

FERGUS

AT THE FIREWORKS



J W Noble
Peter Townsend



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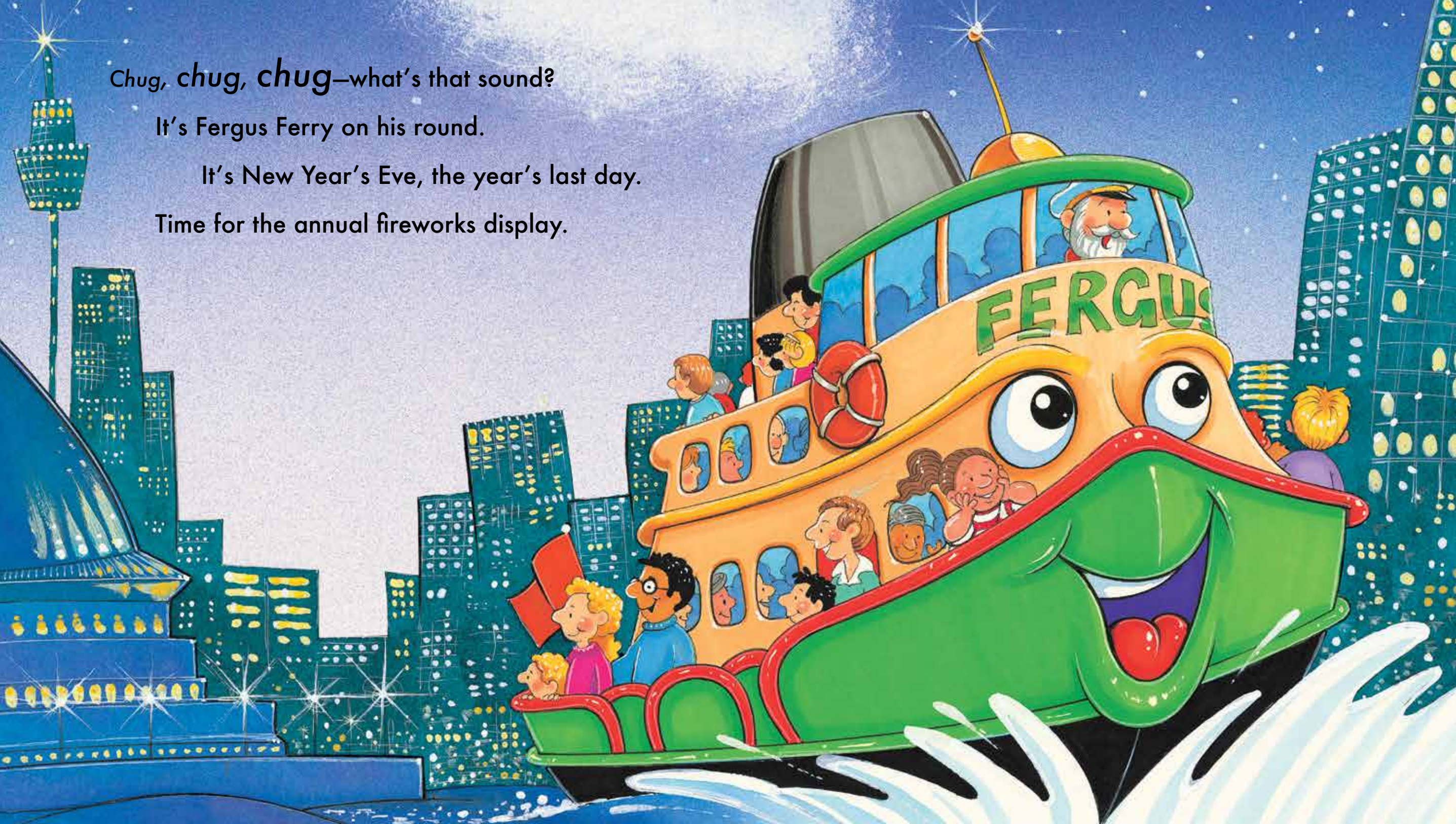
www.fergusferry.com

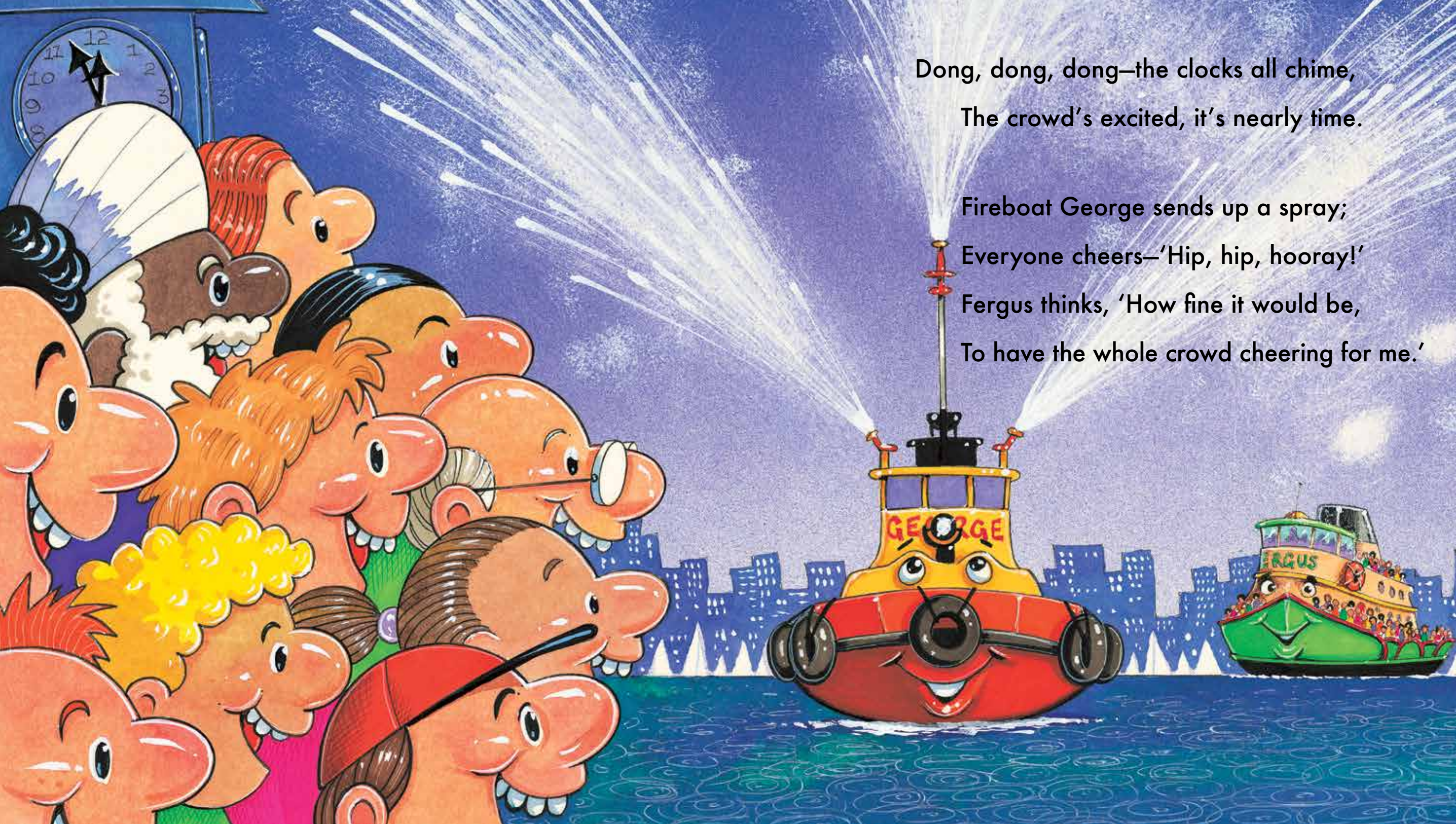
Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

It's Fergus Ferry on his round.

It's New Year's Eve, the year's last day.

Time for the annual fireworks display.





Dong, dong, dong—the clocks all chime,
The crowd's excited, it's nearly time.

Fireboat George sends up a spray;
Everyone cheers—'Hip, hip, hooray!'
Fergus thinks, 'How fine it would be,
To have the whole crowd cheering for me.'

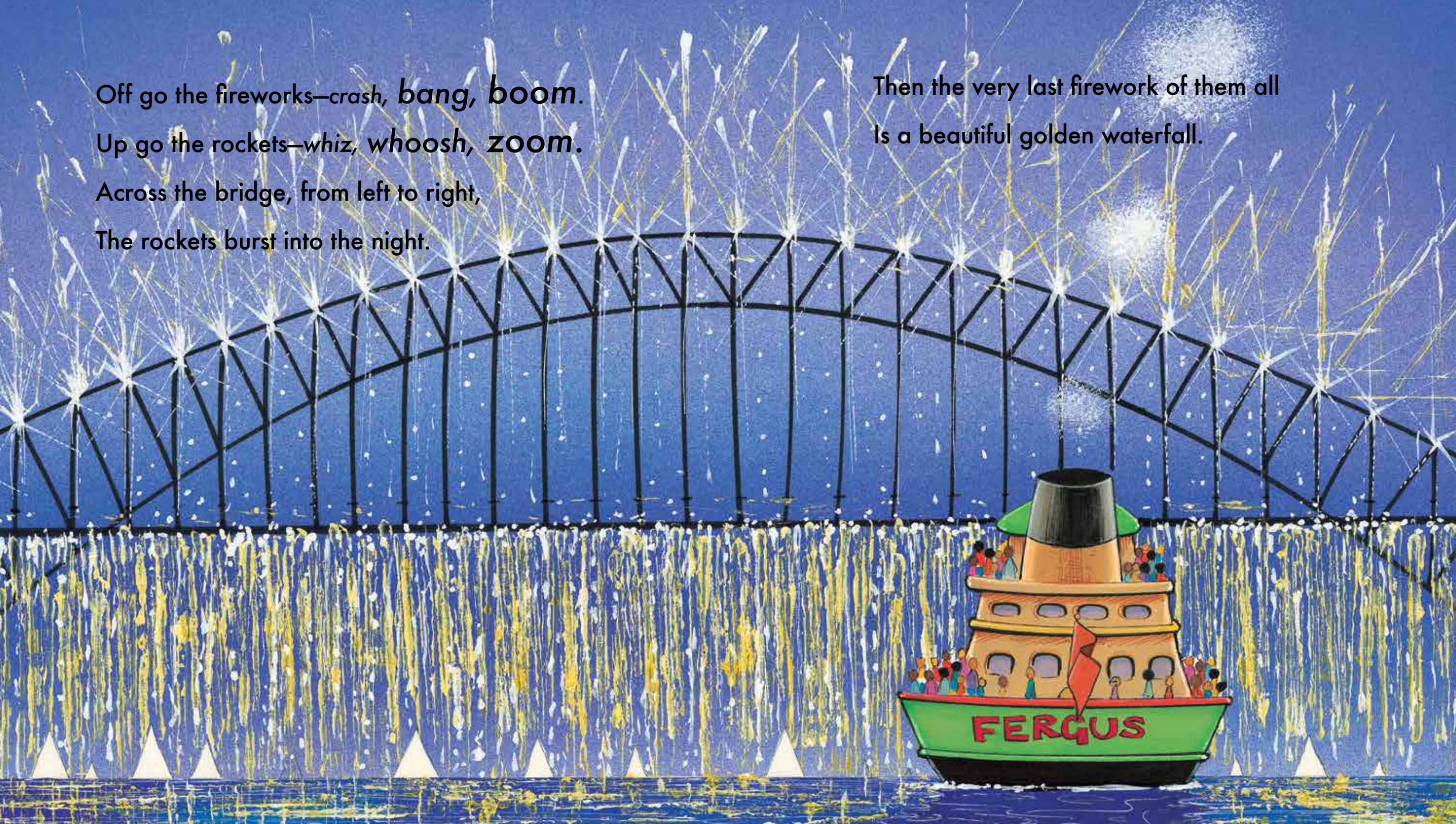
Off go the fireworks—*crash, bang, boom.*

Up go the rockets—*whiz, whoosh, zoom.*

Across the bridge, from left to right,

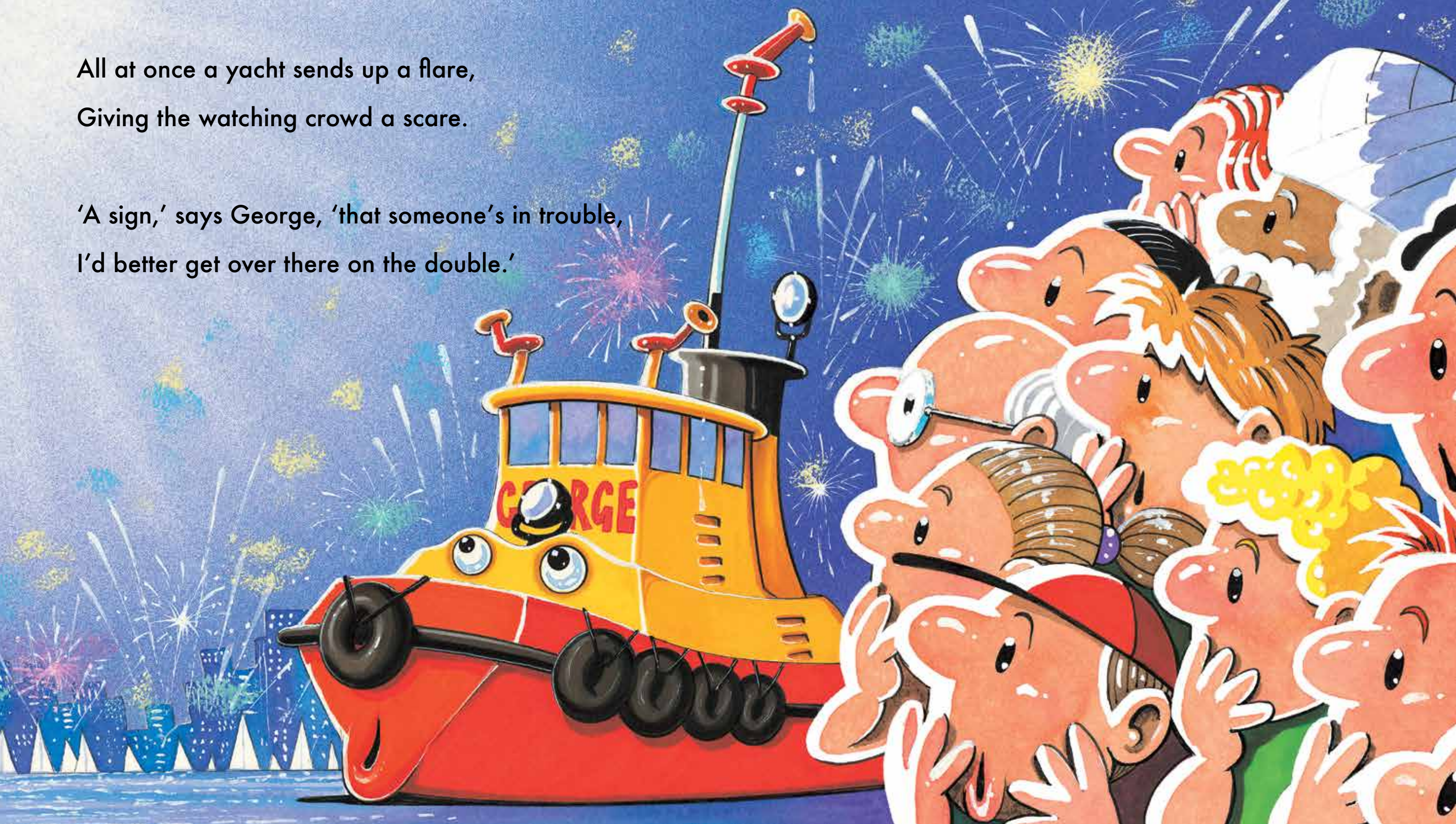
The rockets burst into the night.

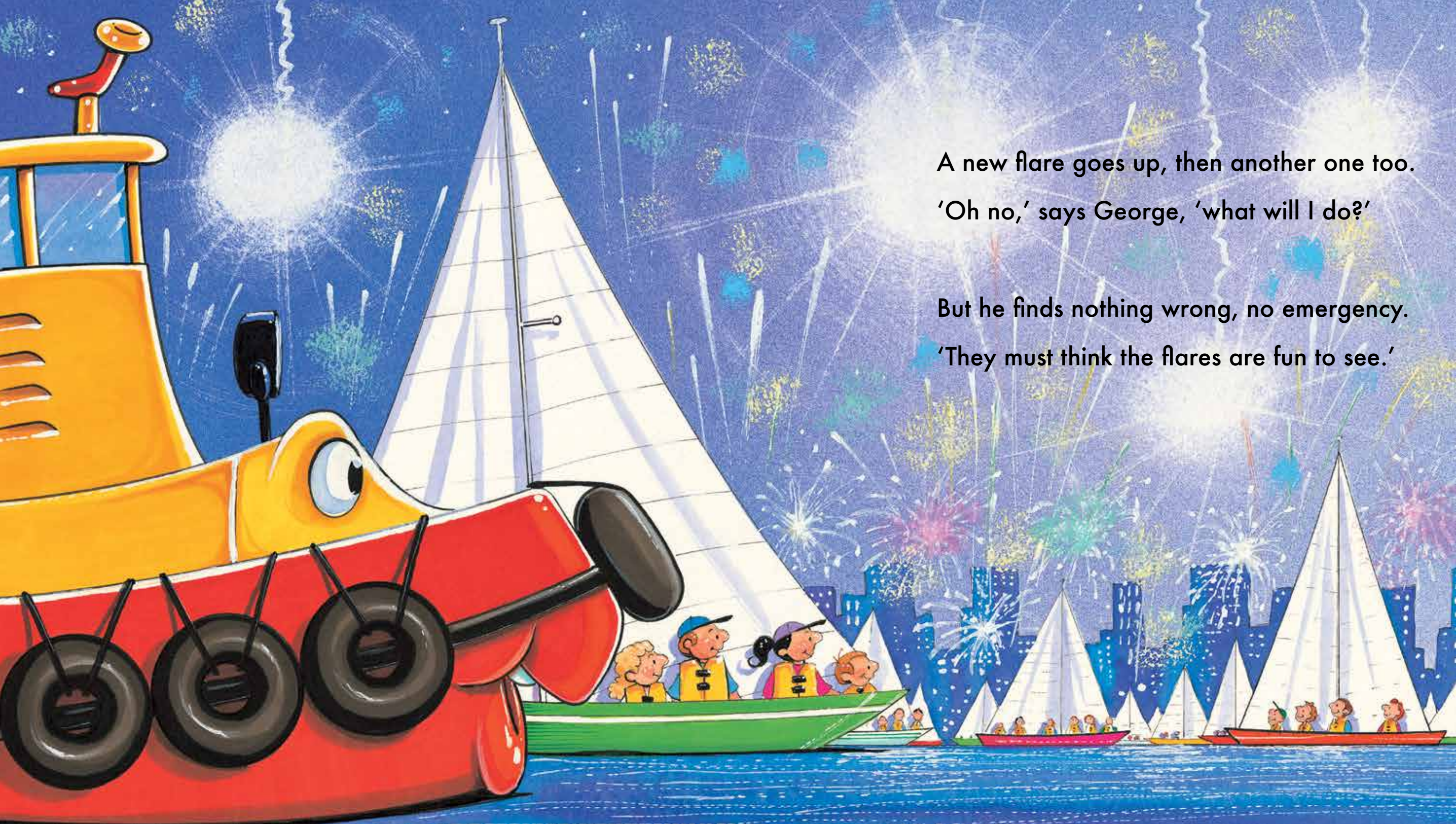
Then the very last firework of them all
Is a beautiful golden waterfall.



All at once a yacht sends up a flare,
Giving the watching crowd a scare.

'A sign,' says George, 'that someone's in trouble,
I'd better get over there on the double.'





A new flare goes up, then another one too.

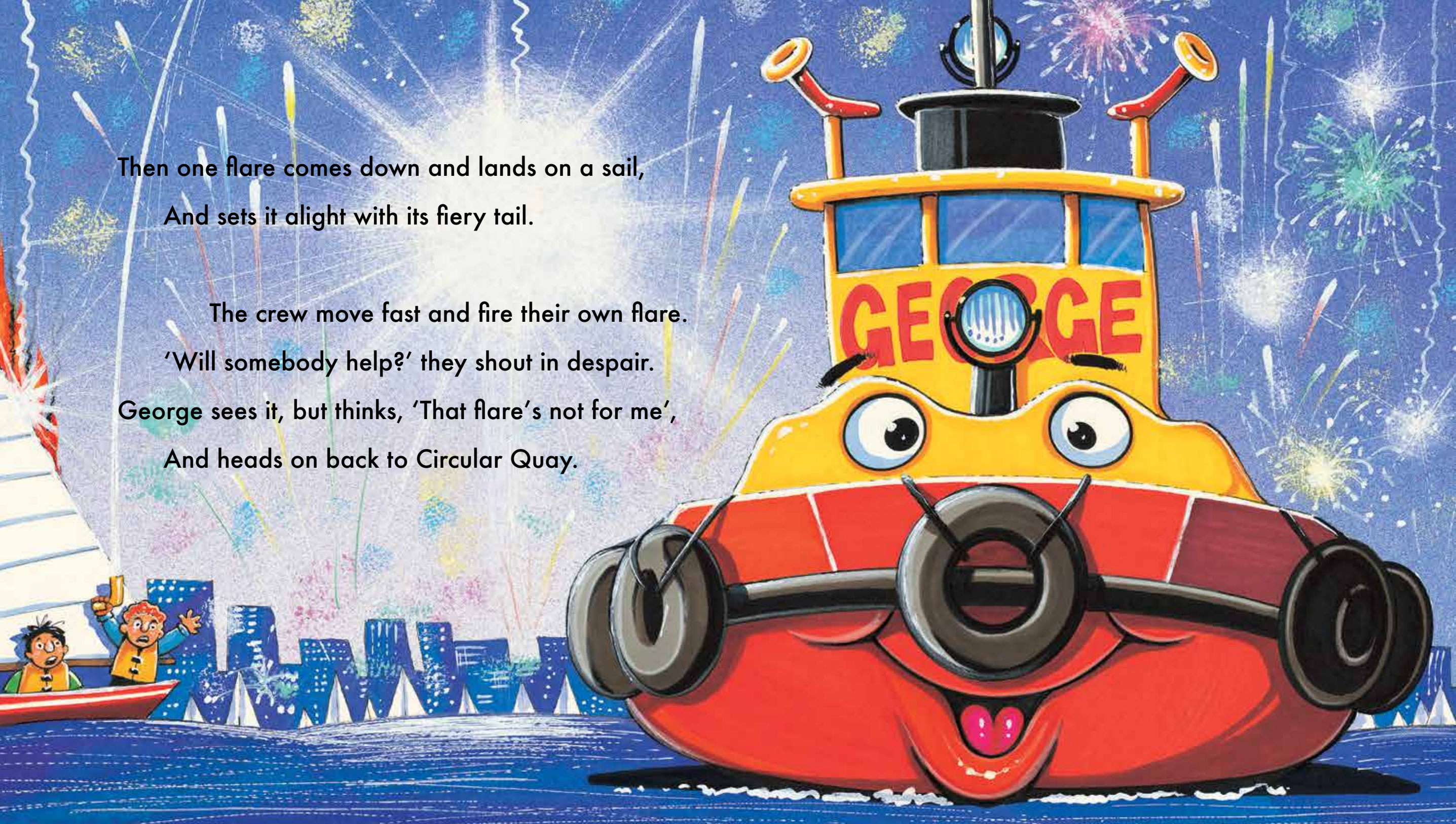
'Oh no,' says George, 'what will I do?'

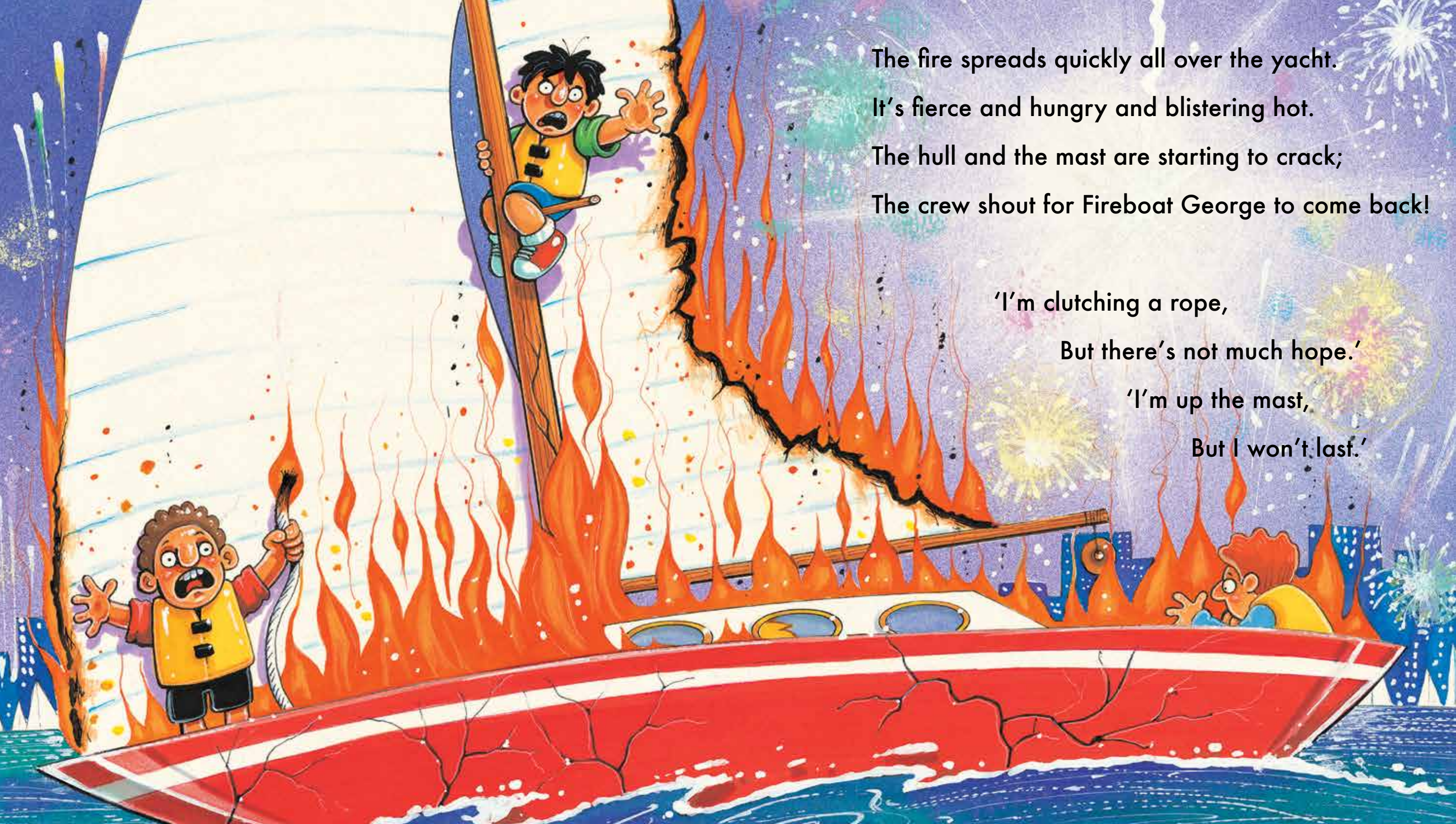
But he finds nothing wrong, no emergency.

'They must think the flares are fun to see.'

Then one flare comes down and lands on a sail,
And sets it alight with its fiery tail.

The crew move fast and fire their own flare.
'Will somebody help?' they shout in despair.
George sees it, but thinks, 'That flare's not for me',
And heads on back to Circular Quay.





The fire spreads quickly all over the yacht.
It's fierce and hungry and blistering hot.
The hull and the mast are starting to crack;
The crew shout for Fireboat George to come back!

'I'm clutching a rope,
But there's not much hope.'
'I'm up the mast,
But I won't last.'

'I'm at the stern,
But it's starting to burn.'

'I'm down below deck;
I'm a nervous wreck.'

'Listen,' says Joe, 'to all that fuss.
It sounds to me like a job for us.'

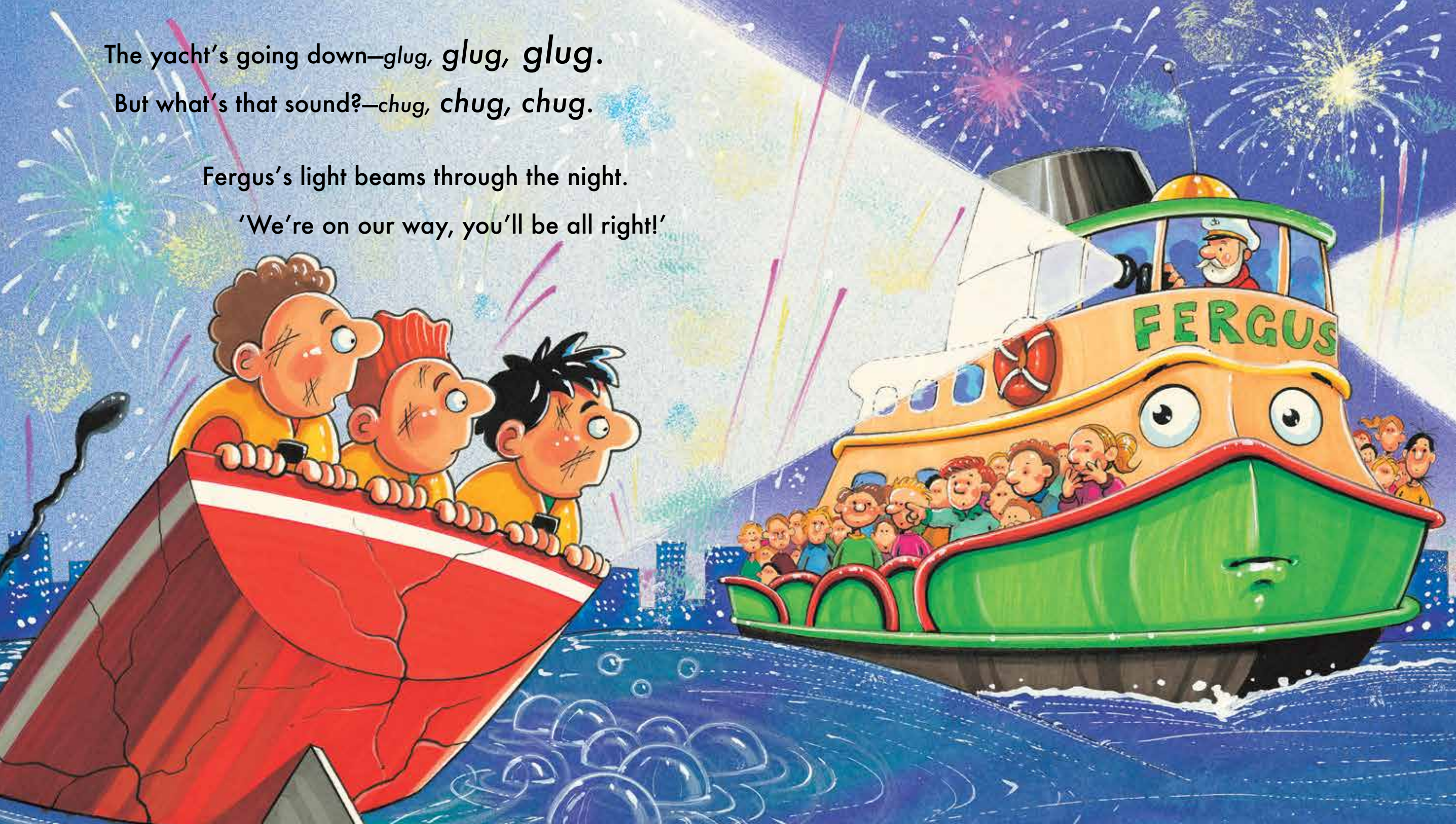


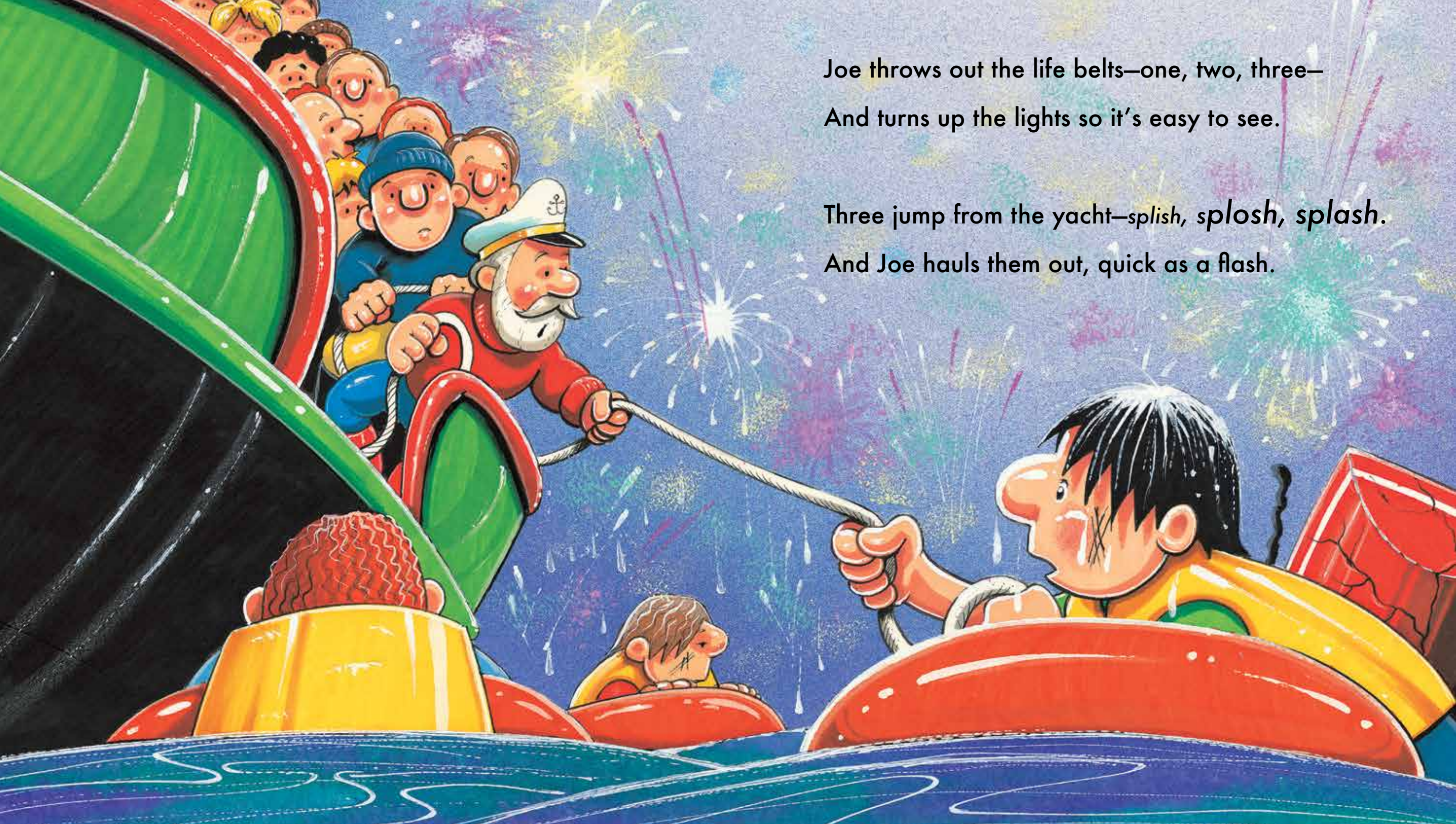
The yacht's going down—*glug, glug, glug*.

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

Fergus's light beams through the night.

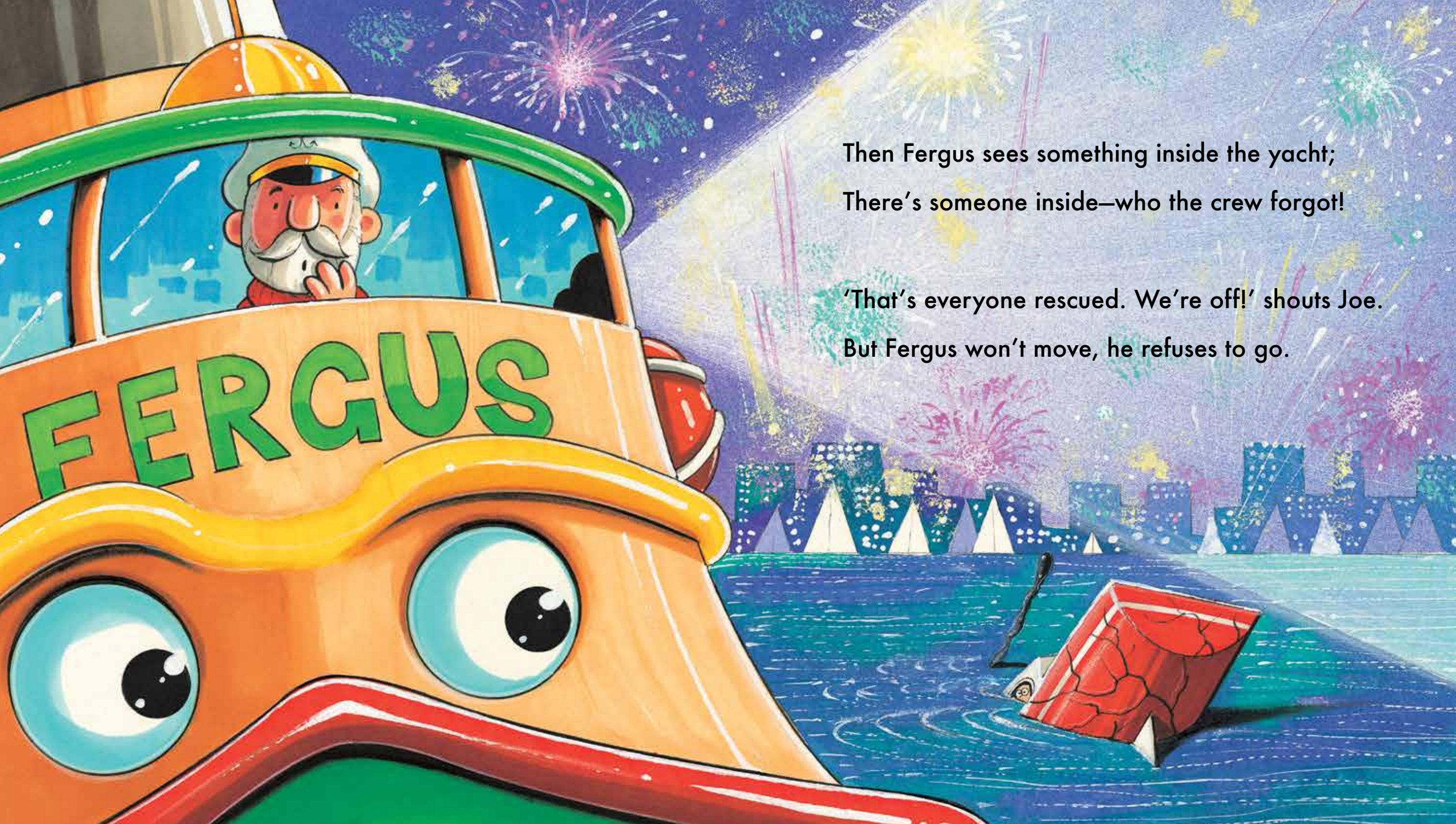
'We're on our way, you'll be all right!'





Joe throws out the life belts—one, two, three—
And turns up the lights so it's easy to see.

Three jump from the yacht—*splish, splosh, splash.*
And Joe hauls them out, quick as a flash.

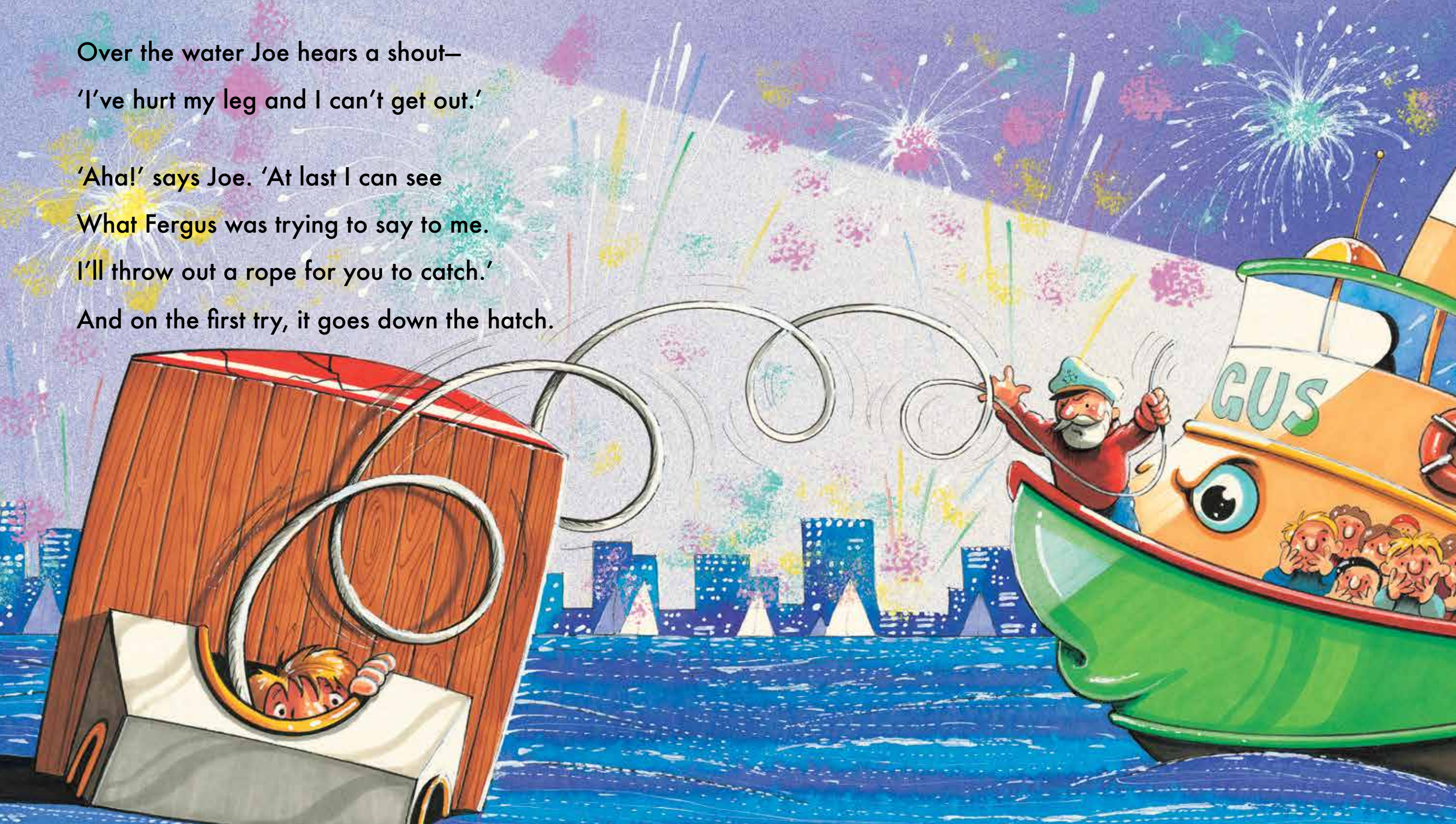


Then Fergus sees something inside the yacht;
There's someone inside—who the crew forgot!

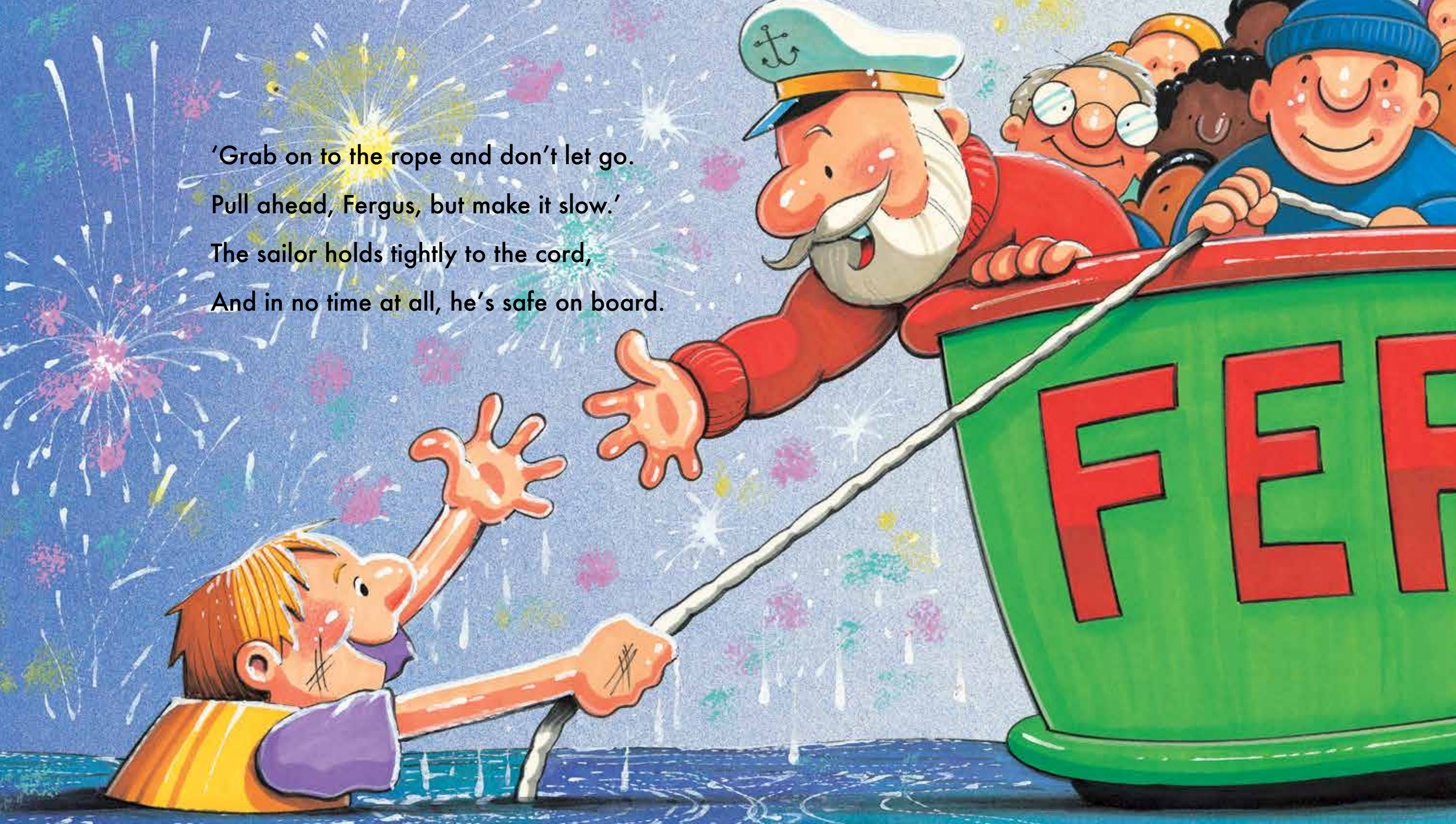
'That's everyone rescued. We're off!' shouts Joe.
But Fergus won't move, he refuses to go.

Over the water Joe hears a shout—
'I've hurt my leg and I can't get out.'

'Aha!' says Joe. 'At last I can see
What Fergus was trying to say to me.
I'll throw out a rope for you to catch.'
And on the first try, it goes down the hatch.

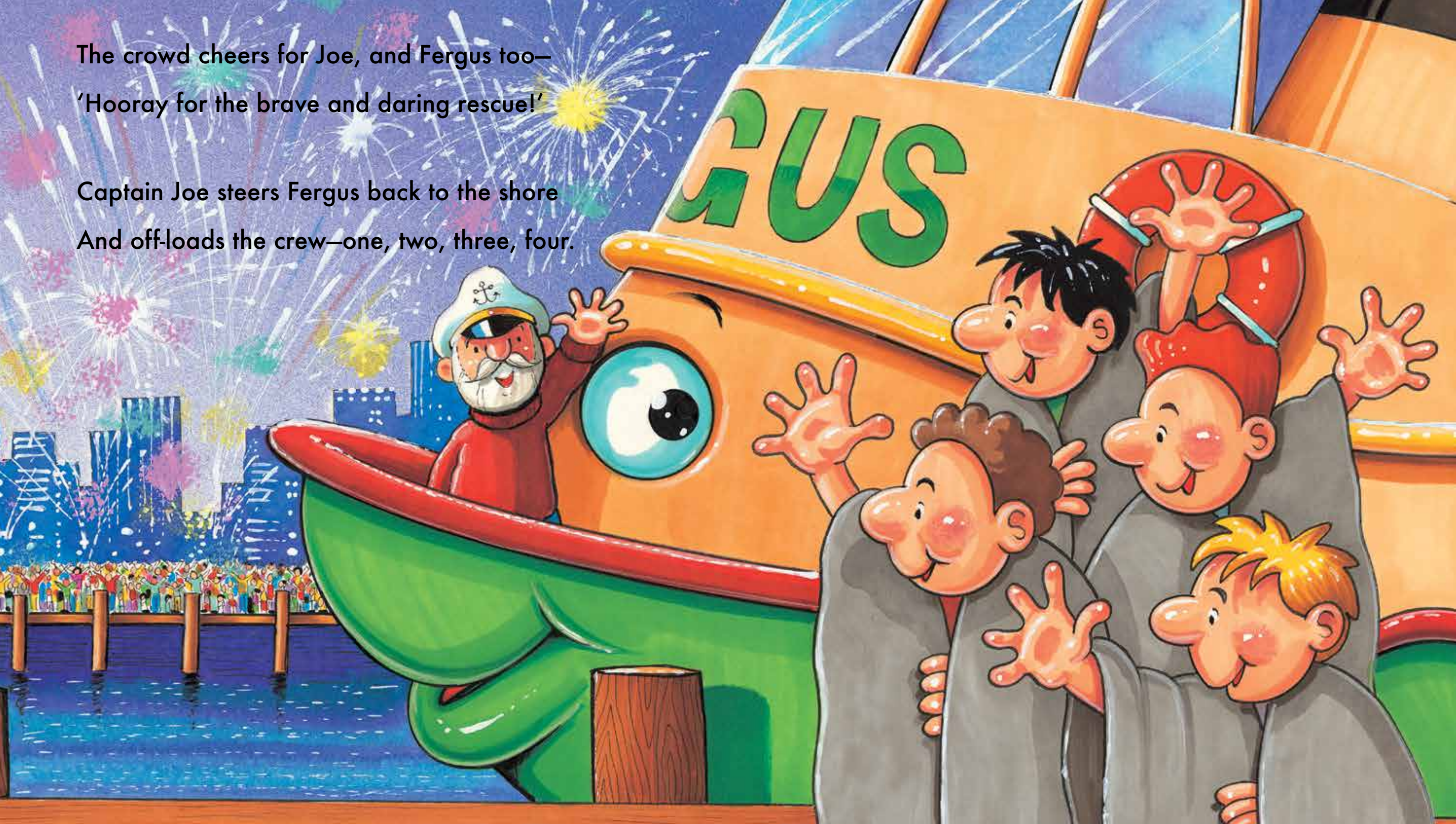


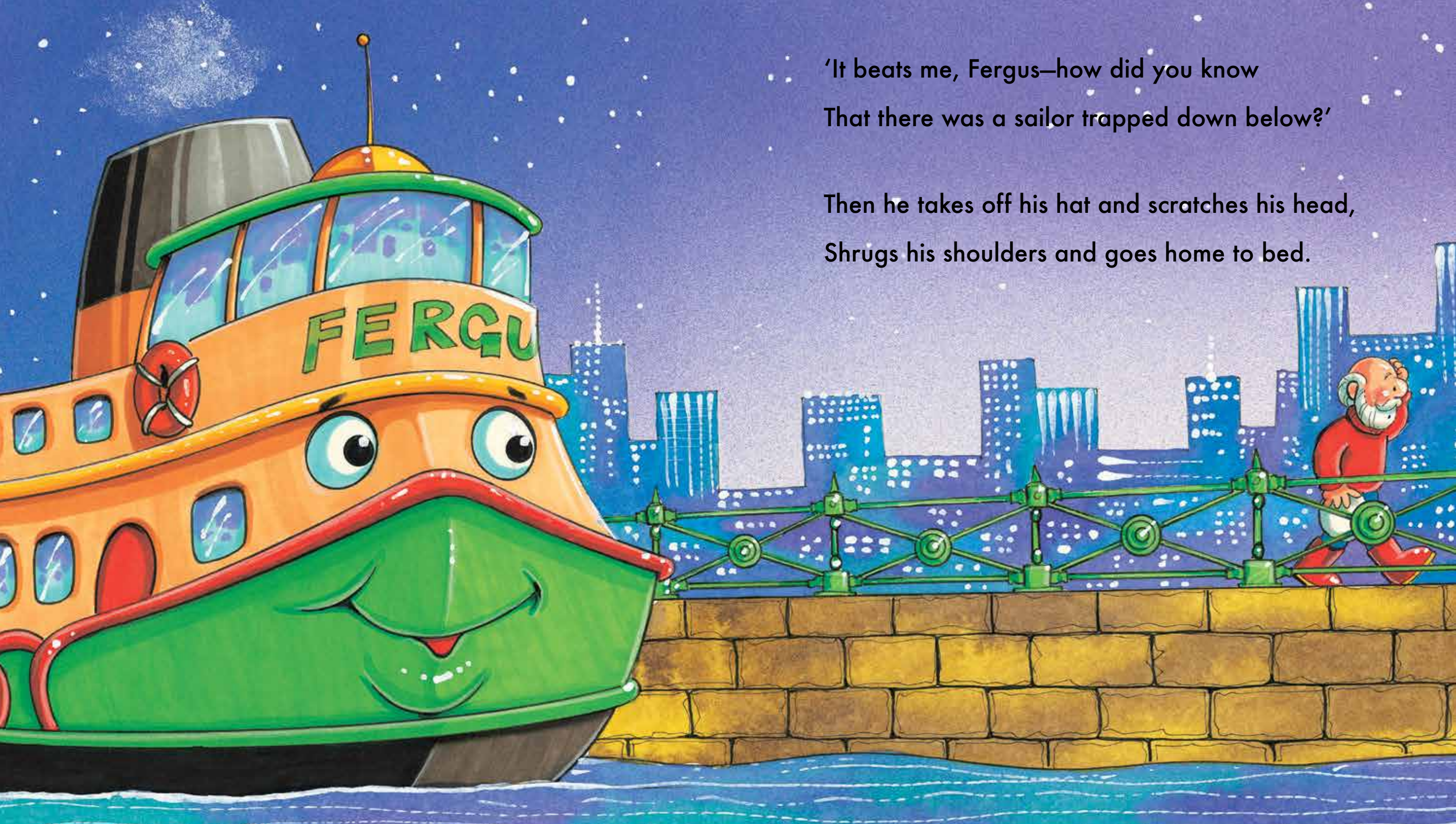
'Grab on to the rope and don't let go.
Pull ahead, Fergus, but make it slow.'
The sailor holds tightly to the cord,
And in no time at all, he's safe on board.



The crowd cheers for Joe, and Fergus too—
'Hooray for the brave and daring rescue!'

Captain Joe steers Fergus back to the shore
And off-loads the crew—one, two, three, four.





'It beats me, Fergus—how did you know
That there was a sailor trapped down below?'

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

Don't cry wolf!

For Tom

JWN

For Jesse and Jemma

PT

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