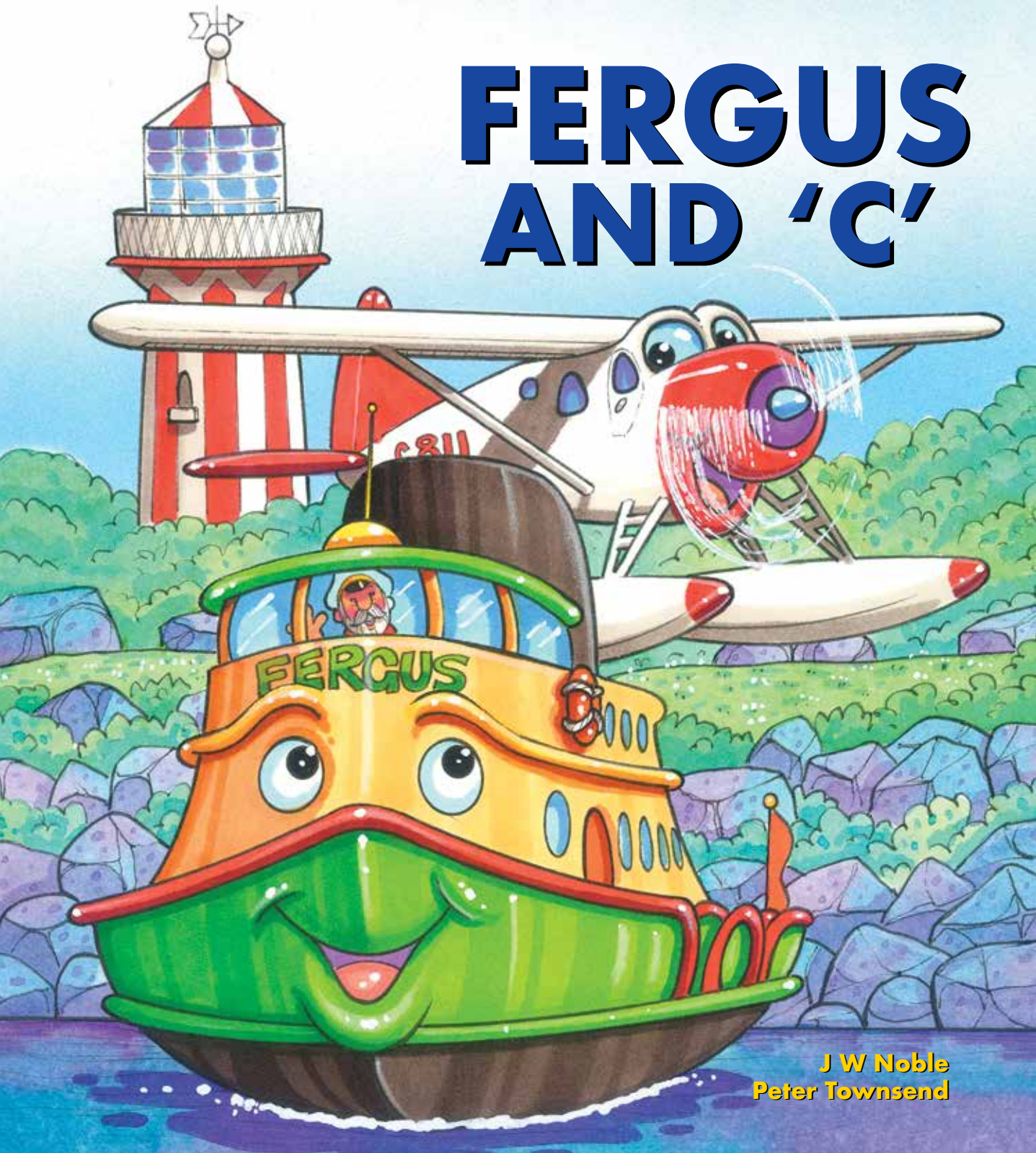


FERGUS AND 'C'



J W Noble
Peter Townsend



FERGUS AND 'C'

**J W Noble
Peter Townsend**

Snwball
PRESS

www.fergusferry.com

Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

It's Fergus Ferry on his round.

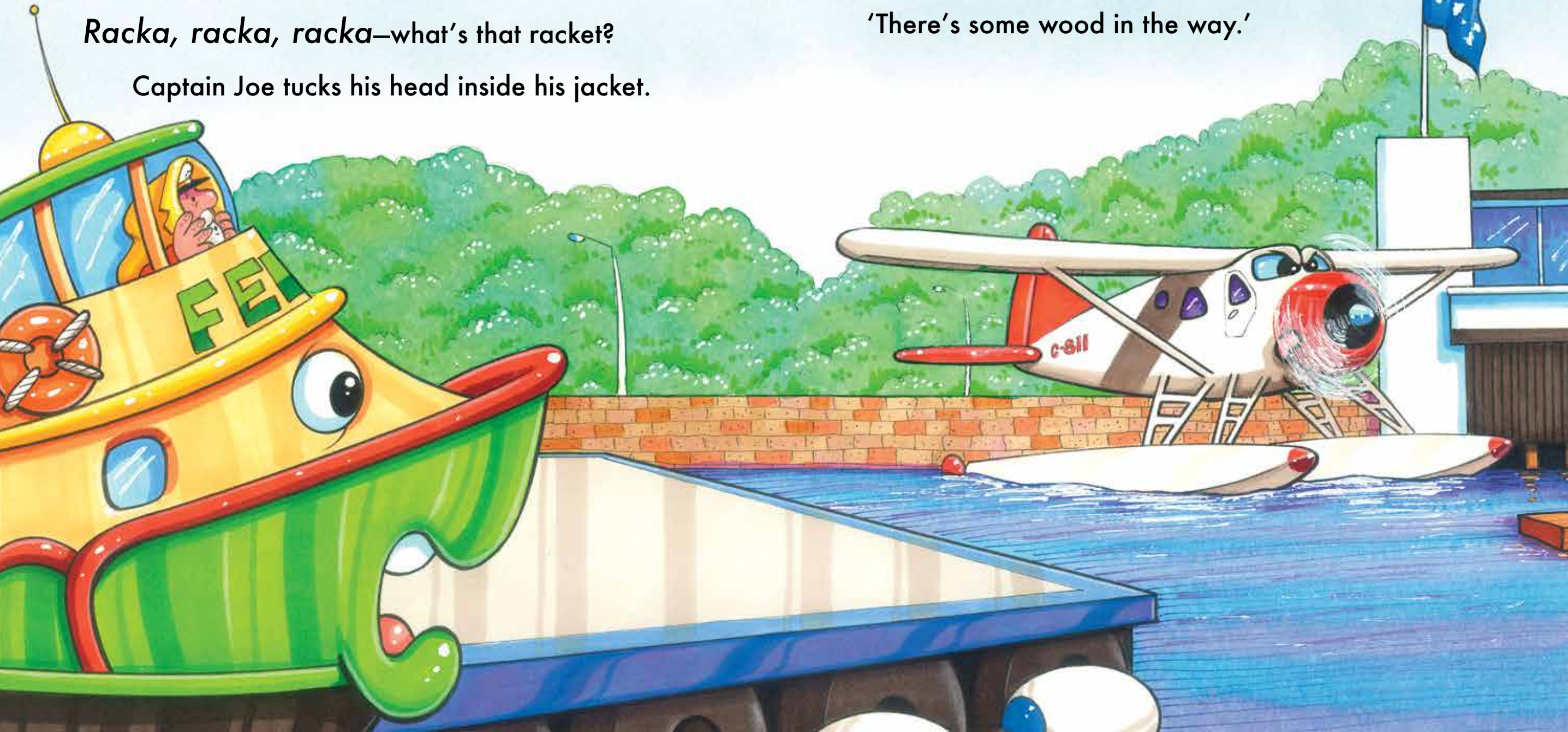
Racka, racka, racka—what's that racket?

Captain Joe tucks his head inside his jacket.

It's 'C' the seaplane, taking off from Rose Bay.

'Stop!' shouts Fergus.

'There's some wood in the way.'



'Can't hear you,' says C as his engines roar.

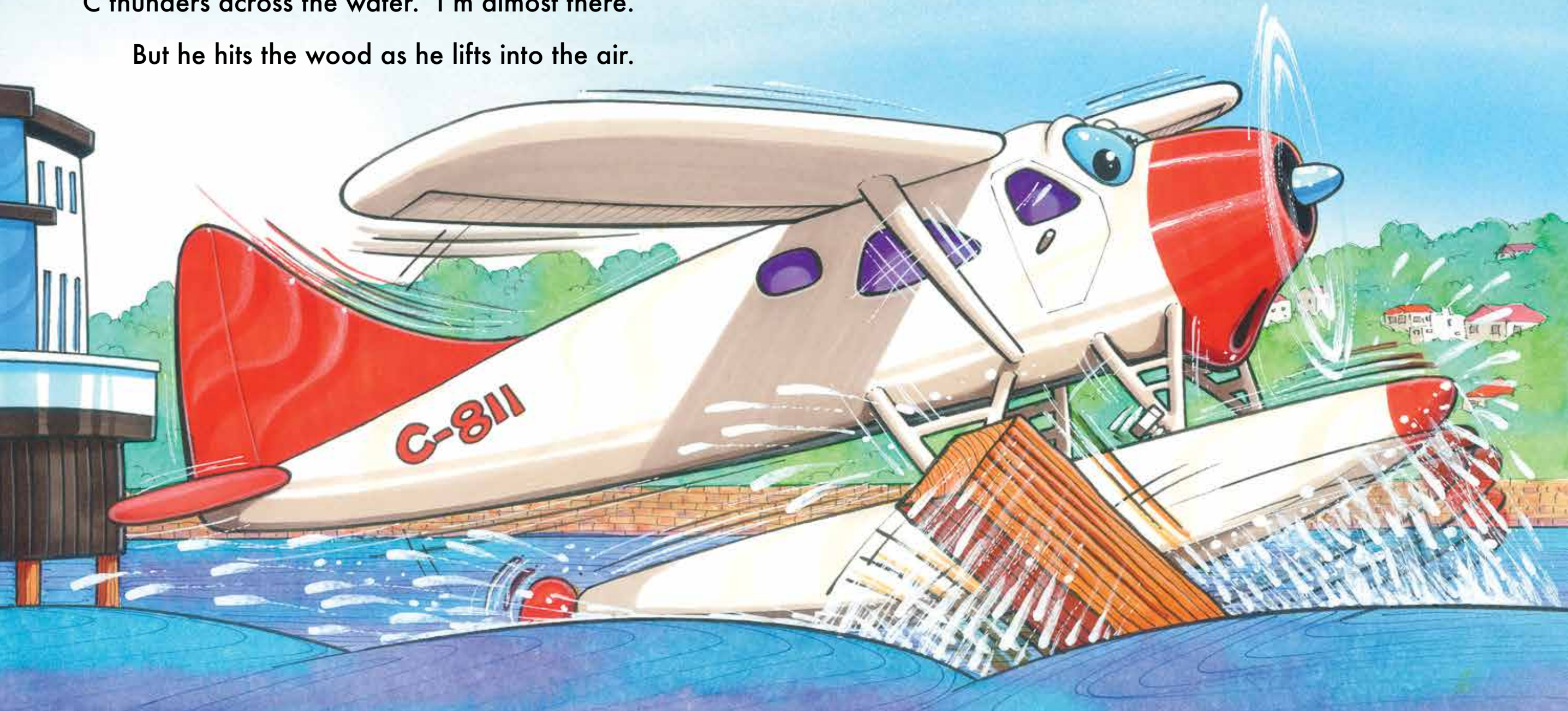
'My throttles are open, now watch me soar.'

C thunders across the water. 'I'm almost there.'

But he hits the wood as he lifts into the air.

'Oh, no!' says Fergus. 'That was a real jolt.'

The wood hit C's float and loosened a bolt.'

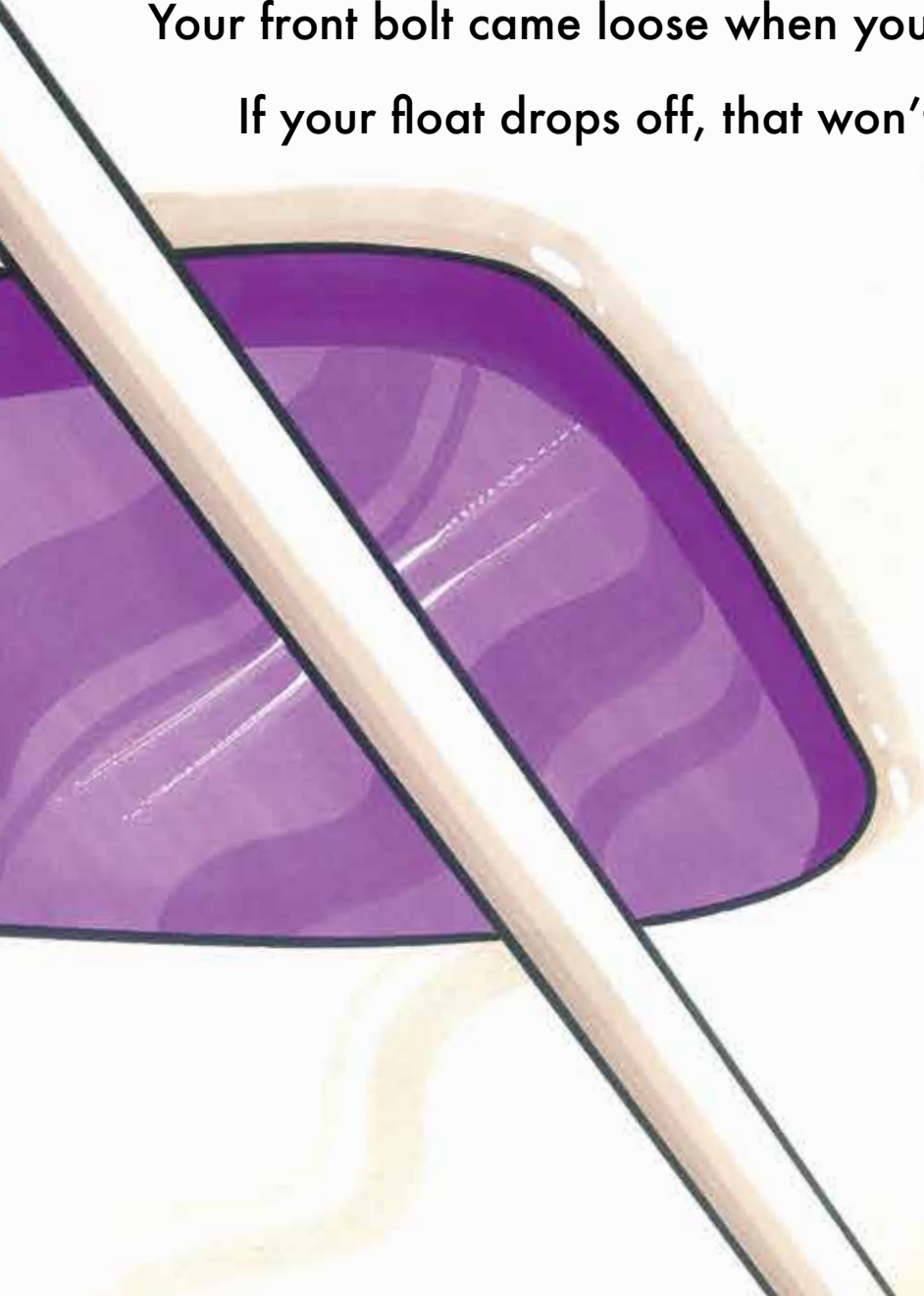


Joe is on the radio to C's pilot, Jack.

'I'm sorry mate, but you need to come back.
Your front bolt came loose when you hit that wood.
If your float drops off, that won't be good.'

Jack looks out of the window and says, 'Yes, I see.

But there's a chance I can stop it coming free.'

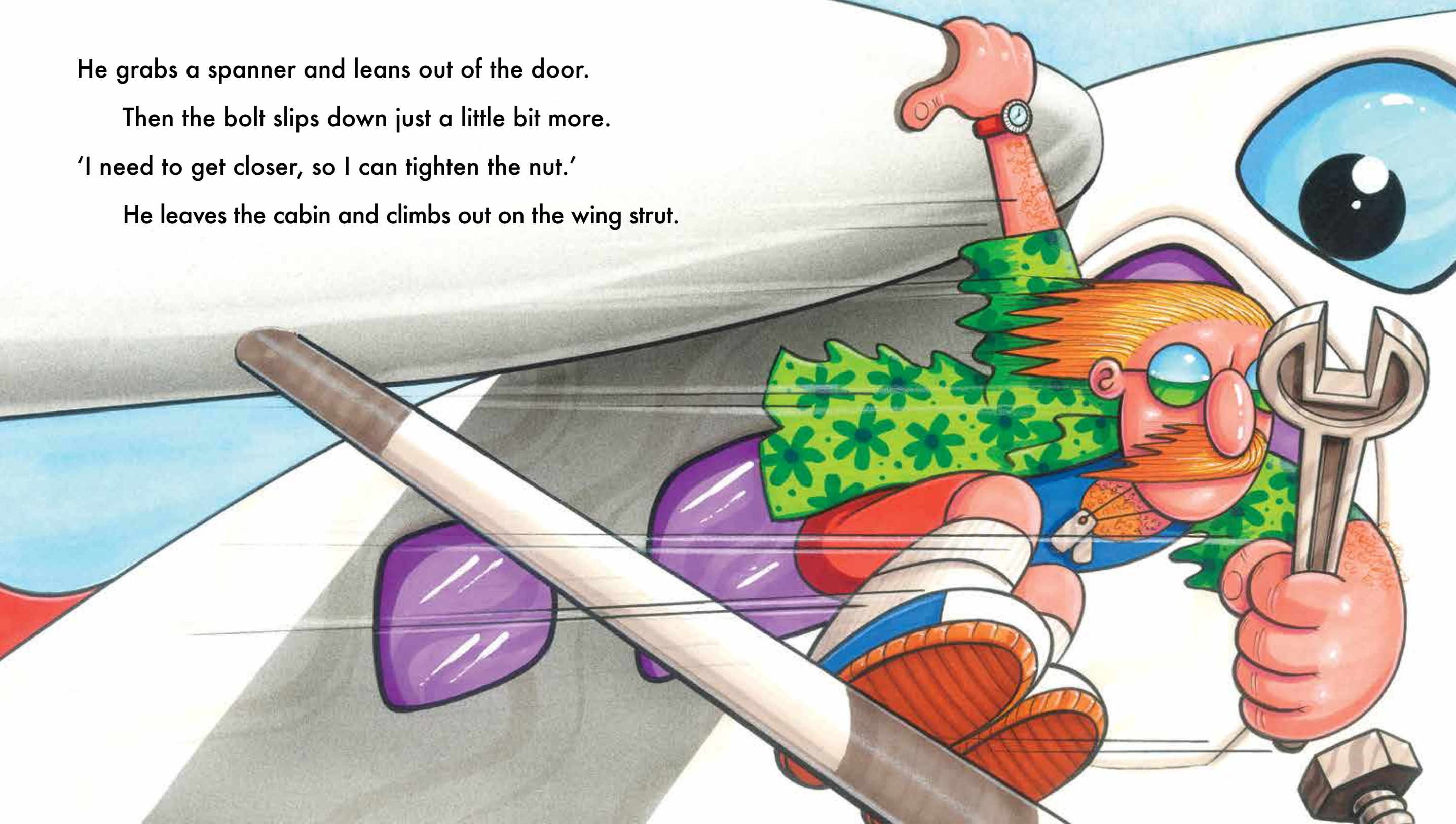


He grabs a spanner and leans out of the door.

Then the bolt slips down just a little bit more.

'I need to get closer, so I can tighten the nut.'

He leaves the cabin and climbs out on the wing strut.

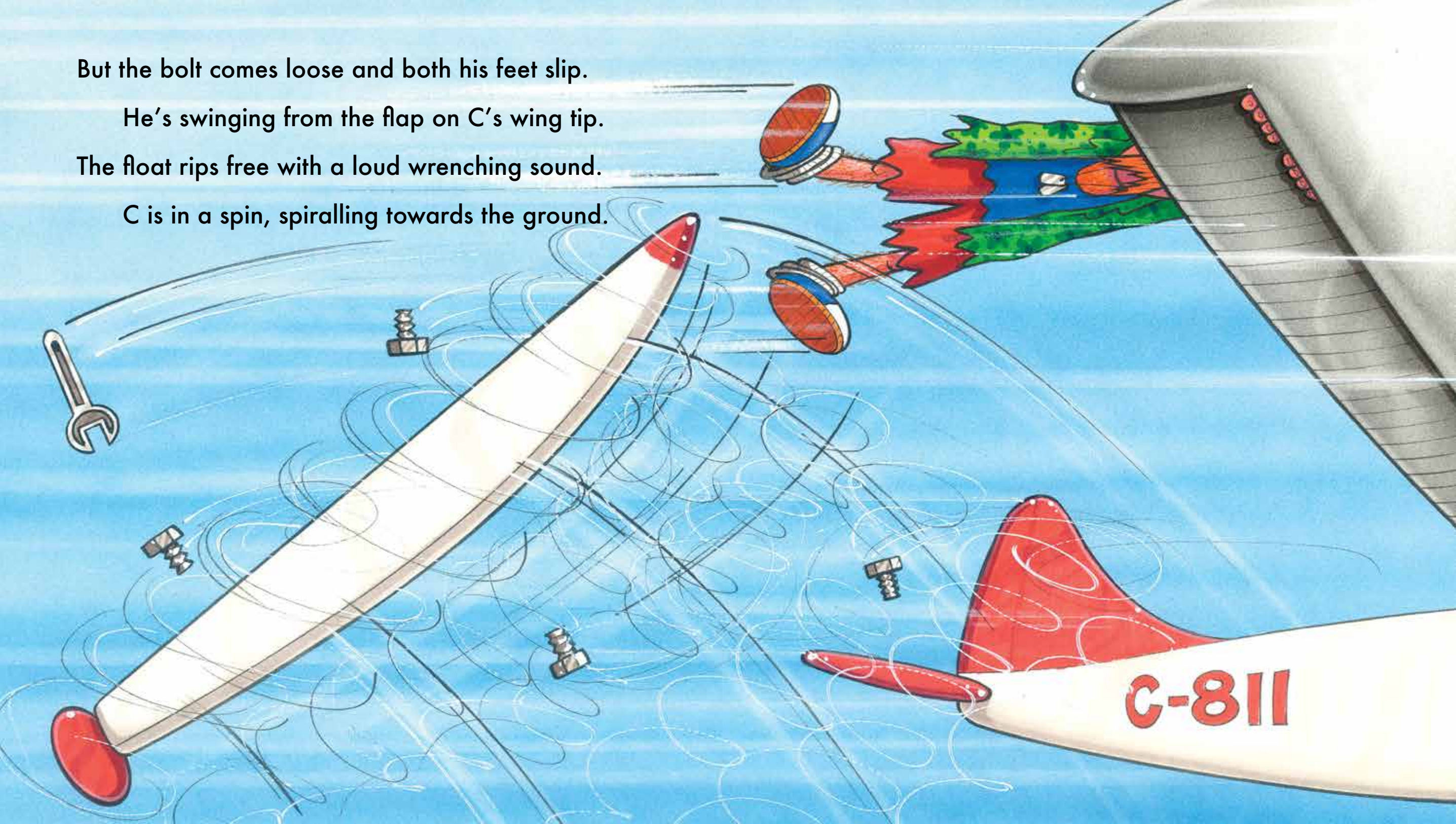


But the bolt comes loose and both his feet slip.

He's swinging from the flap on C's wing tip.

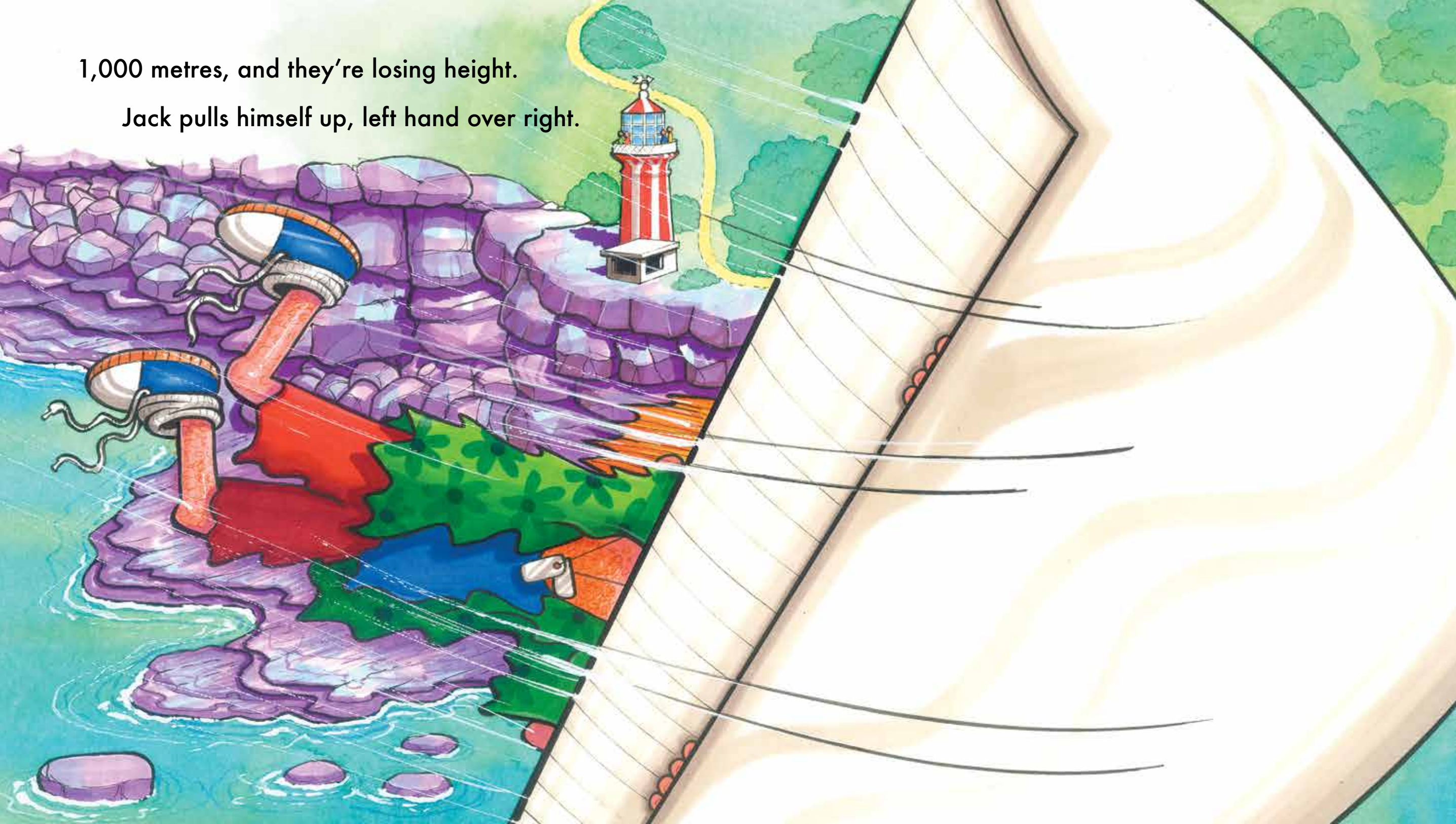
The float rips free with a loud wrenching sound.

C is in a spin, spiralling towards the ground.



1,000 metres, and they're losing height.

Jack pulls himself up, left hand over right.



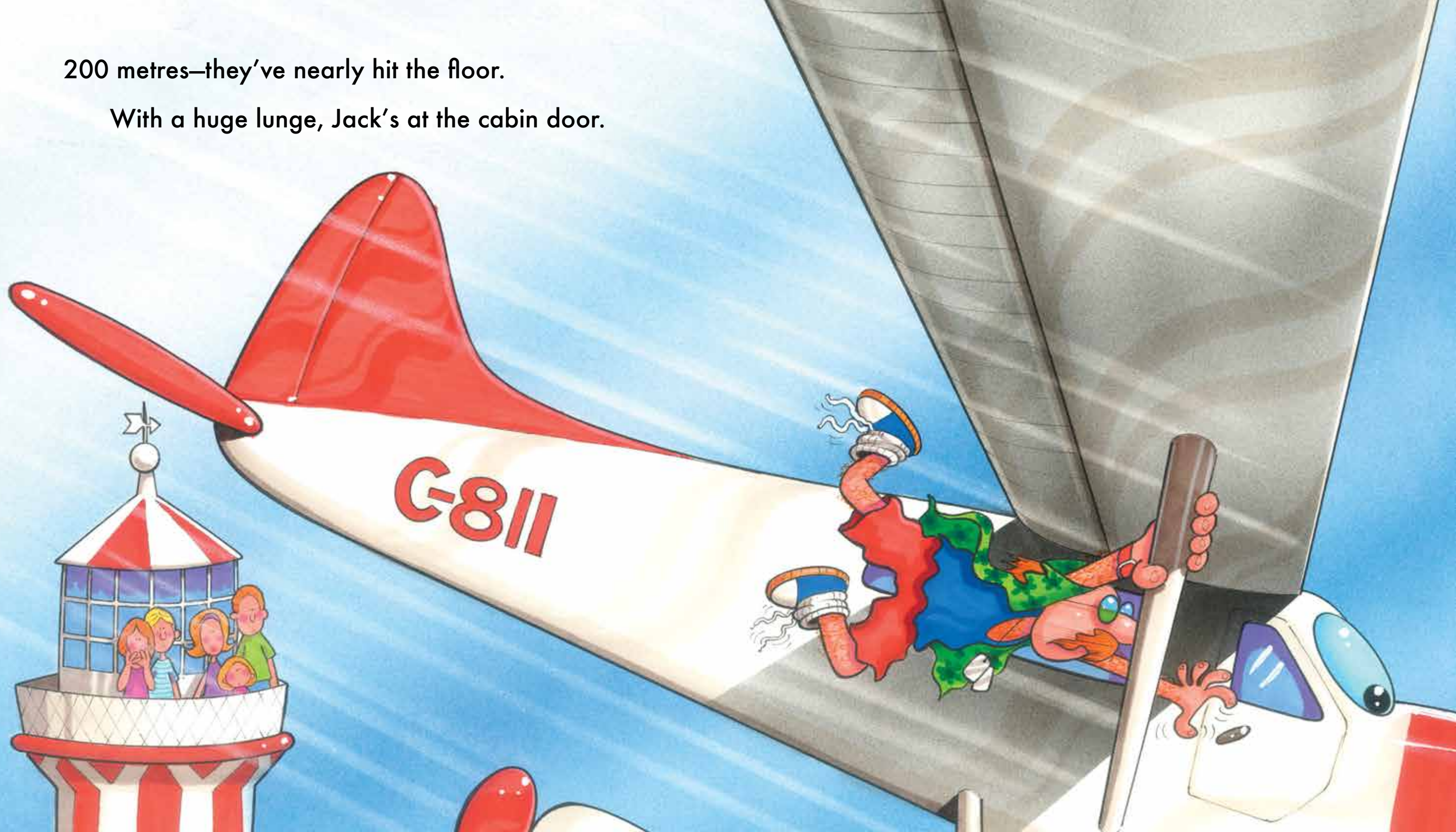
500 metres—the ground is coming up fast.

Jack must reach the cabin, or this trip will be his last.



200 metres—they've nearly hit the floor.

With a huge lunge, Jack's at the cabin door.



50 metres—Jack gives one last desperate kick
Then he reaches out and grabs the joystick.
He pulls it back with all of his might
And C pulls out of the dive into level flight.



'Brilliant!' says Fergus. But then he starts to frown.

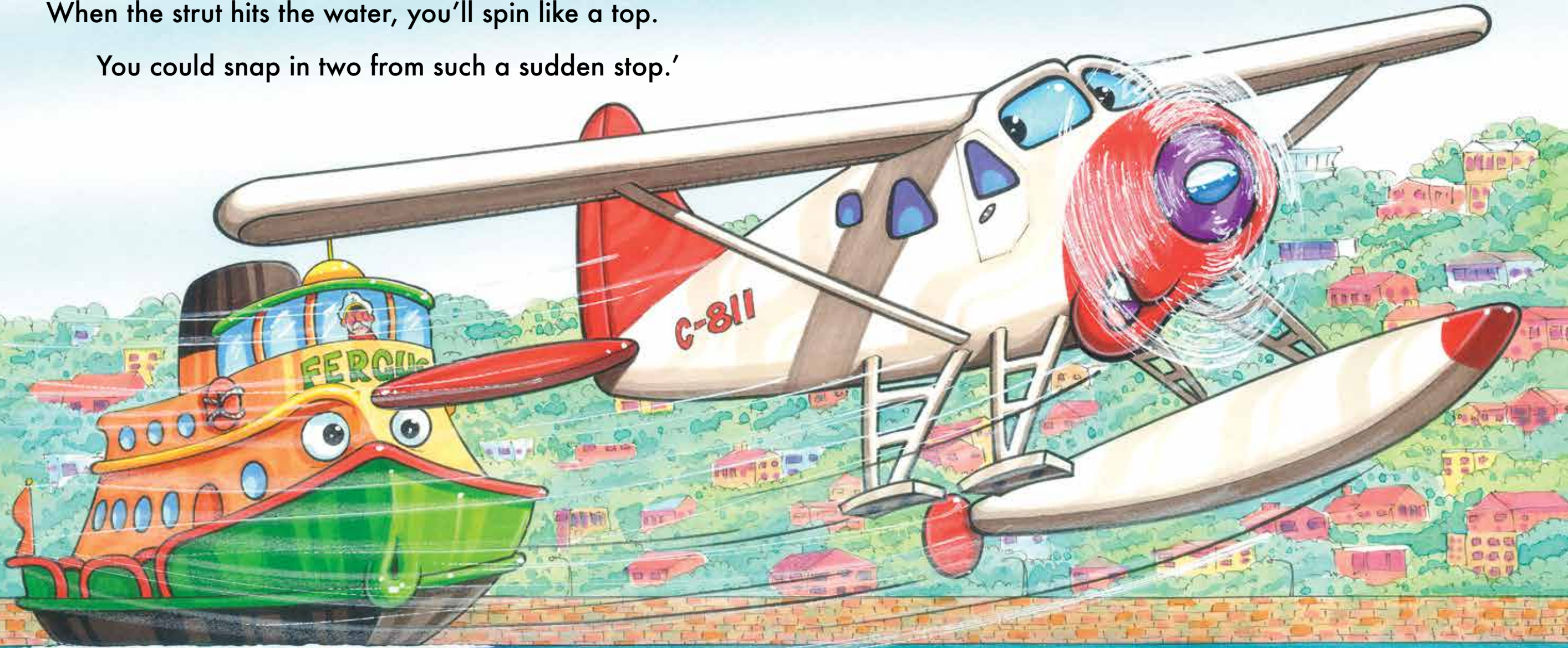
'But C, how on earth will we get you down?

When the strut hits the water, you'll spin like a top.

You could snap in two from such a sudden stop.'

'Think of something, Fergus,' says C, 'and don't be slow.

My fuel tank is nearly empty—the needle's on low.'

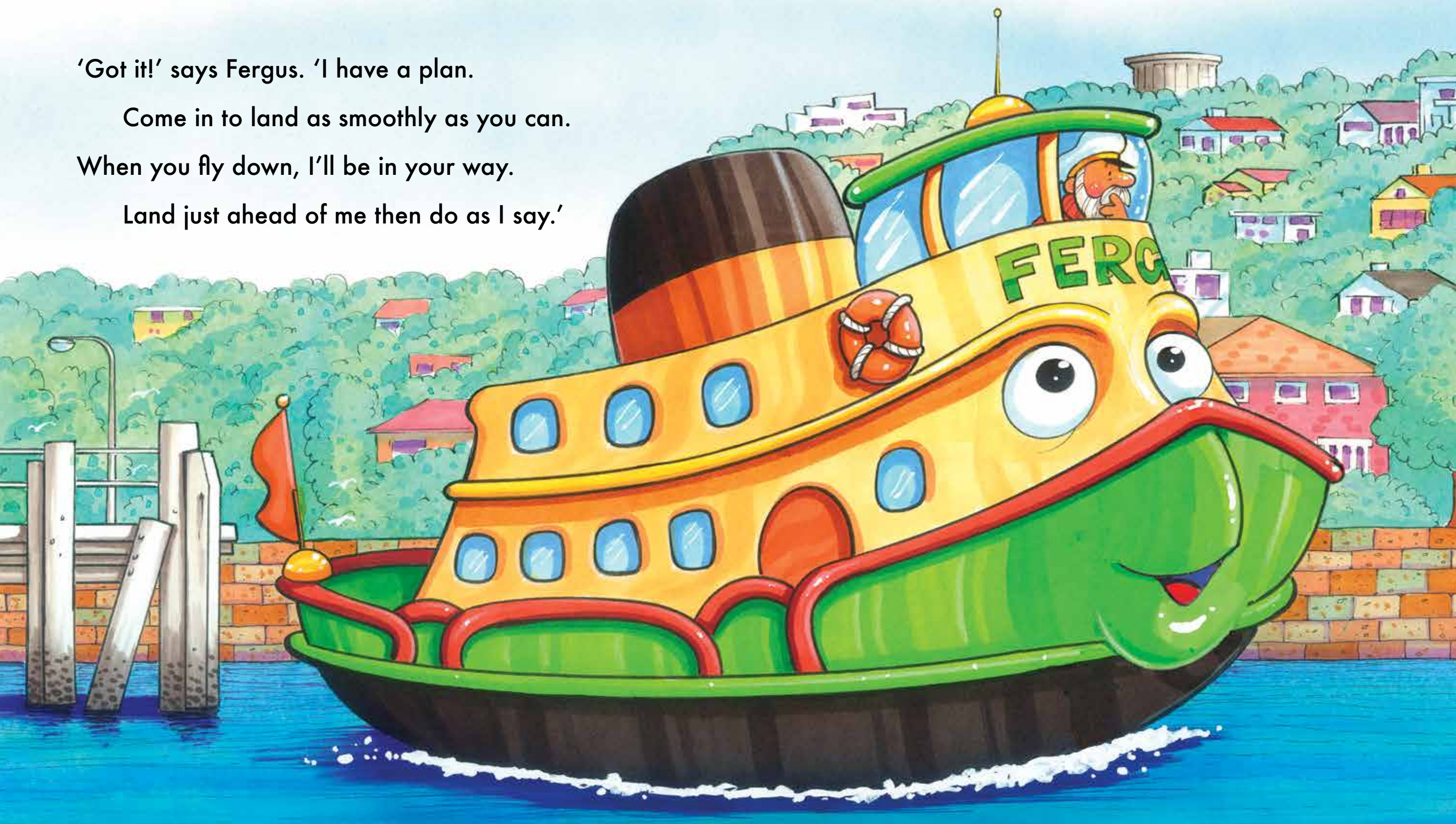


'Got it!' says Fergus. 'I have a plan.'

Come in to land as smoothly as you can.

When you fly down, I'll be in your way.

Land just ahead of me then do as I say.'

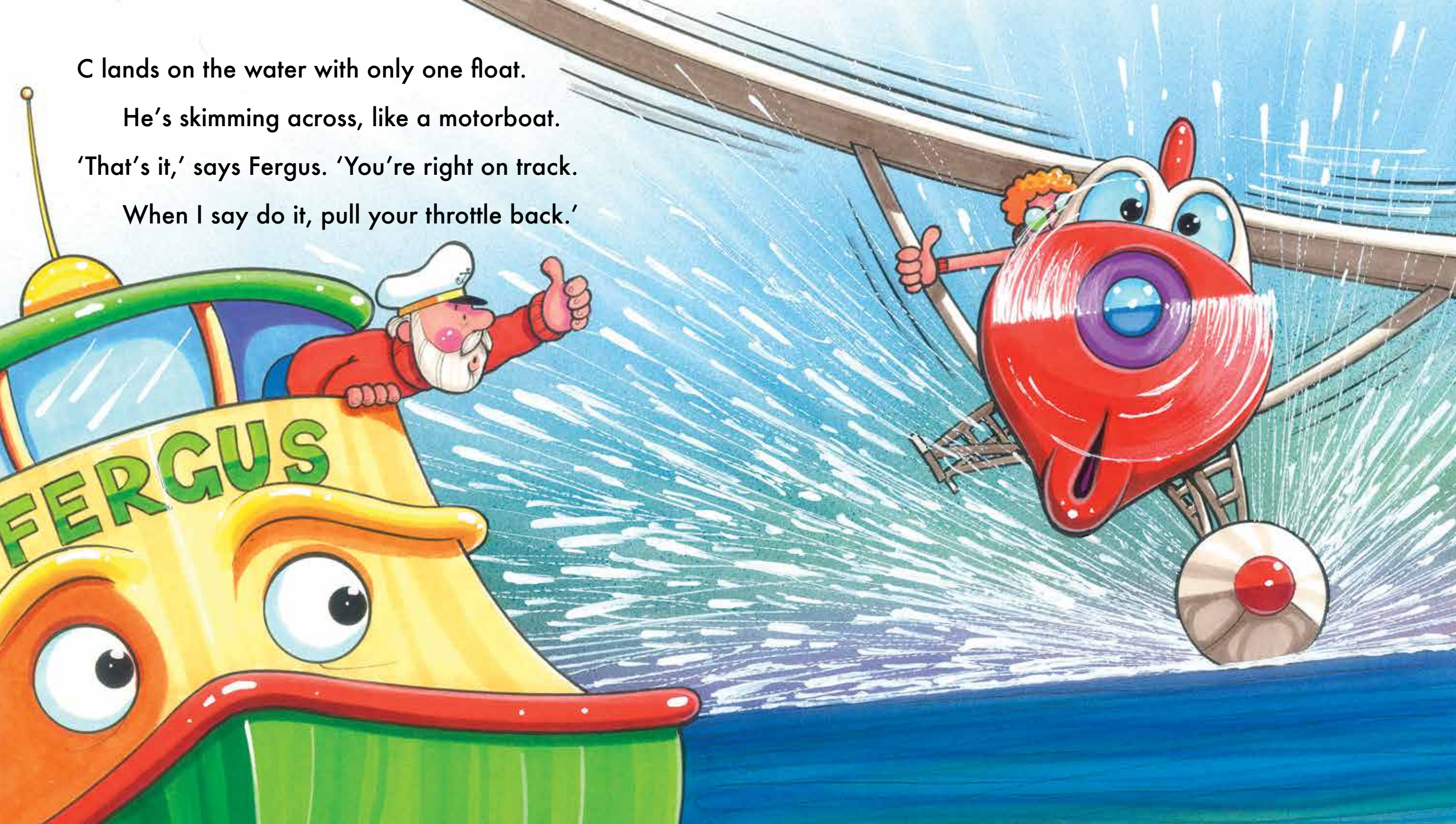


C lands on the water with only one float.

He's skimming across, like a motorboat.

'That's it,' says Fergus. 'You're right on track.'

When I say do it, pull your throttle back.'

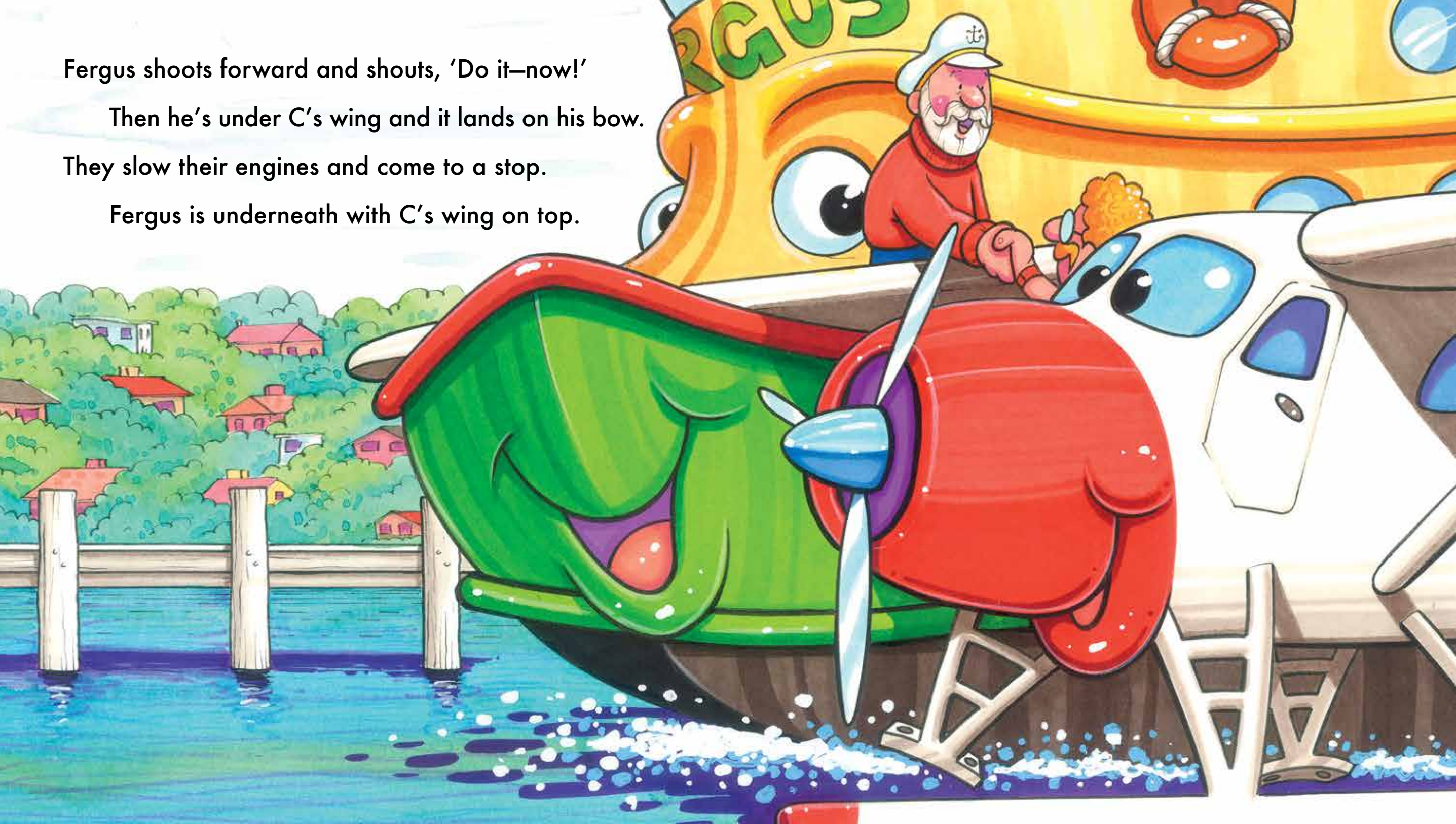


Fergus shoots forward and shouts, 'Do it—now!'

Then he's under C's wing and it lands on his bow.

They slow their engines and come to a stop.

Fergus is underneath with C's wing on top.

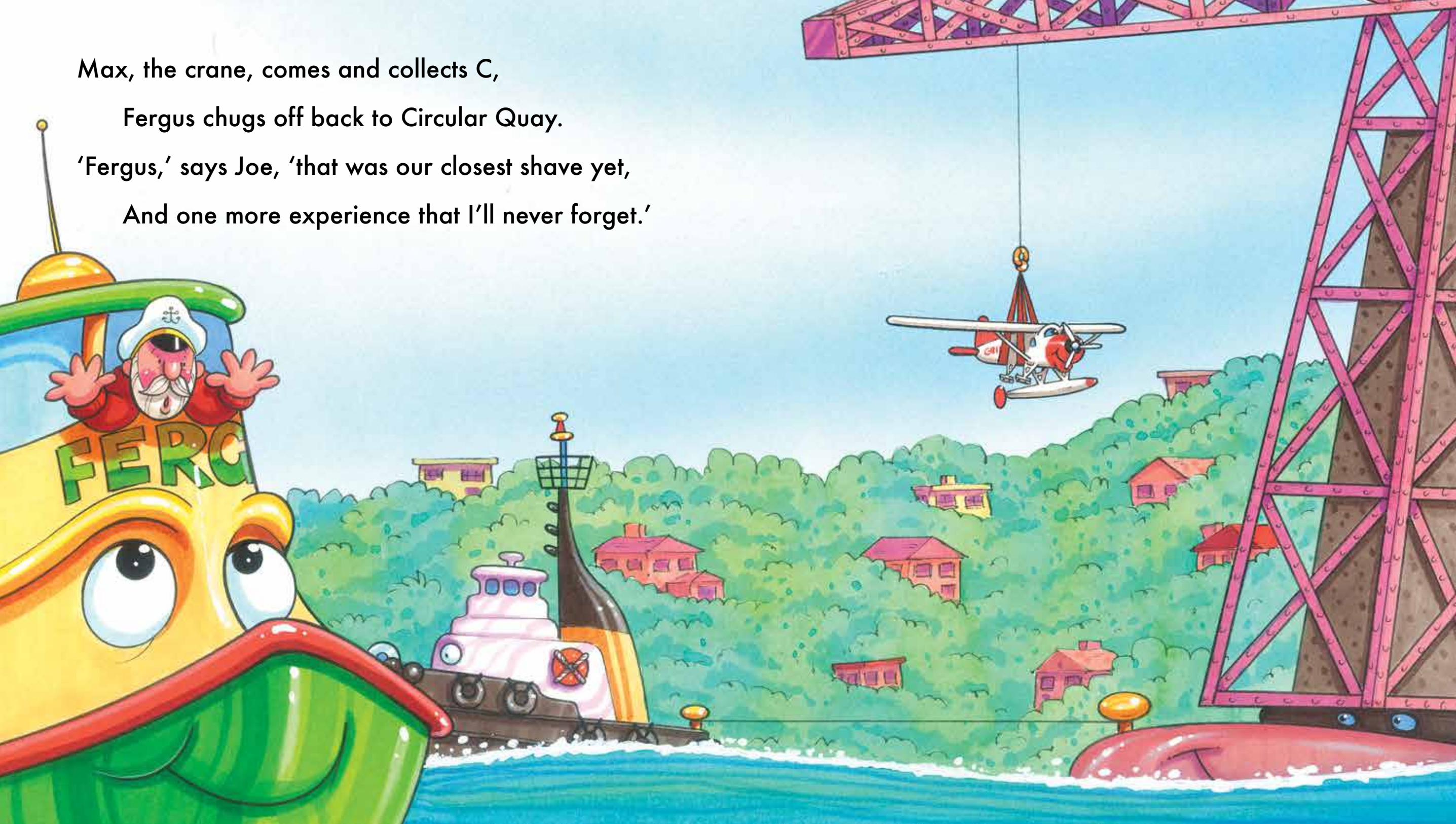


Max, the crane, comes and collects C,

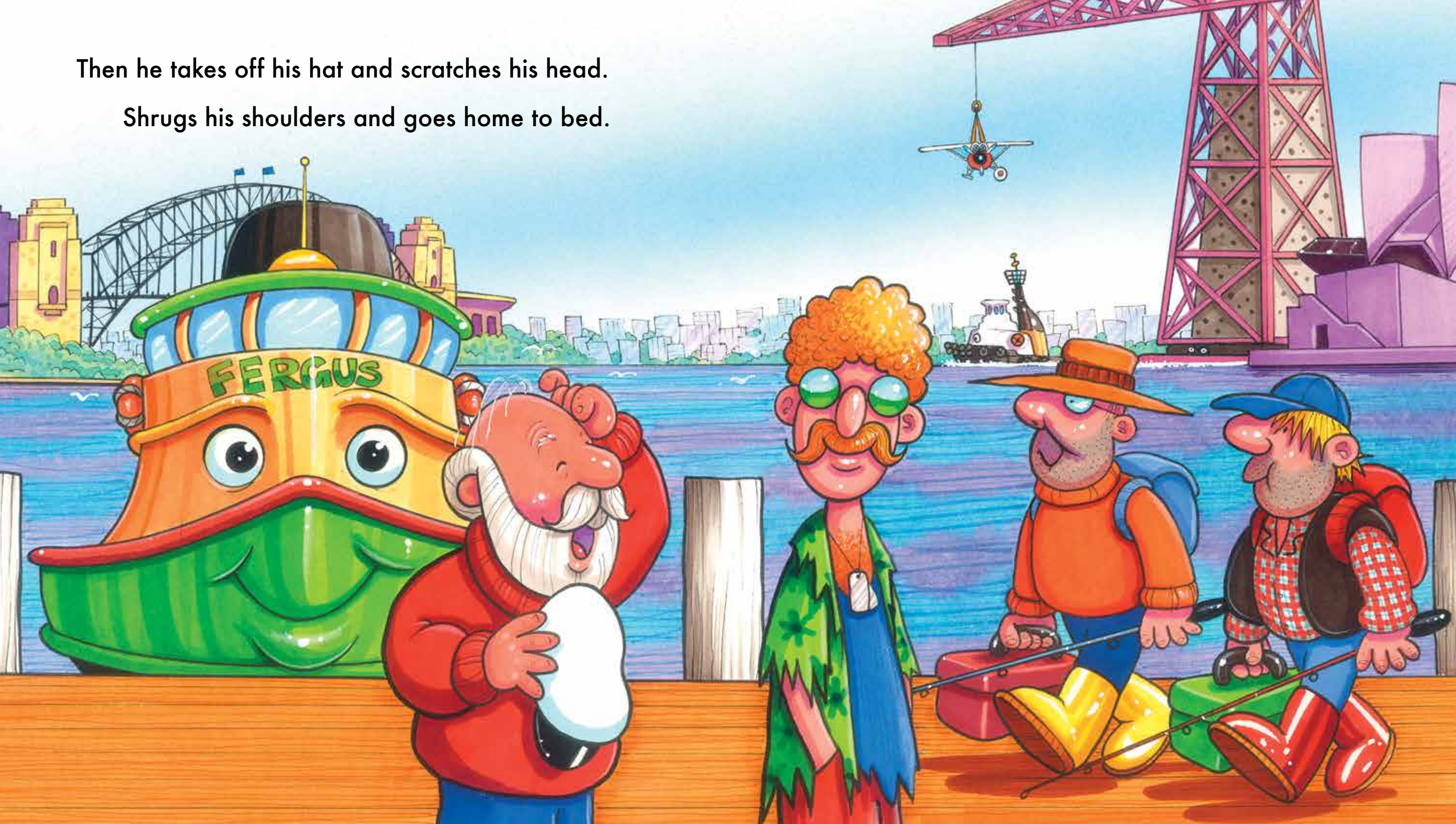
Fergus chugs off back to Circular Quay.

'Fergus,' says Joe, 'that was our closest shave yet,

And one more experience that I'll never forget.'



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



For Tom
JWN

For Dr Ian and Ira Townsend
PT

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