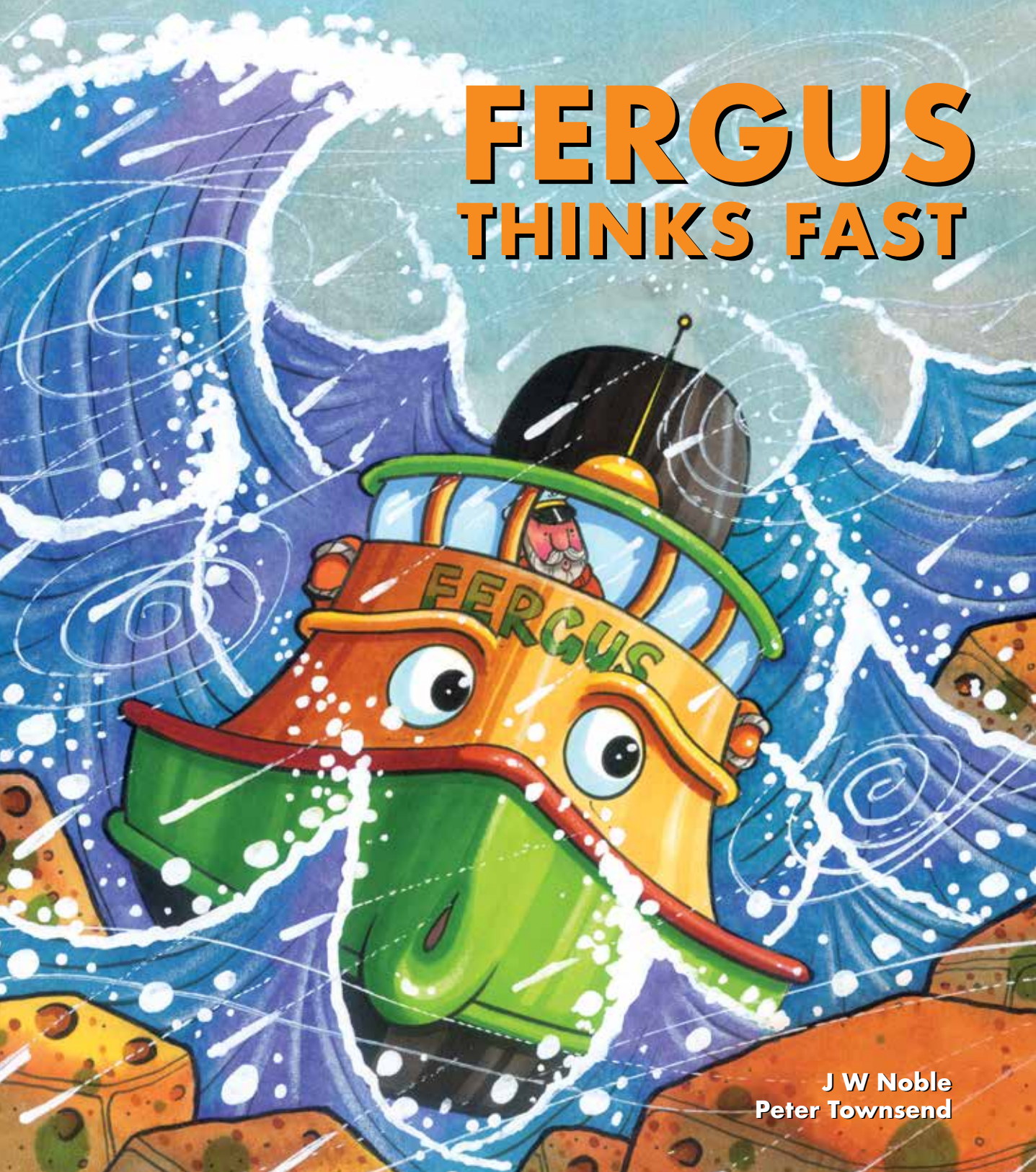


FERGUS THINKS FAST



J W Noble
Peter Townsend



FERGUS THINKS FAST

**J W Noble
Peter Townsend**

Snwball
PRESS

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Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

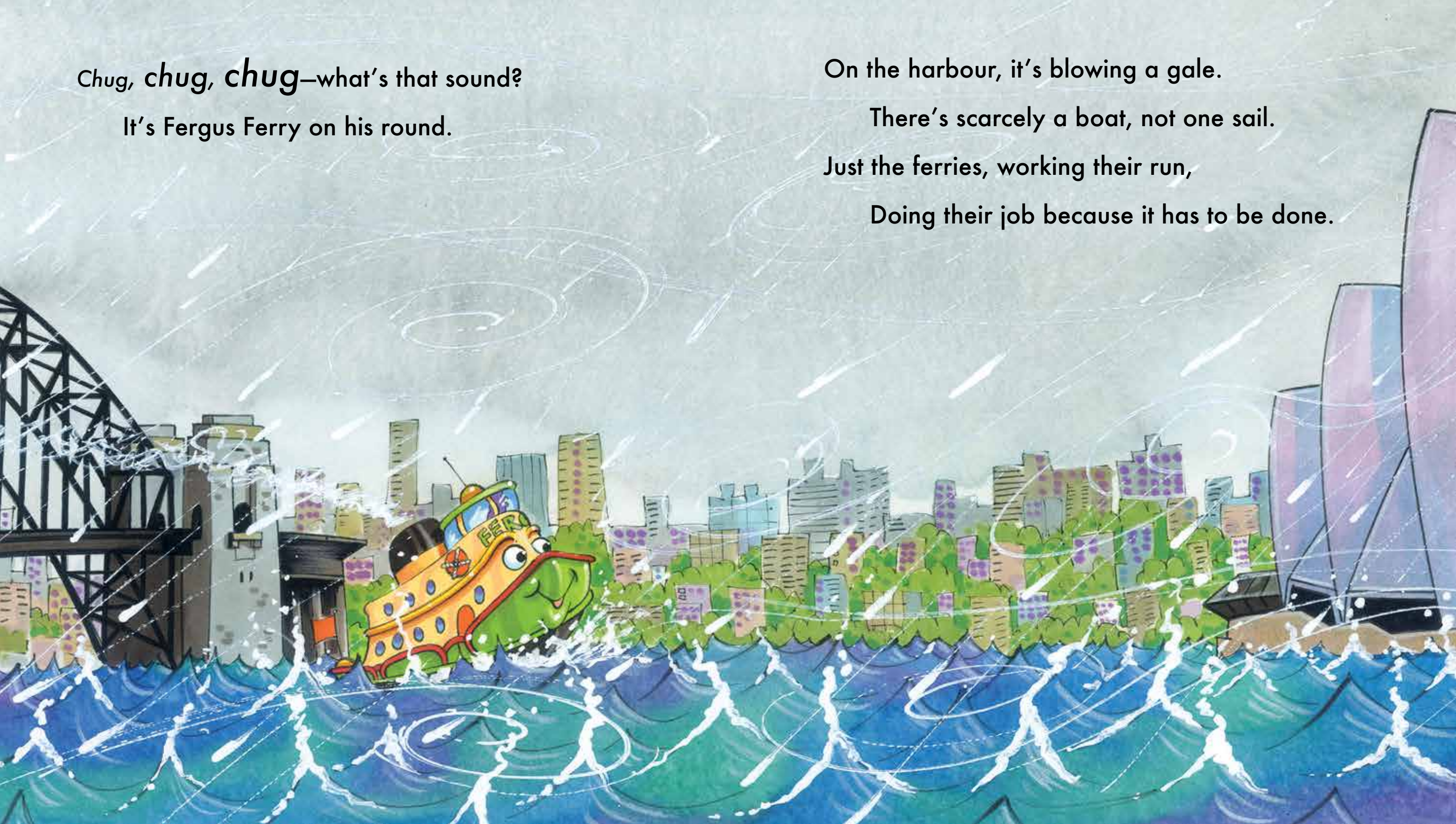
It's Fergus Ferry on his round.

On the harbour, it's blowing a gale.

There's scarcely a boat, not one sail.

Just the ferries, working their run,

Doing their job because it has to be done.

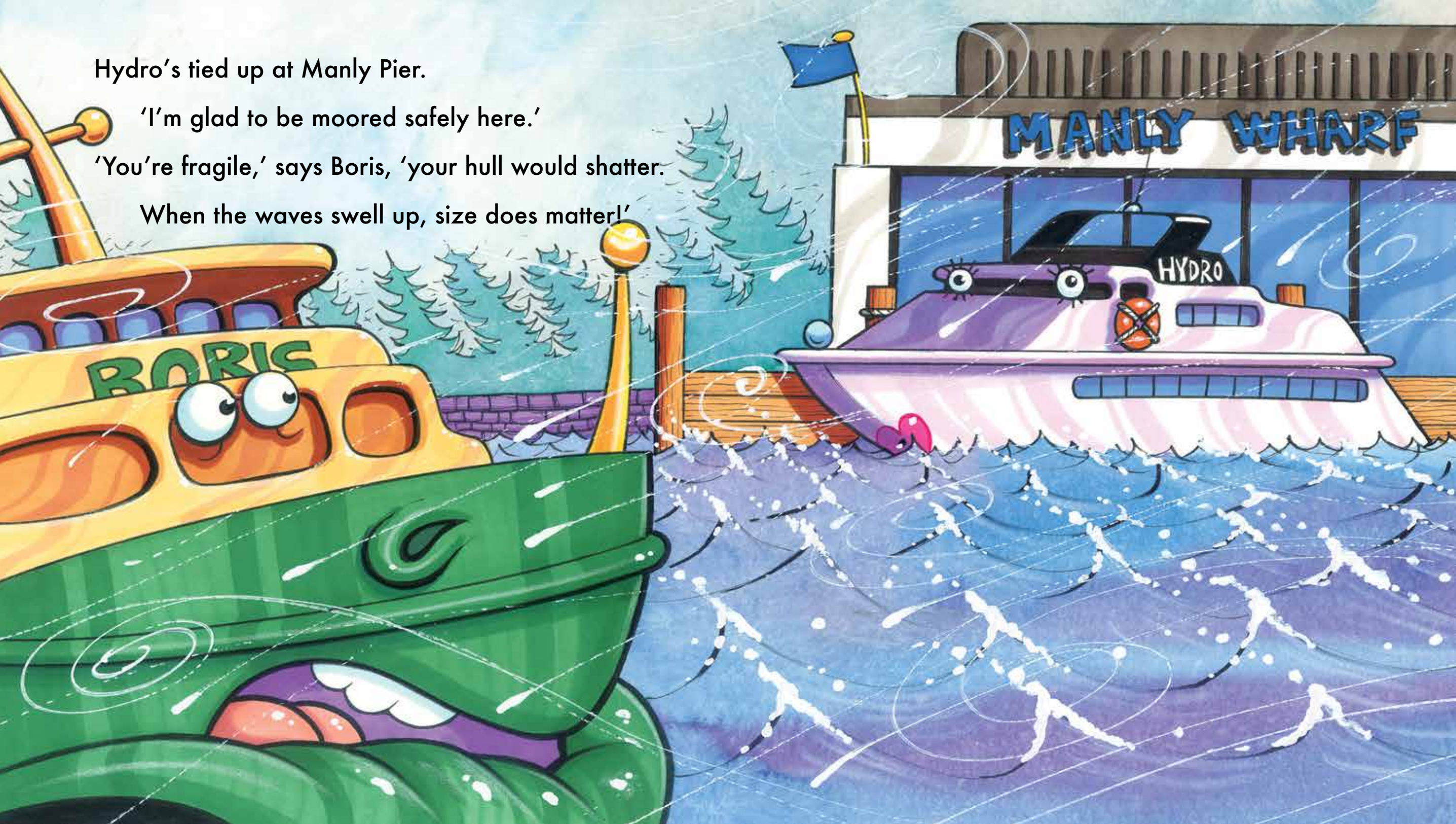


Hydro's tied up at Manly Pier.

'I'm glad to be moored safely here.'

'You're fragile,' says Boris, 'your hull would shatter.'

When the waves swell up, size does matter!



The wind is howling, the rain is pouring.

Hydro's ropes are straining at her mooring.

Snap! The bollard breaks free.

And Hydro is swept out to sea.



Jake is on the radio—he sends an SOS.

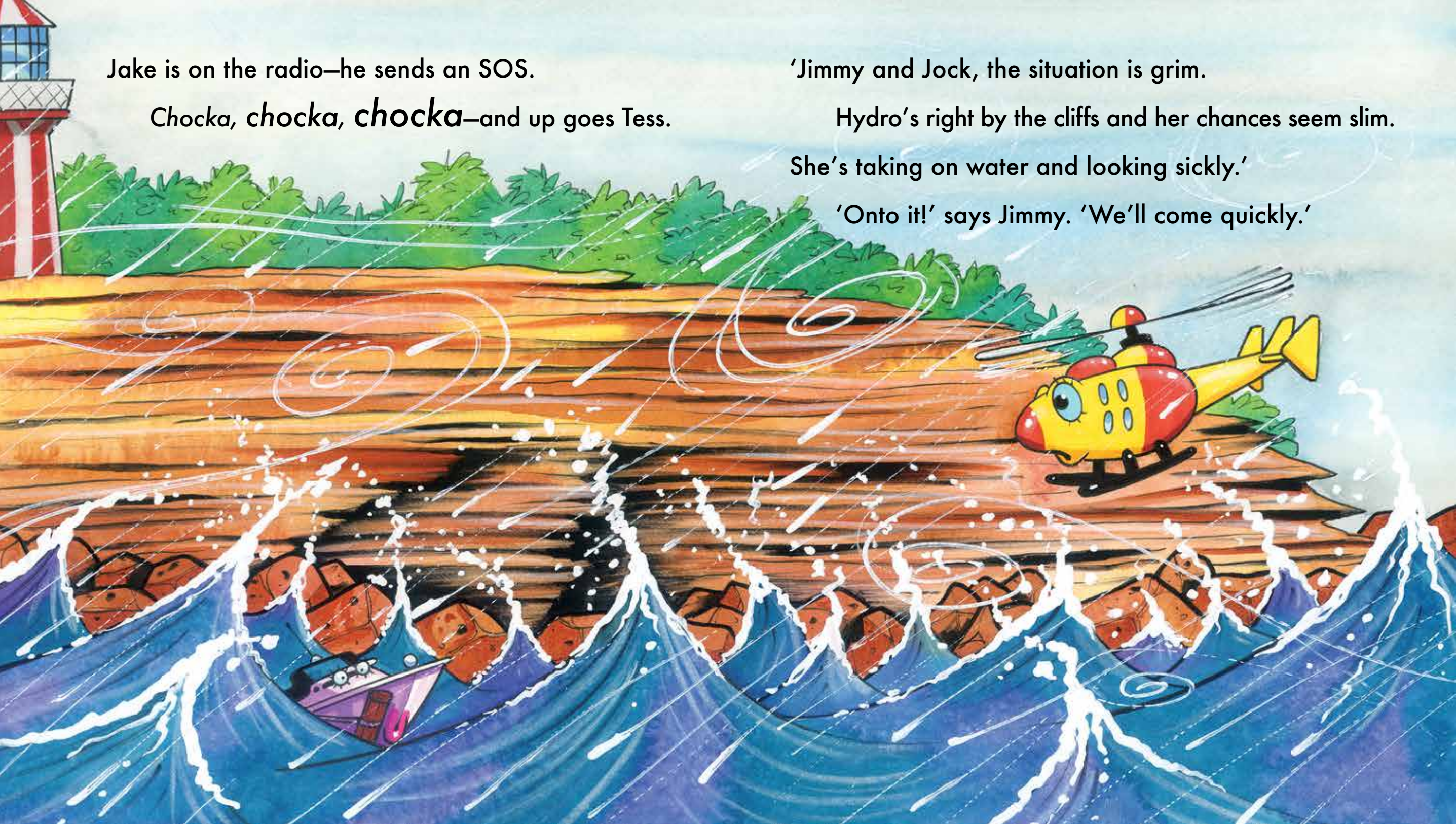
Chocka, chocka, chocka—and up goes Tess.

'Jimmy and Jock, the situation is grim.

Hydro's right by the cliffs and her chances seem slim.

She's taking on water and looking sickly.'

'Onto it!' says Jimmy. 'We'll come quickly.'



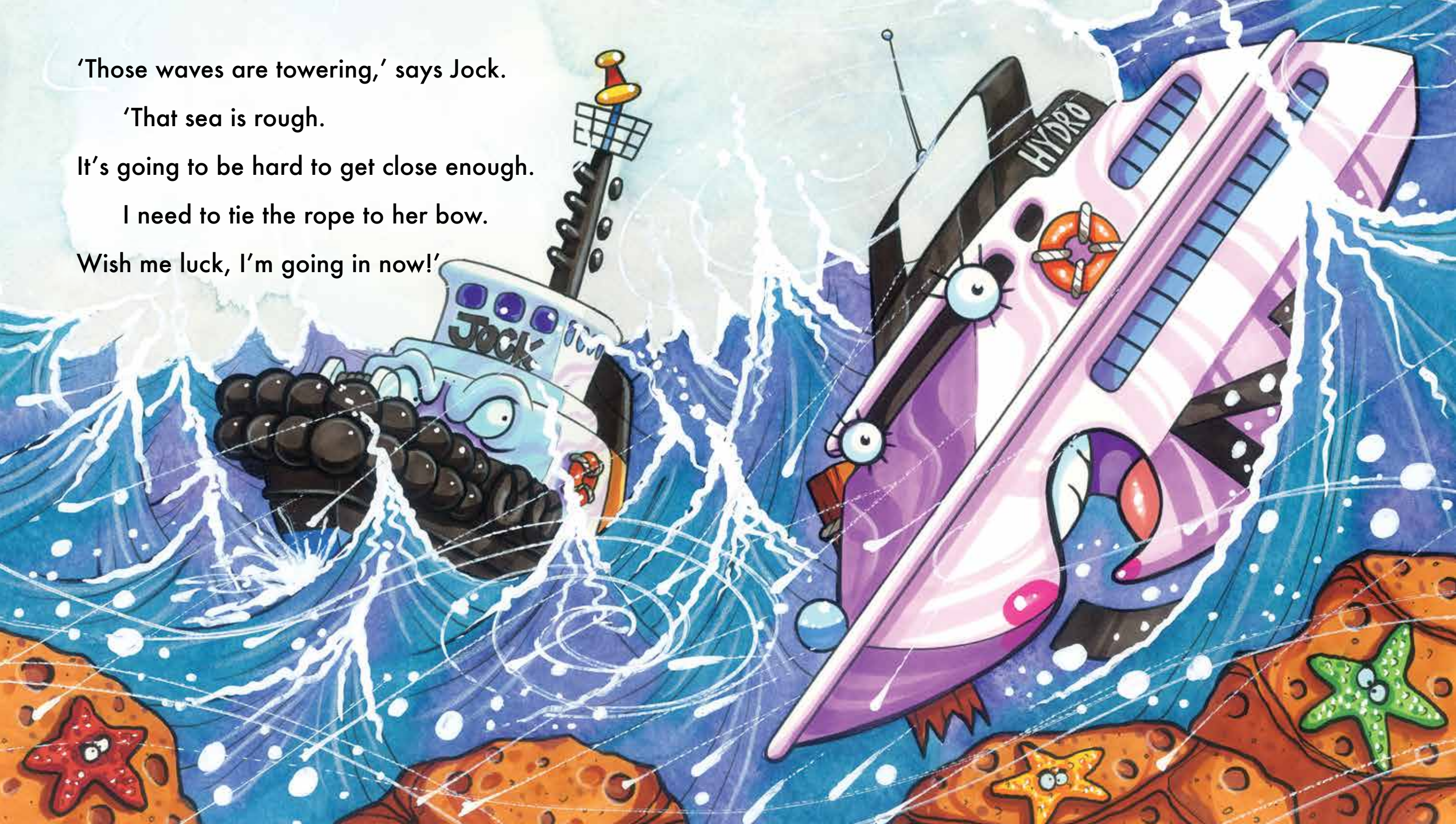
'Those waves are towering,' says Jock.

'That sea is rough.

It's going to be hard to get close enough.

I need to tie the rope to her bow.

Wish me luck, I'm going in now!'

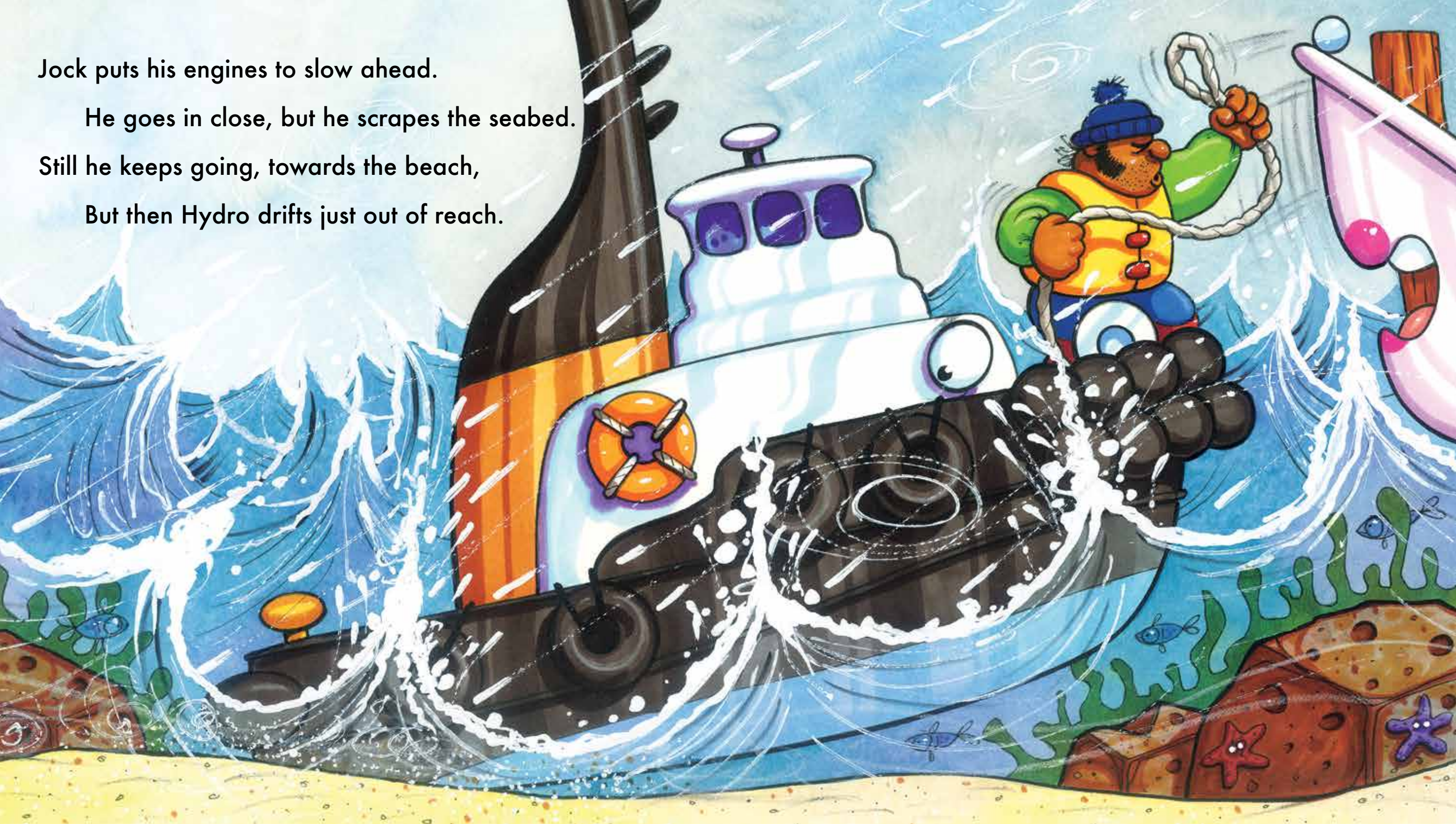


Jock puts his engines to slow ahead.

He goes in close, but he scrapes the seabed.

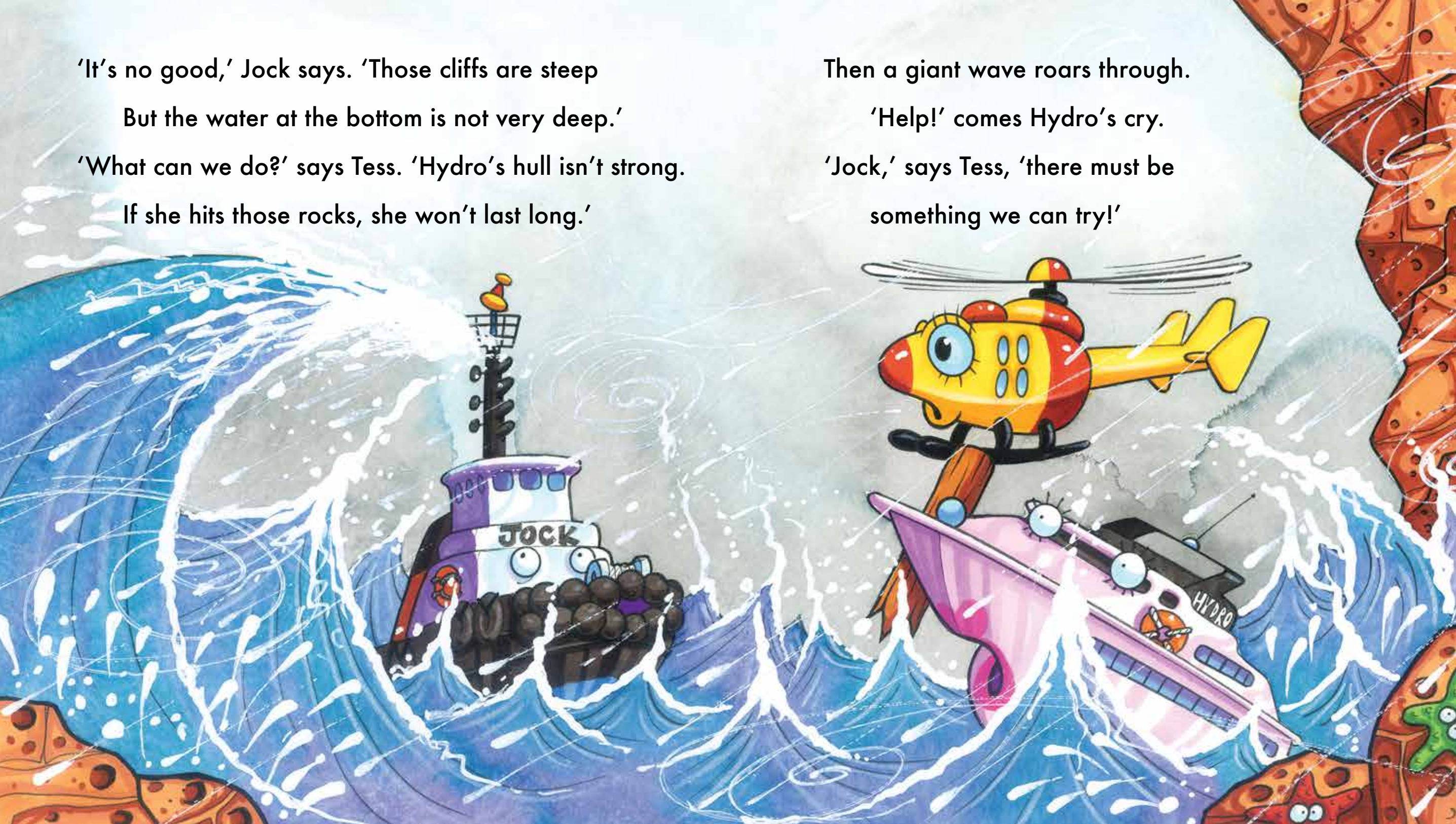
Still he keeps going, towards the beach,

But then Hydro drifts just out of reach.



'It's no good,' Jock says. 'Those cliffs are steep
But the water at the bottom is not very deep.'
'What can we do?' says Tess. 'Hydro's hull isn't strong.
If she hits those rocks, she won't last long.'

Then a giant wave roars through.
'Help!' comes Hydro's cry.
'Jock,' says Tess, 'there must be
something we can try!'



'No-one's shallow enough,' says Jock.

'It can't be done.'

'Wait,' says Fergus, 'there may just be one.'

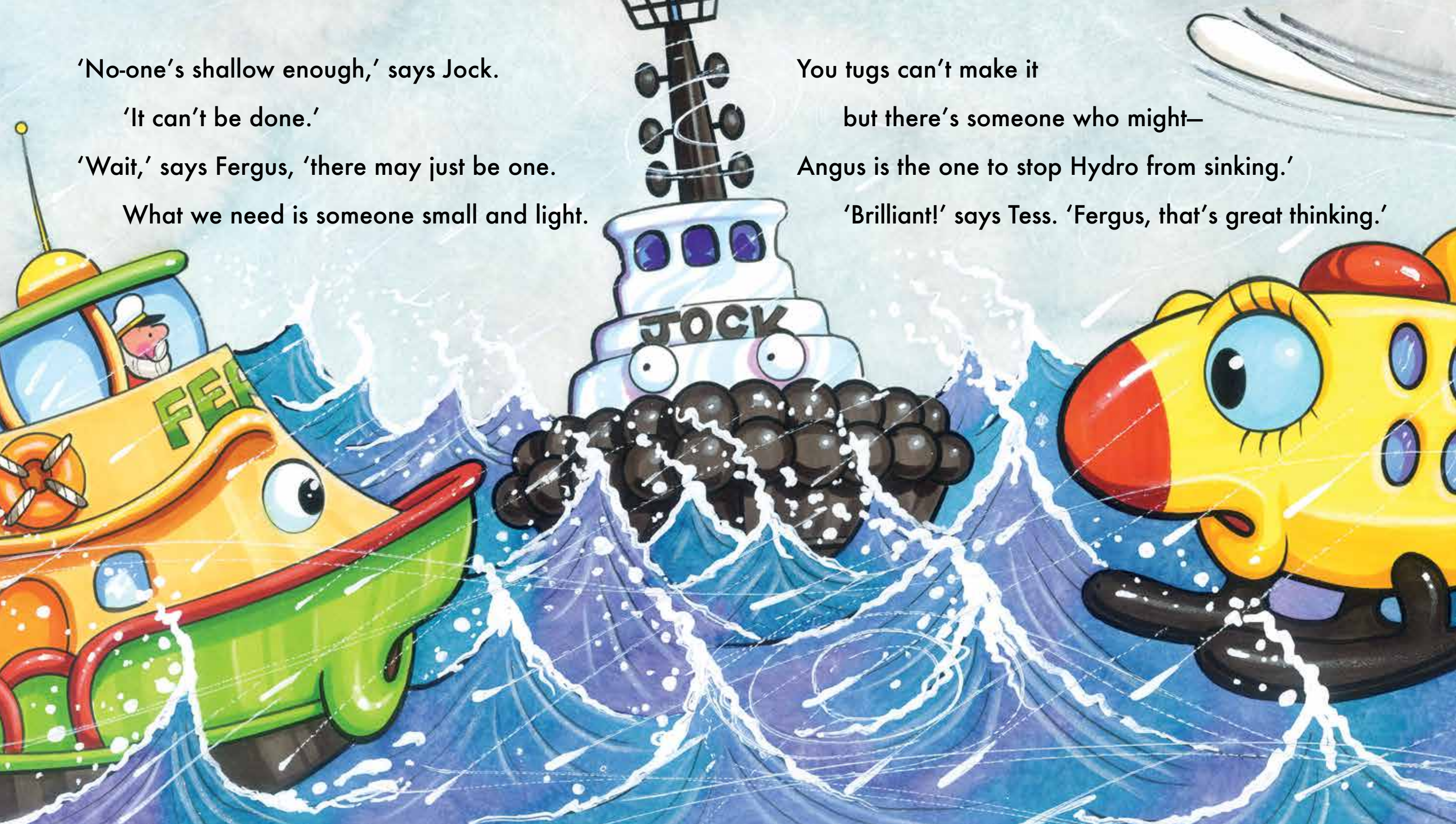
What we need is someone small and light.

You tugs can't make it

but there's someone who might—

Angus is the one to stop Hydro from sinking.'

'Brilliant!' says Tess. 'Fergus, that's great thinking.'

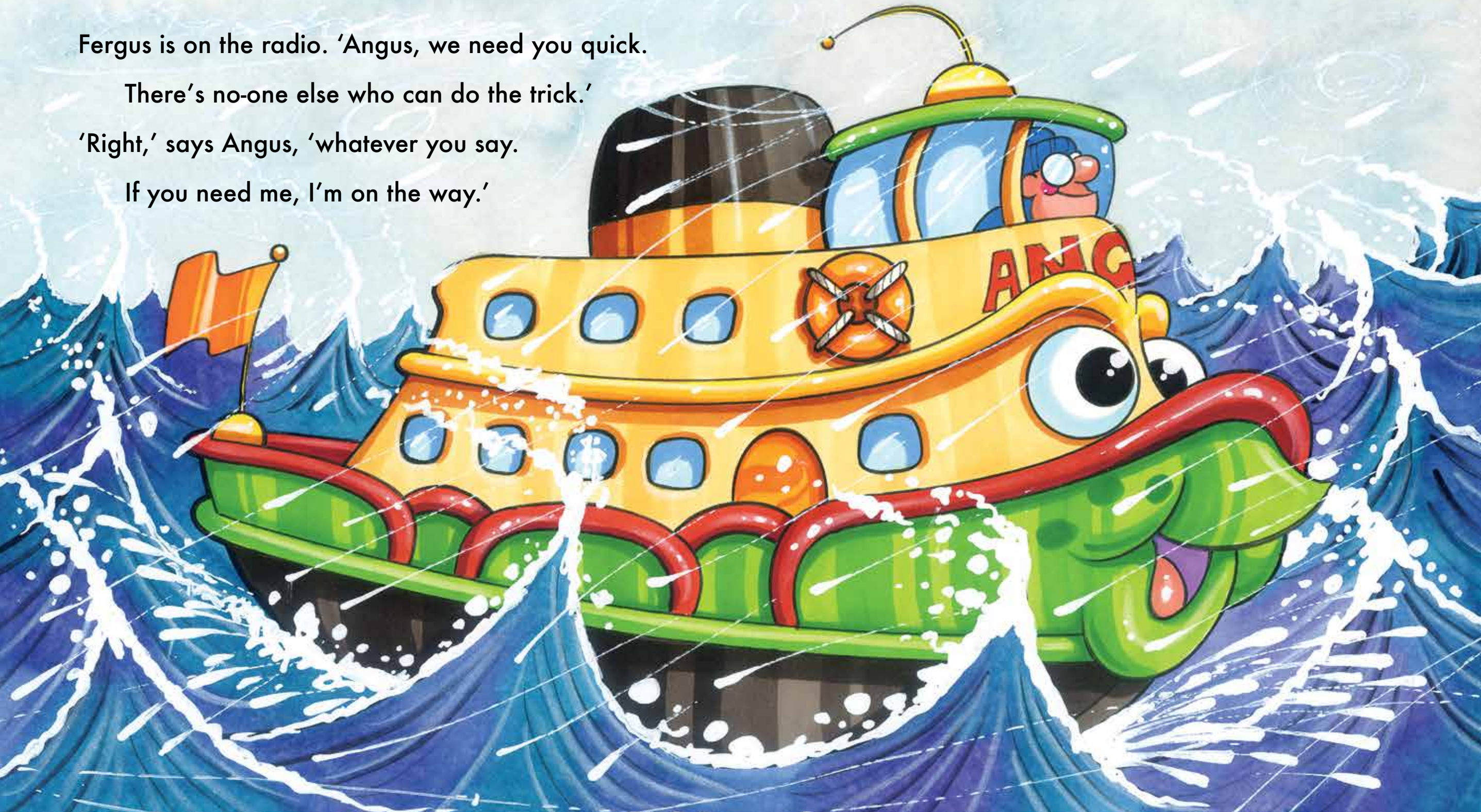


Fergus is on the radio. 'Angus, we need you quick.

There's no-one else who can do the trick.'

'Right,' says Angus, 'whatever you say.

If you need me, I'm on the way.'

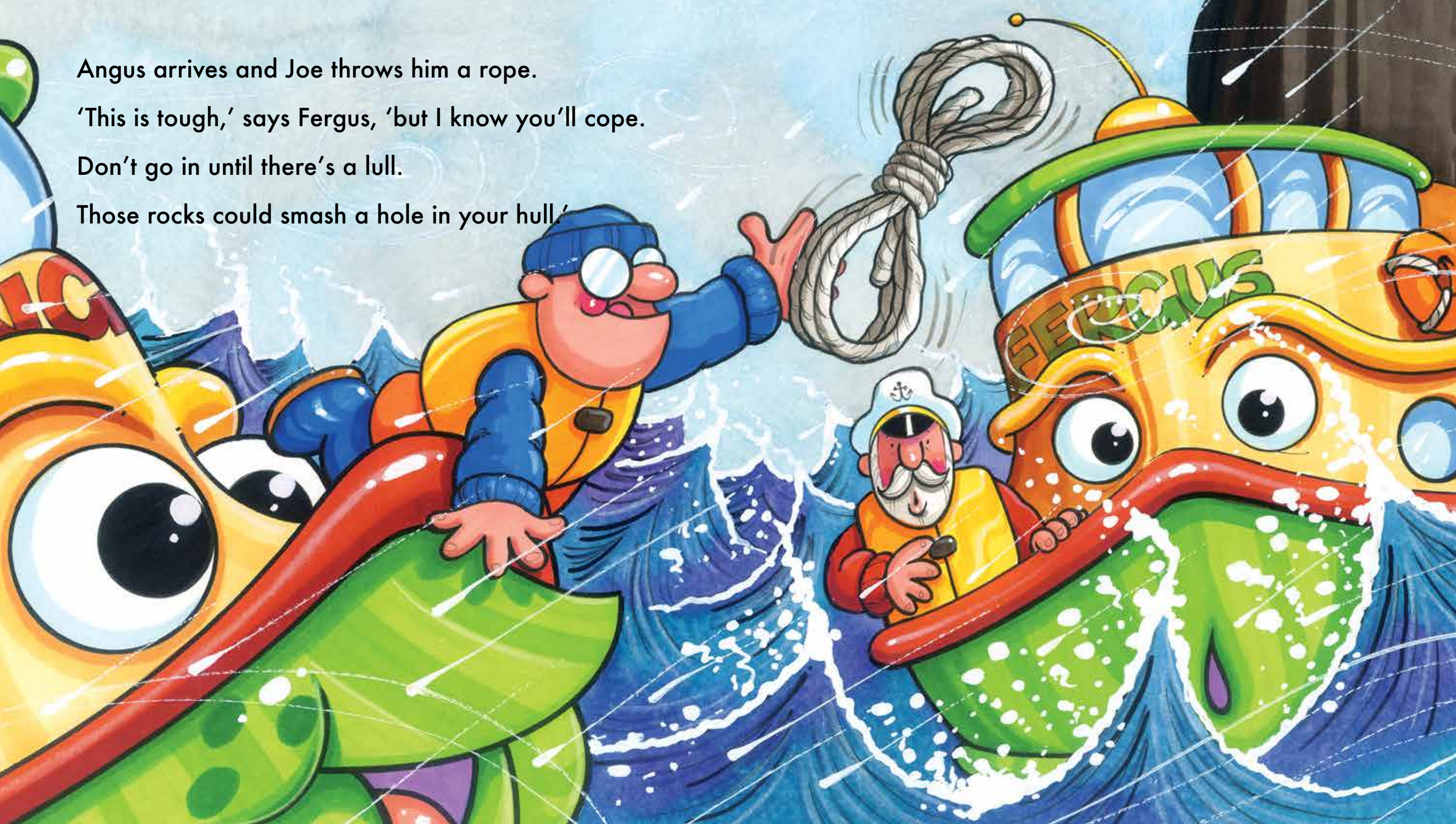


Angus arrives and Joe throws him a rope.

'This is tough,' says Fergus, 'but I know you'll cope.

Don't go in until there's a lull.

Those rocks could smash a hole in your hull.'



Putt, putt, putt—Angus is on his way.

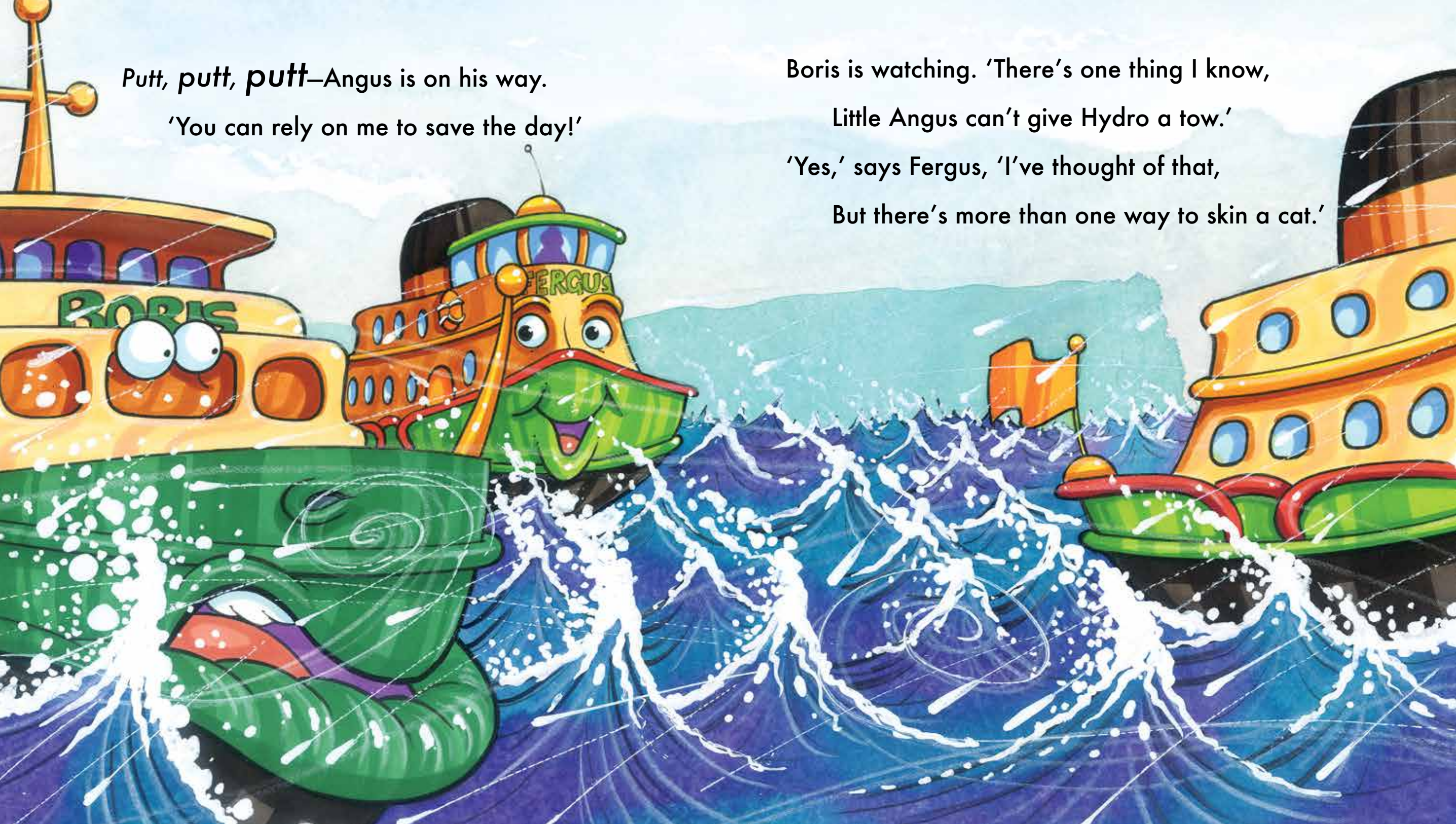
'You can rely on me to save the day!'

Boris is watching. 'There's one thing I know,

Little Angus can't give Hydro a tow.'

'Yes,' says Fergus, 'I've thought of that,

But there's more than one way to skin a cat.'



Then from below the cliff, there comes a shout.

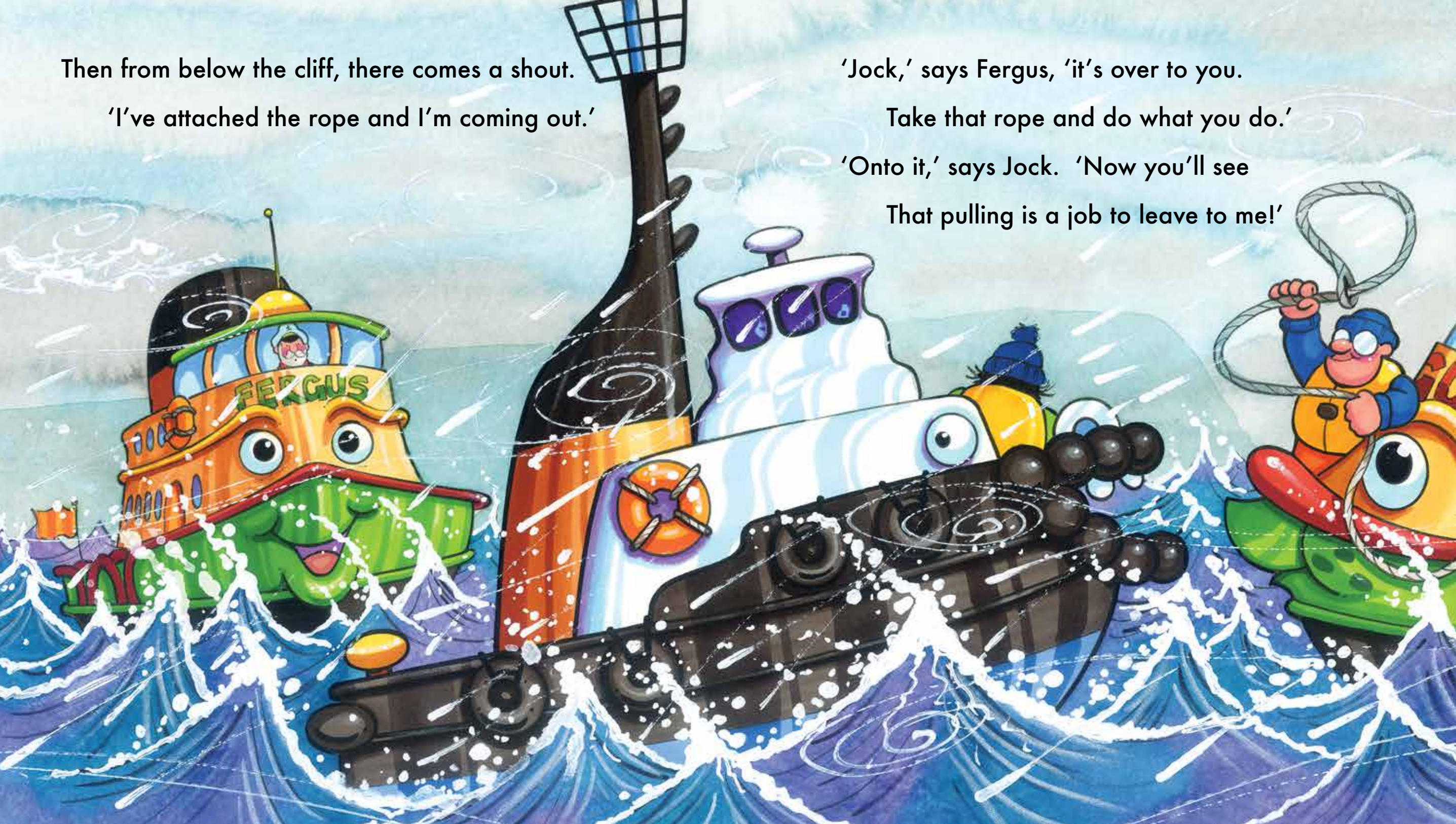
'I've attached the rope and I'm coming out.'

'Jock,' says Fergus, 'it's over to you.

Take that rope and do what you do.'

'Onto it,' says Jock. 'Now you'll see

That pulling is a job to leave to me!'

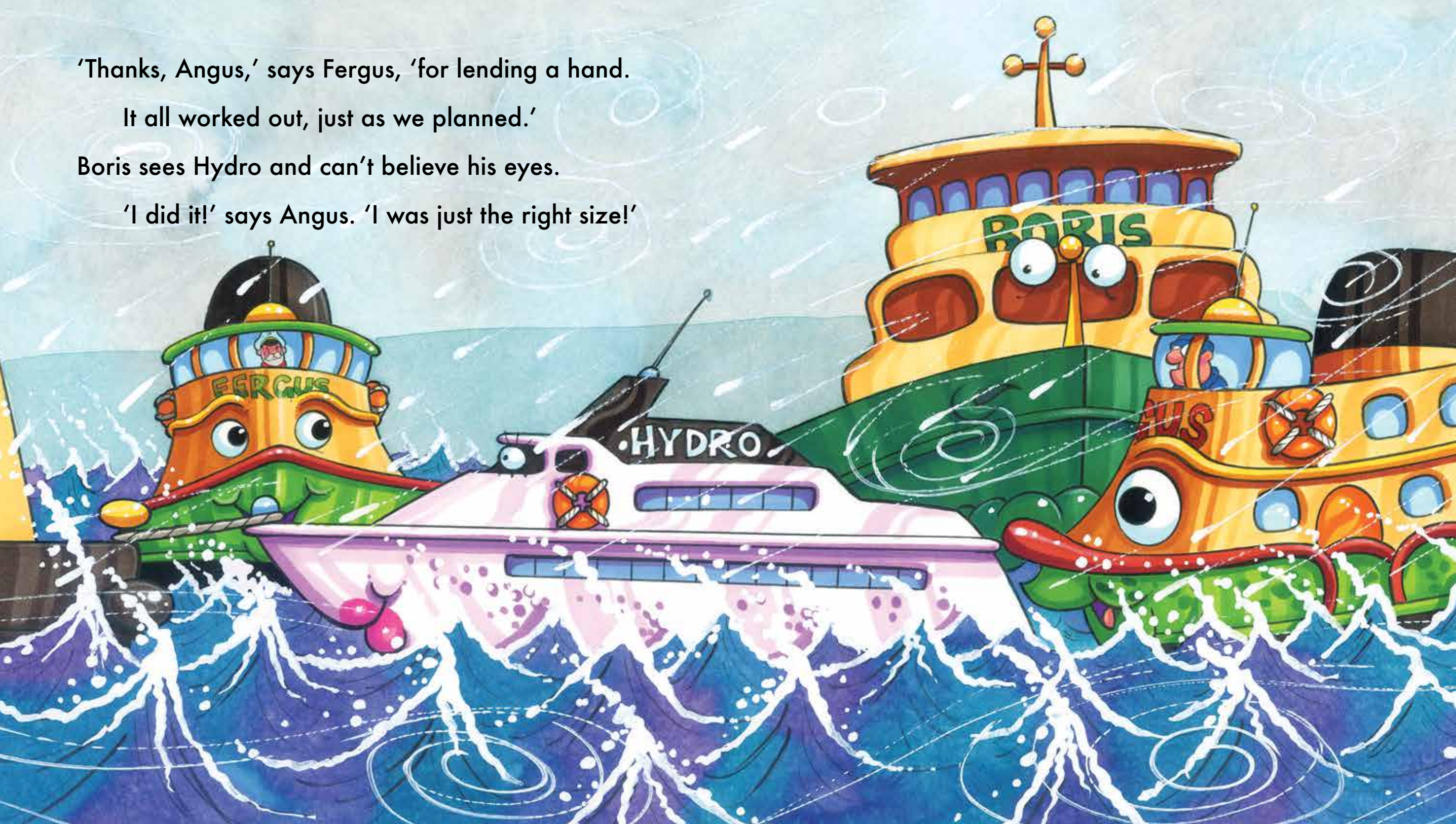


'Thanks, Angus,' says Fergus, 'for lending a hand.

It all worked out, just as we planned.'

Boris sees Hydro and can't believe his eyes.

'I did it!' says Angus. 'I was just the right size!'

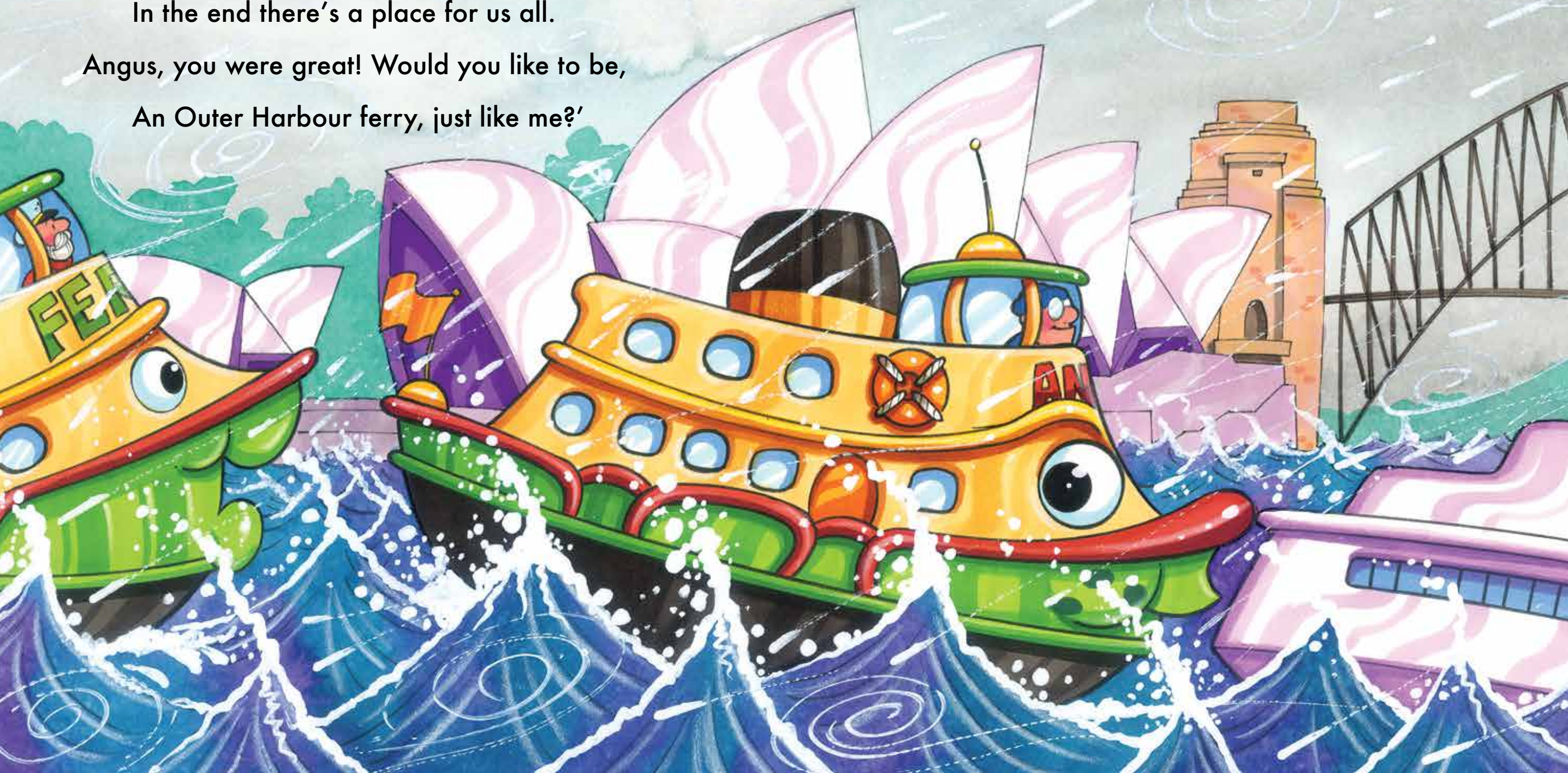


'Little or large,' says Fergus, 'short or tall,

In the end there's a place for us all.

Angus, you were great! Would you like to be,

An Outer Harbour ferry, just like me?'



'Fergus,' says Angus, 'I'm so proud I passed the test.
But the Inner Harbour is the place I love best.'

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



Discover what you like to do, then do it well.

For Anne White

JWN

For Dr Ian and Ira Townsend

PT

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