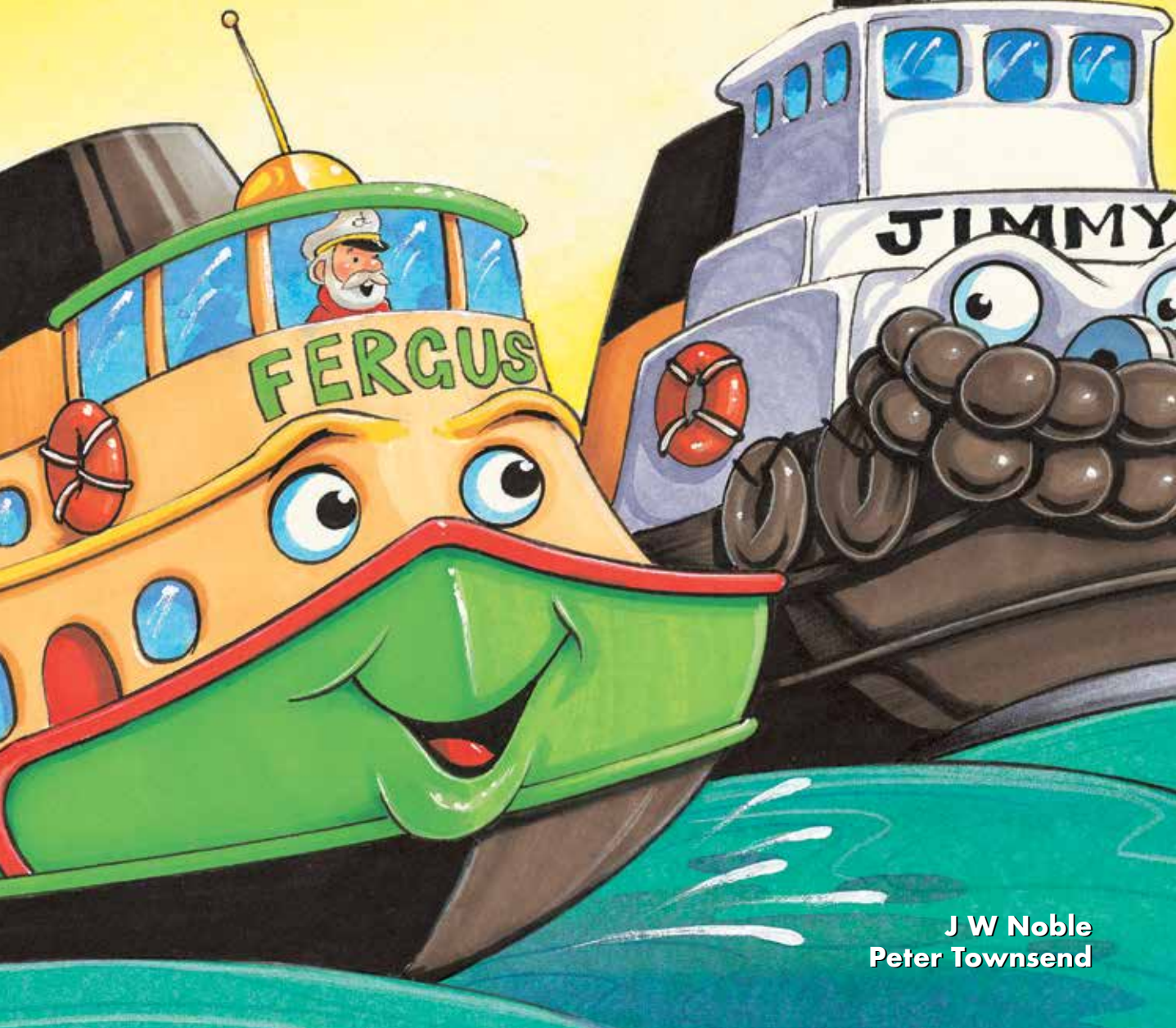


FERGUS

MAKES A DIFFERENCE



J W Noble
Peter Townsend



FERGUS

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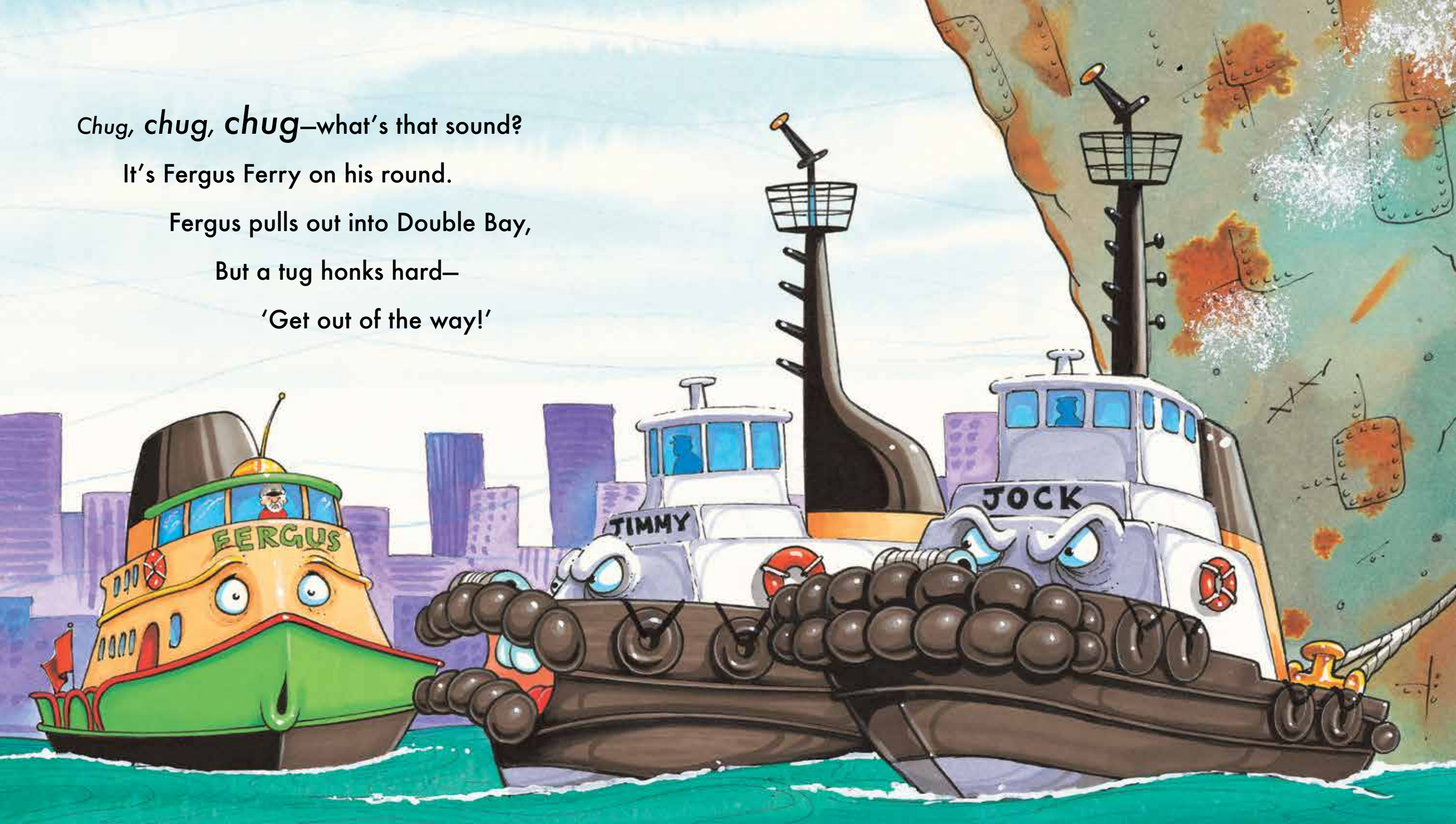
Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

It's Fergus Ferry on his round.

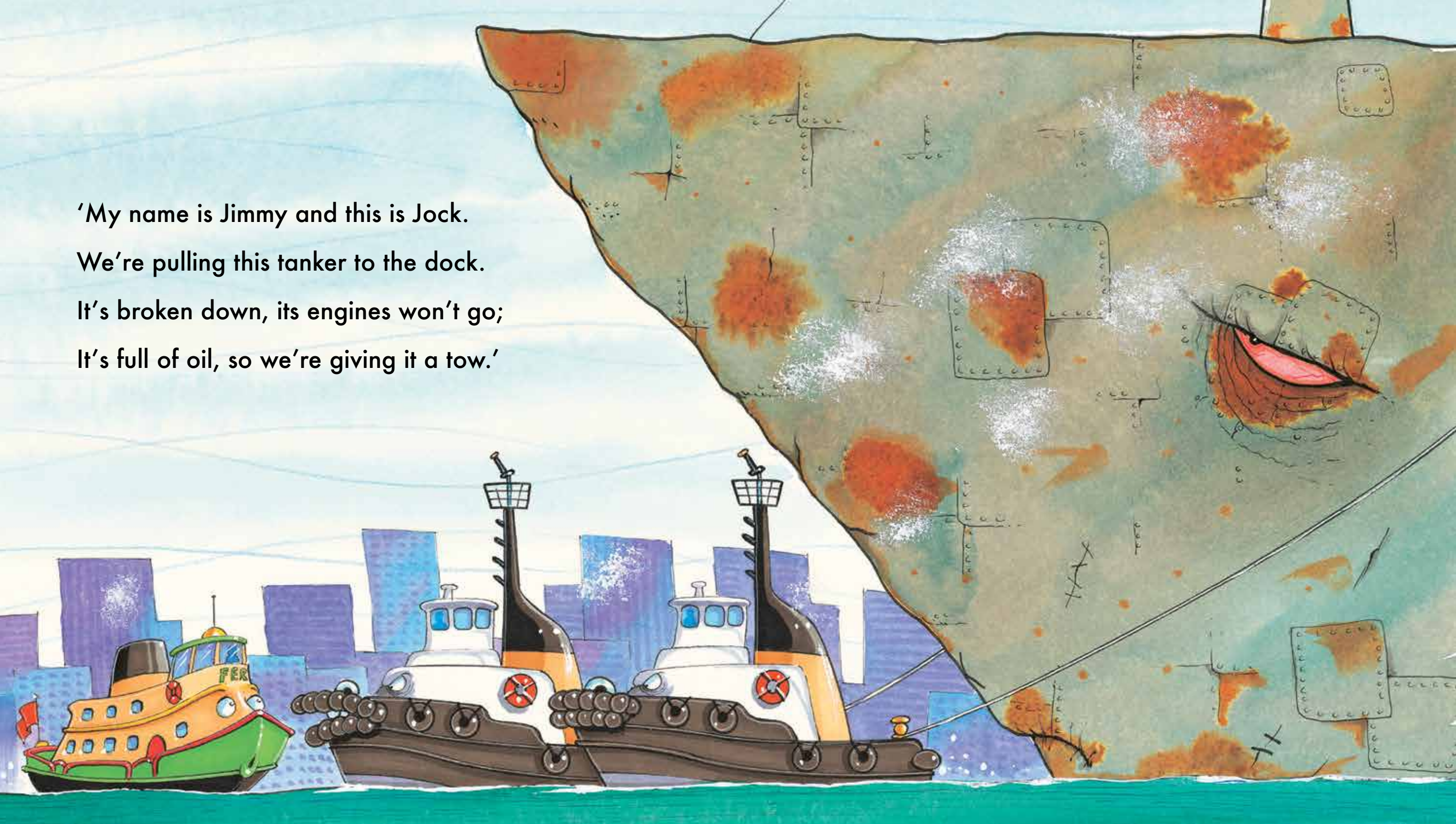
Fergus pulls out into Double Bay,

But a tug honks hard—

'Get out of the way!'

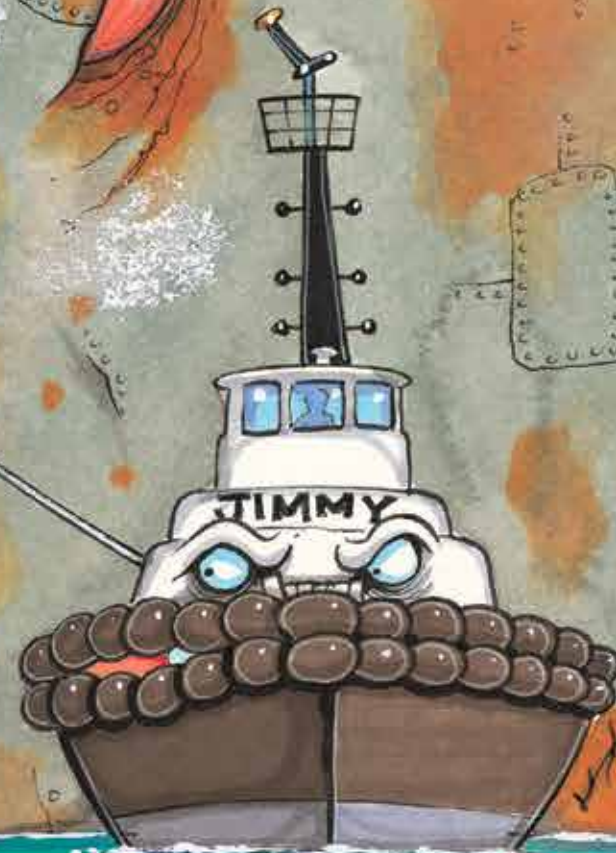


'My name is Jimmy and this is Jock.
We're pulling this tanker to the dock.
It's broken down, its engines won't go;
It's full of oil, so we're giving it a tow.'



'It's a rusty old bucket and
the tanks are weak;
If we don't get there soon,
the oil will leak.'

'I see,' says Fergus,
'If you need to go,
I'll turn my engines down to slow.'



Whoosh, **whoosh**—the wind blows from the west.

‘I’m tired,’ moans Jock. ‘I need a rest.

The wind is howling, it’s blowing a gale.

Much more of this, and my engines will fail.’

Cough, **splutter, bang!**—Jock’s engines have blown.

‘It’s up to you, Jimmy, you’re on your own!’



Jimmy pulls and pulls, taking the strain.
Then the clouds open up and it starts to rain.

The waves swell higher, he can't cope anymore.
The tanker is drifting towards the shore.
The engines stutter and he starts to groan.
'I don't think I'll make it on my own.'



'Help!' Jimmy cries, 'I don't know what to do.'

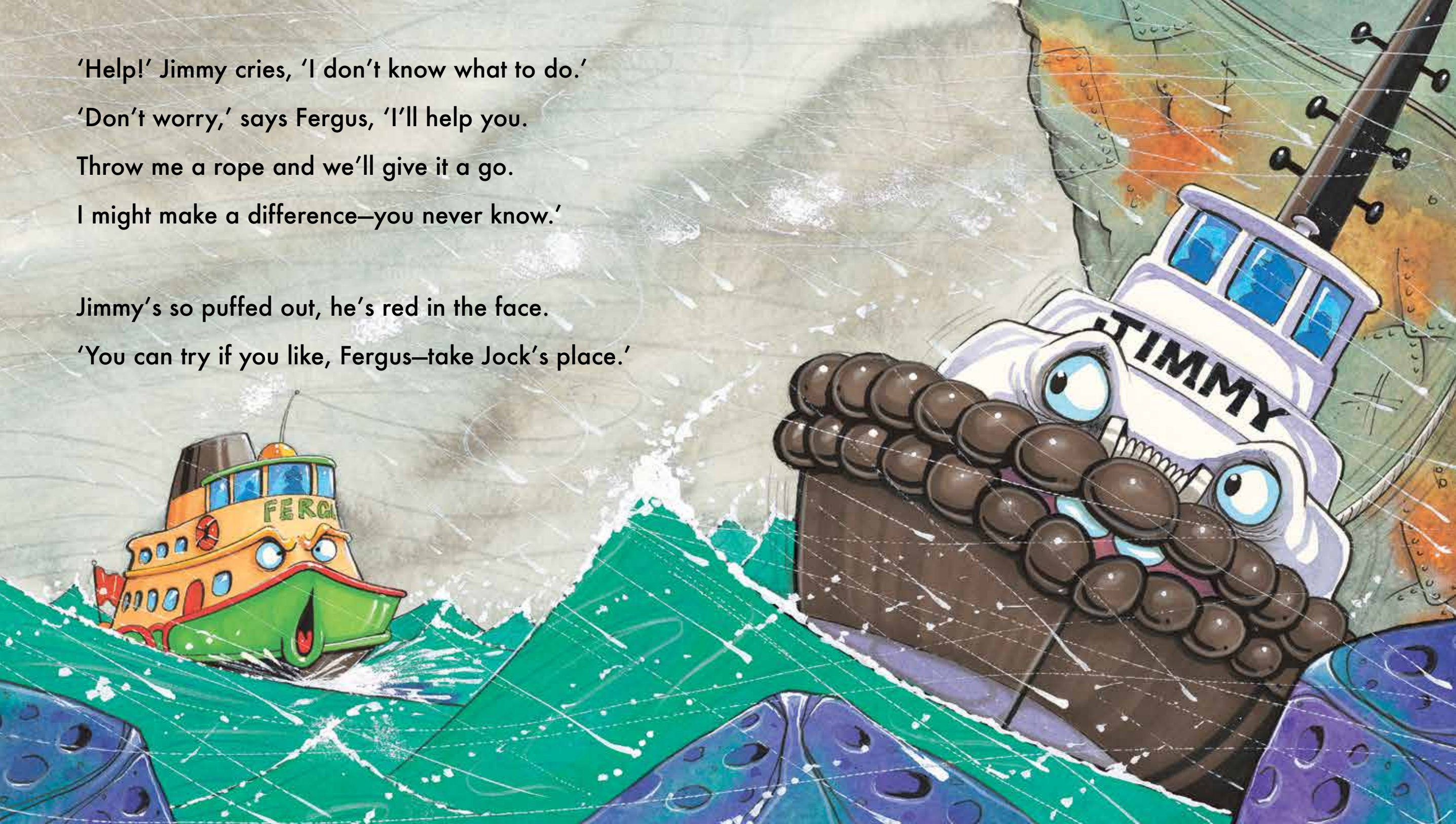
'Don't worry,' says Fergus, 'I'll help you.'

Throw me a rope and we'll give it a go.

I might make a difference—you never know.'

Jimmy's so puffed out, he's red in the face.

'You can try if you like, Fergus—take Jock's place.'



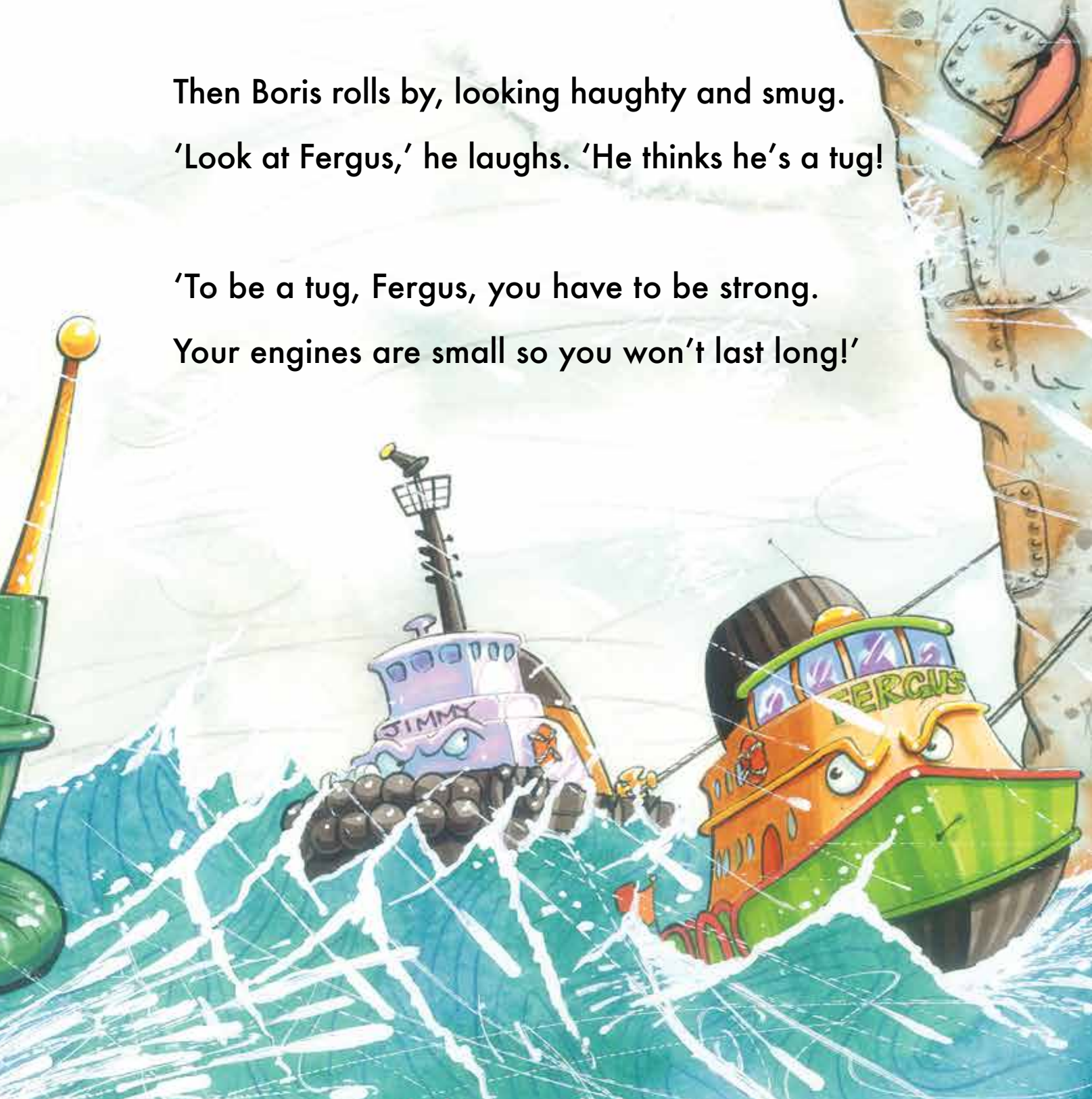


Then Boris rolls by, looking haughty and smug.

'Look at Fergus,' he laughs. 'He thinks he's a tug!

'To be a tug, Fergus, you have to be strong.

Your engines are small so you won't last long!'



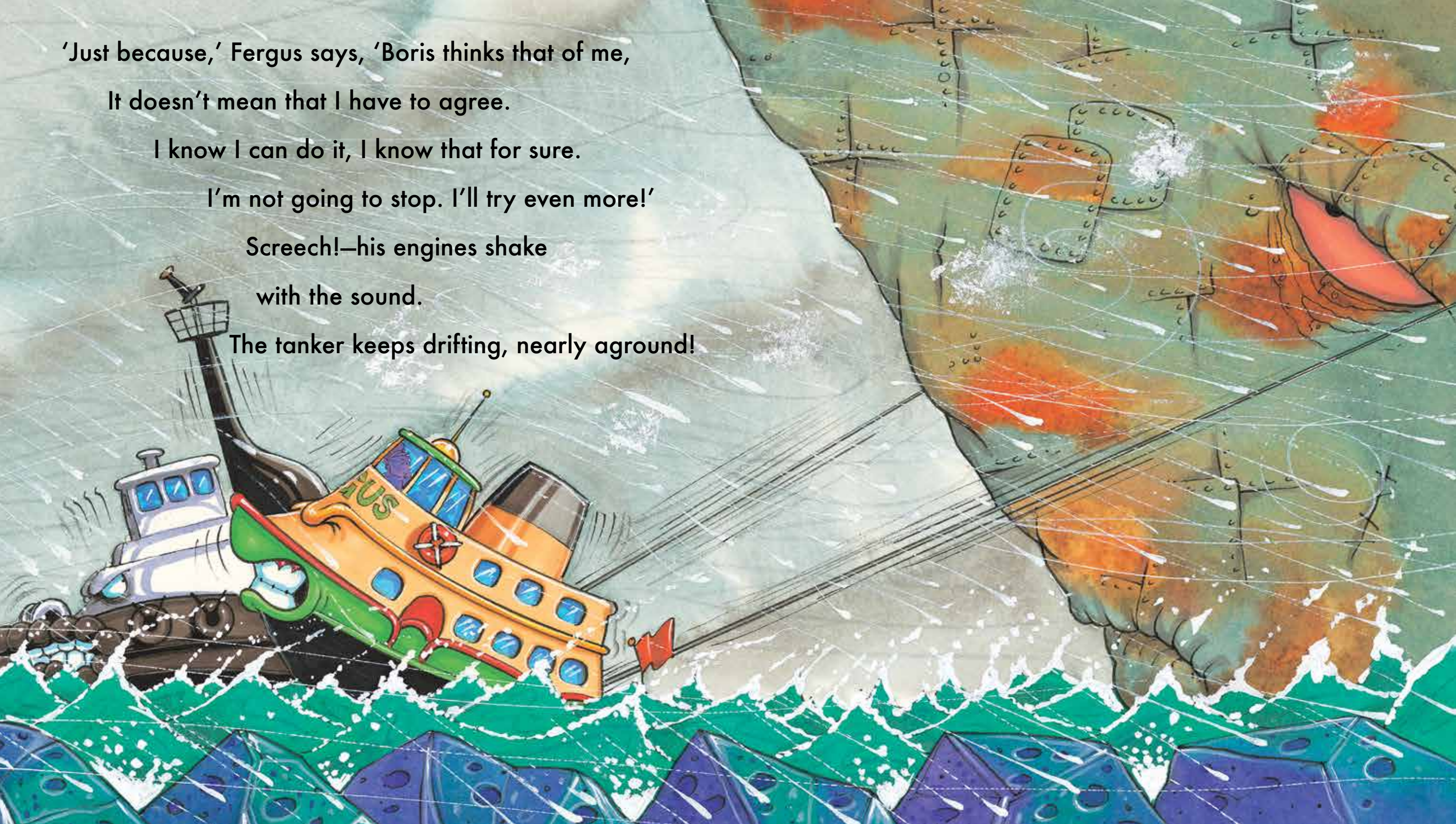
'Just because,' Fergus says, 'Boris thinks that of me,
It doesn't mean that I have to agree.

I know I can do it, I know that for sure.

I'm not going to stop. I'll try even more!

Screech!—his engines shake
with the sound.

The tanker keeps drifting, nearly aground!





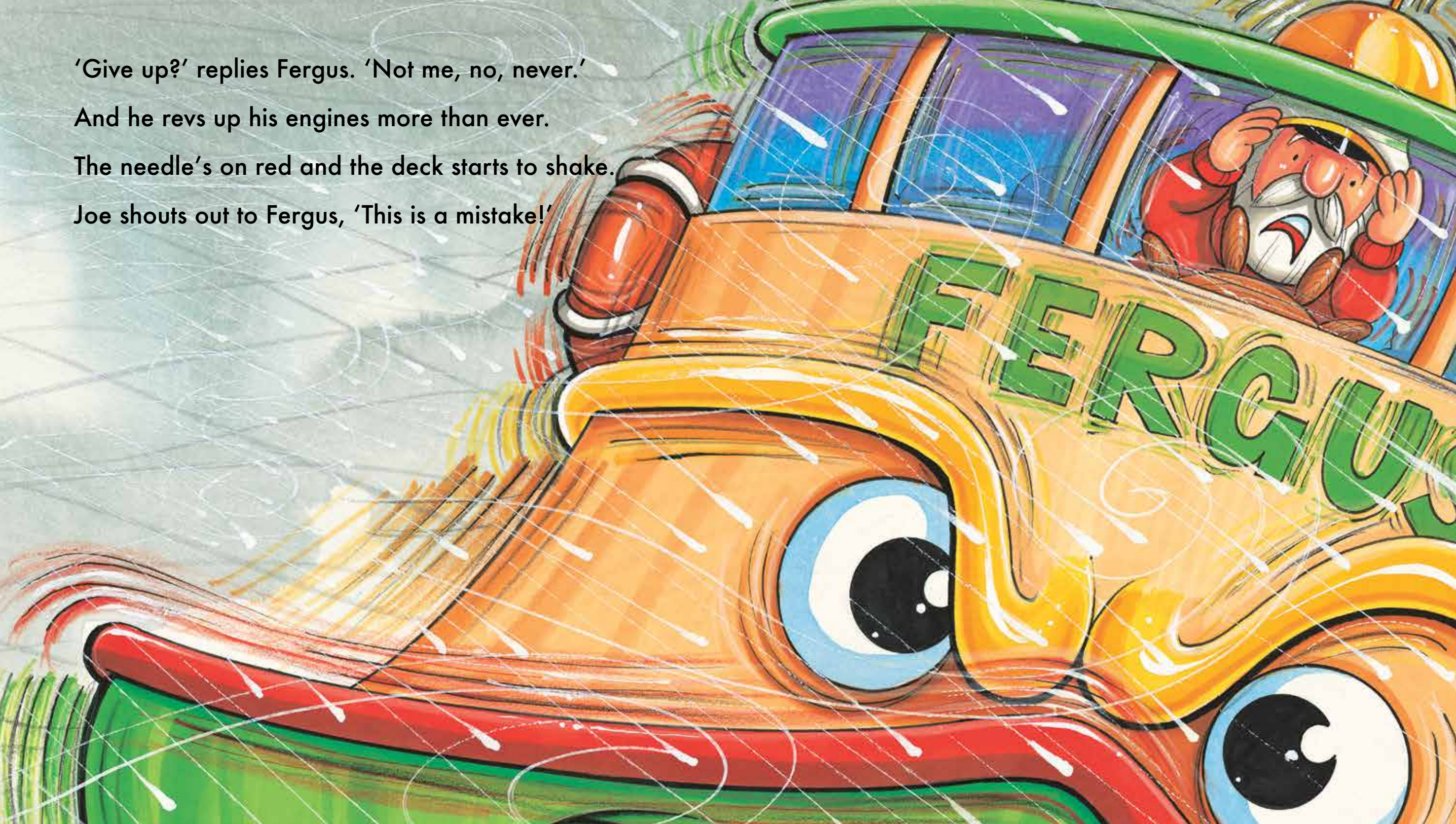
Captain Joe sees the gauge go into the red.
He's sweating and trembling and shaking his head.
'Please give up, Fergus, you can't take this load,
One of your engines is going to explode!'

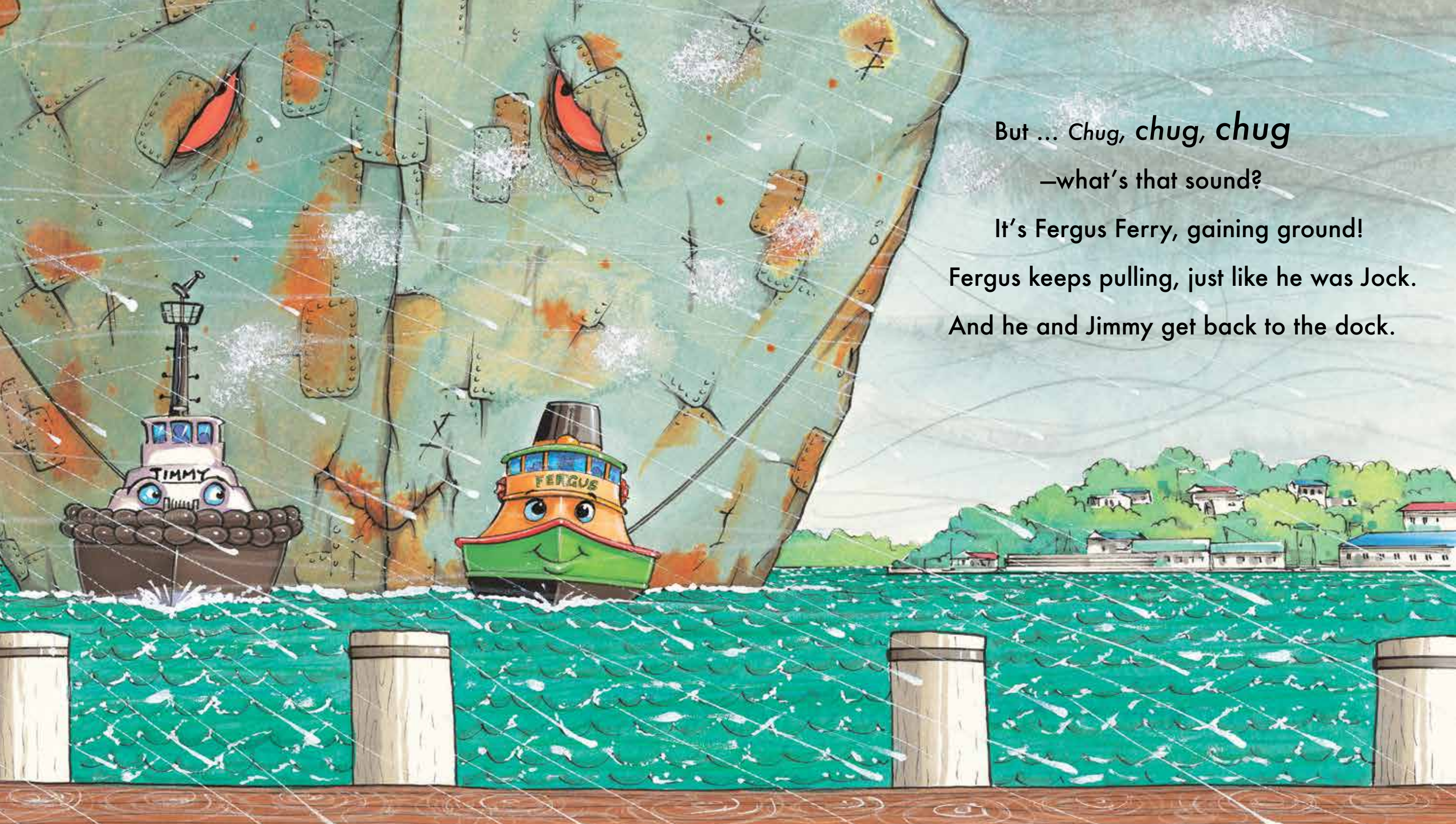
'Give up?' replies Fergus. 'Not me, no, never.'

And he revs up his engines more than ever.

The needle's on red and the deck starts to shake.

Joe shouts out to Fergus, 'This is a mistake!'





But ... *Chug, chug, chug*

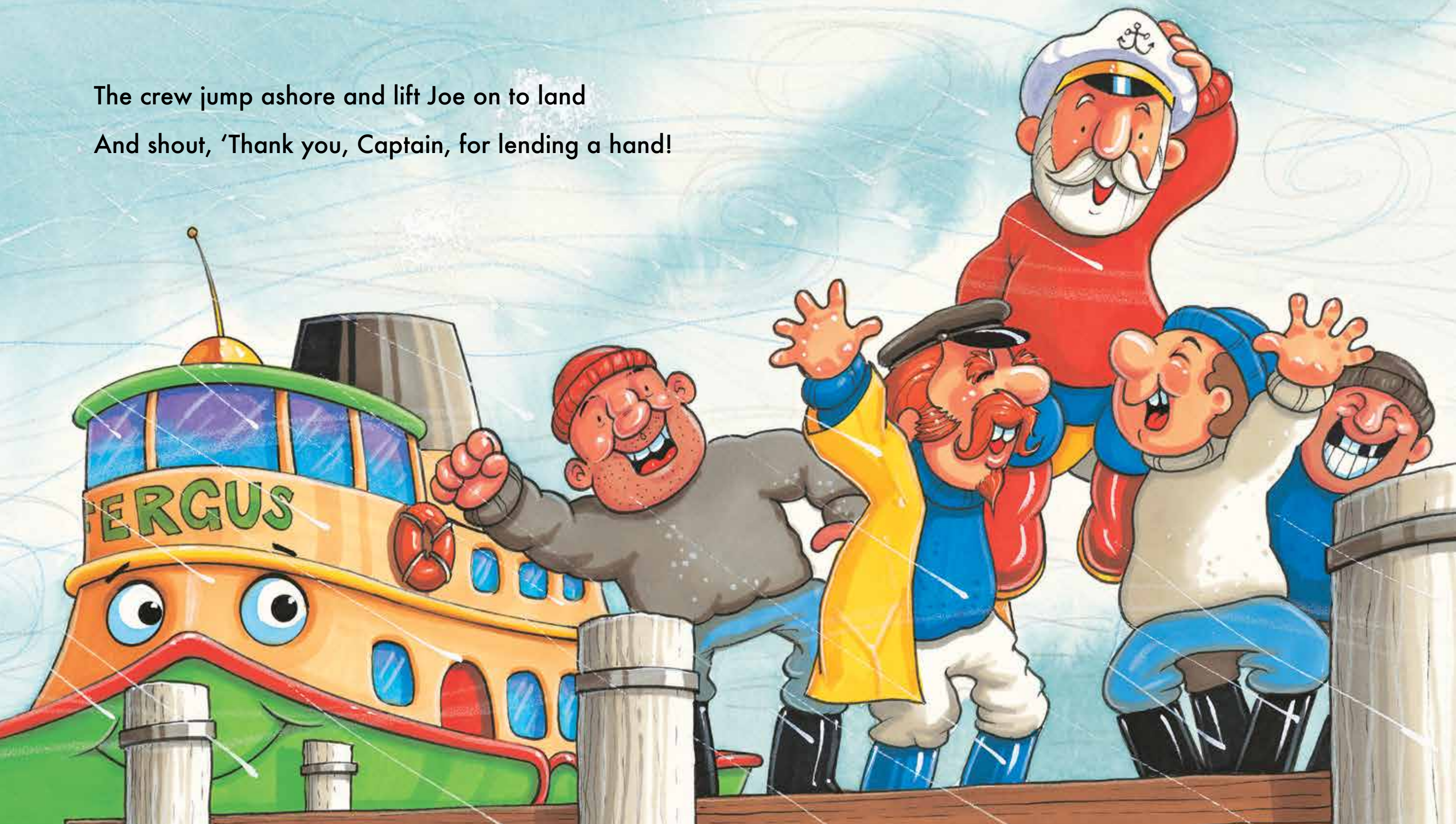
—what's that sound?

It's Fergus Ferry, gaining ground!

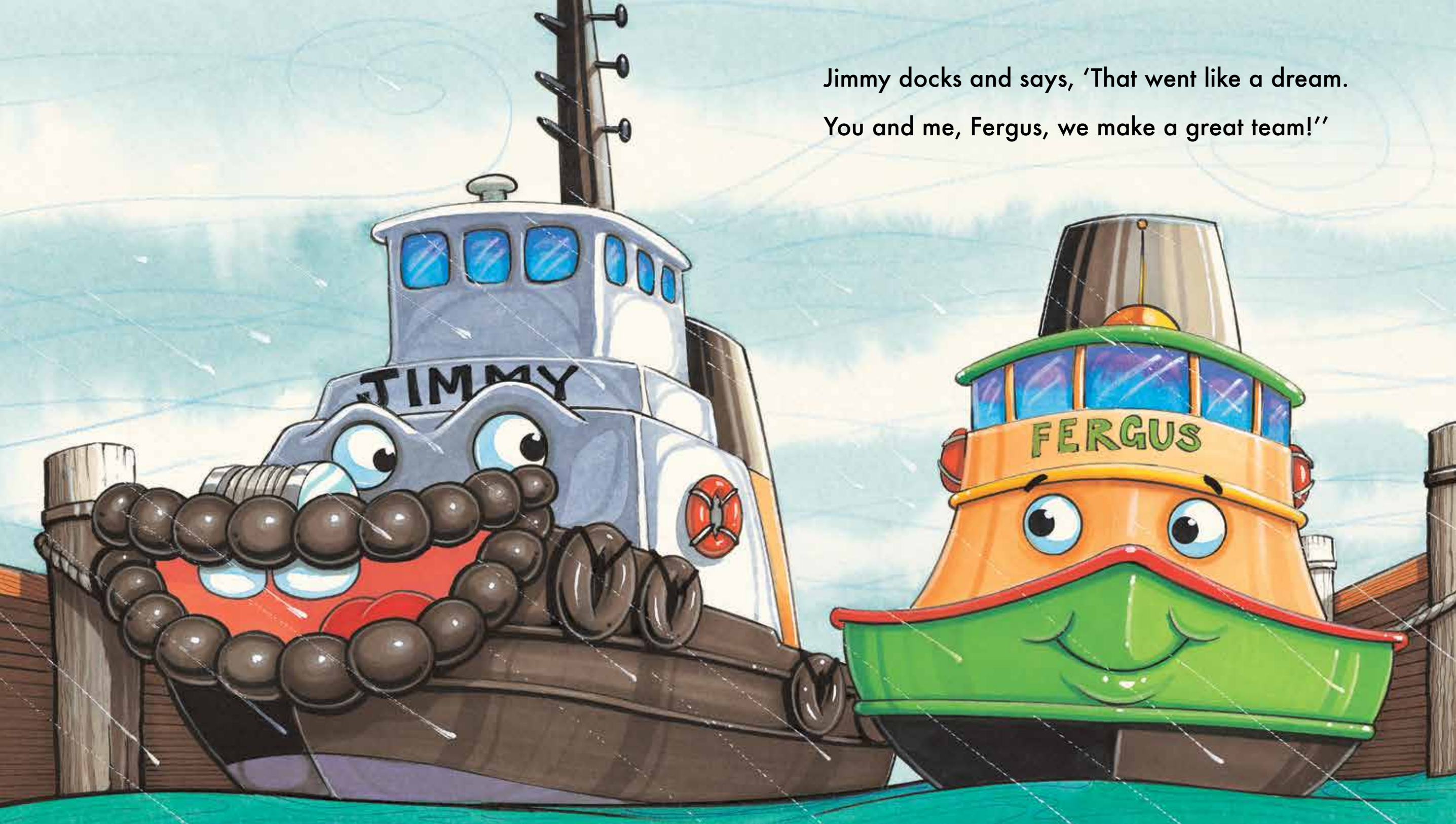
Fergus keeps pulling, just like he was Jock.

And he and Jimmy get back to the dock.

The crew jump ashore and lift Joe on to land
And shout, 'Thank you, Captain, for lending a hand!

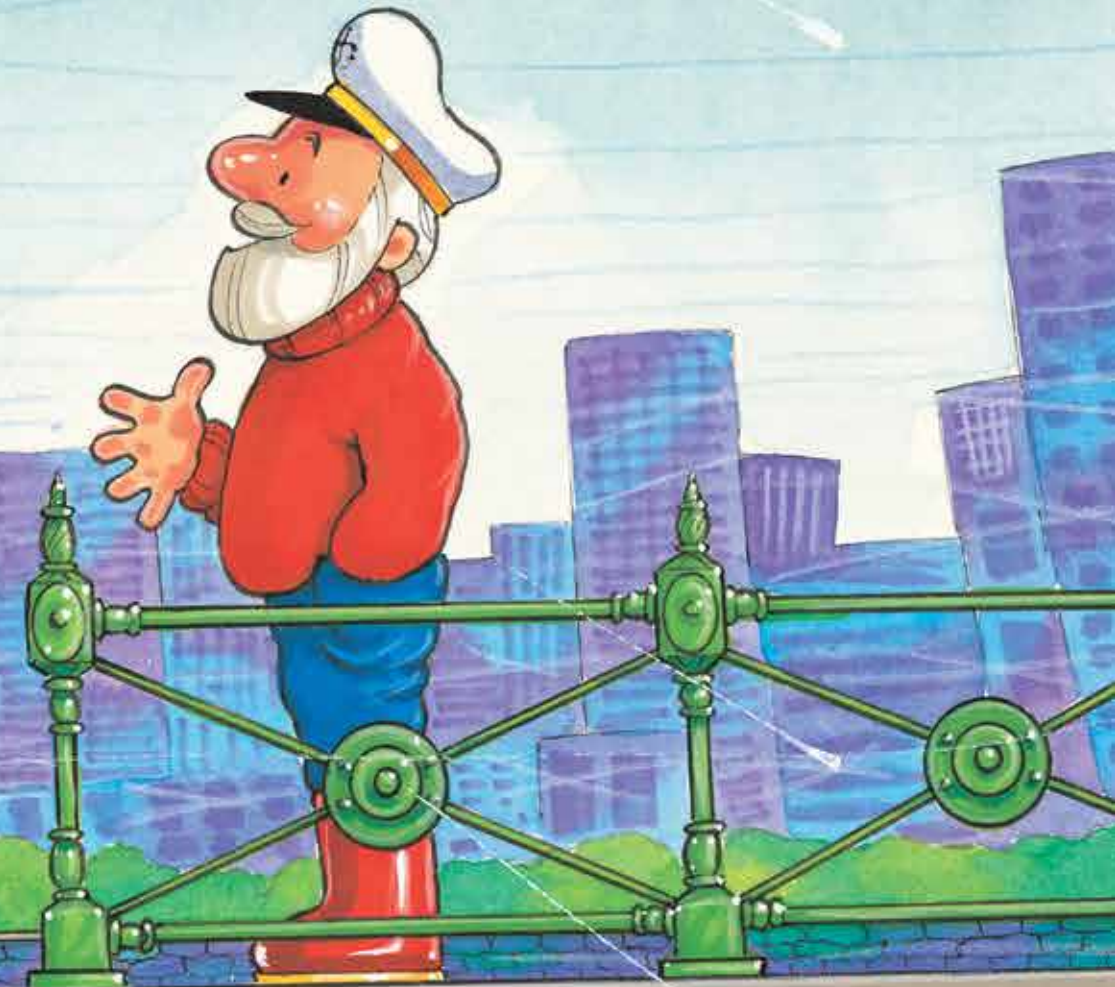


Jimmy docks and says, 'That went like a dream.
You and me, Fergus, we make a great team!''

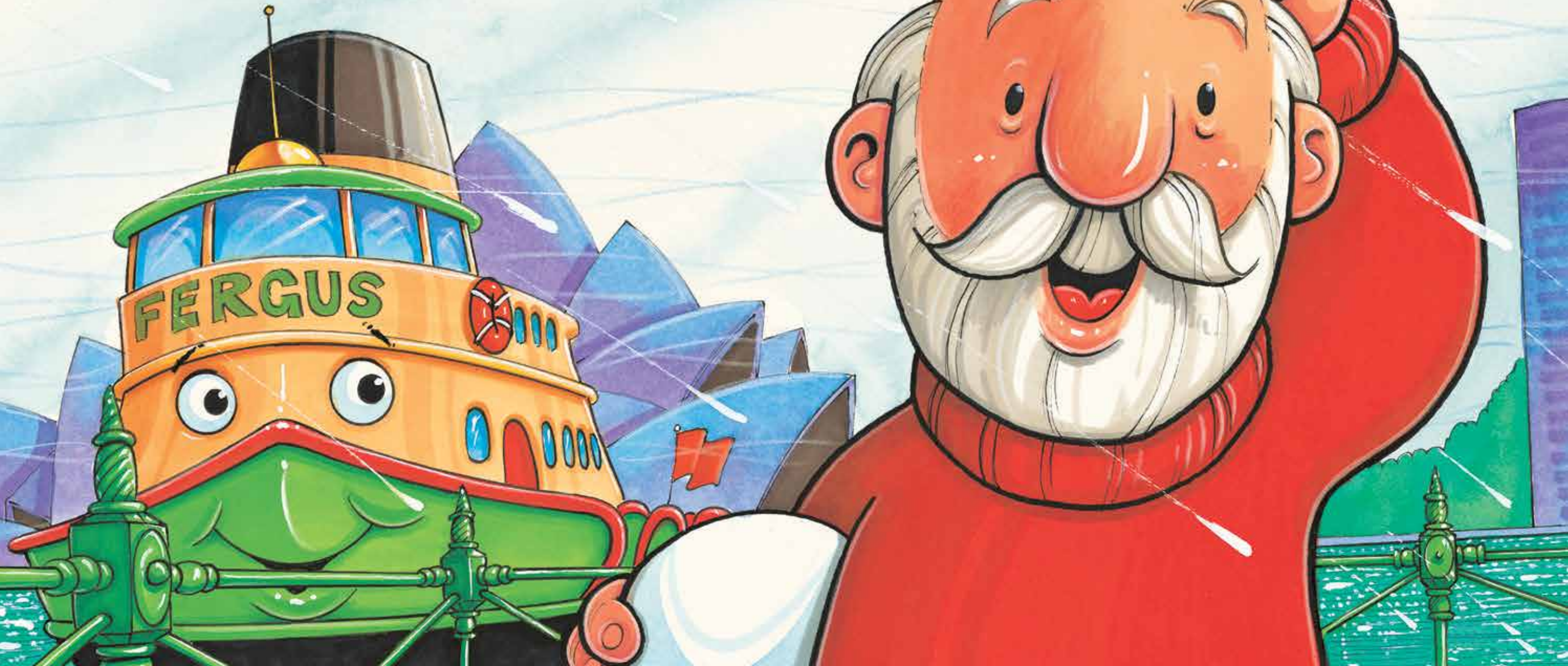




Later, safely docked at Circular Quay,
Joe says, 'We did well, Fergus, didn't we?
I don't know how you did it, old friend.
I thought your engines would blow near the end.'



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



Believe in yourself.

For Sharon Rubinstein, who continues to make a difference

JWN

For Jesse and Jemma

PT

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