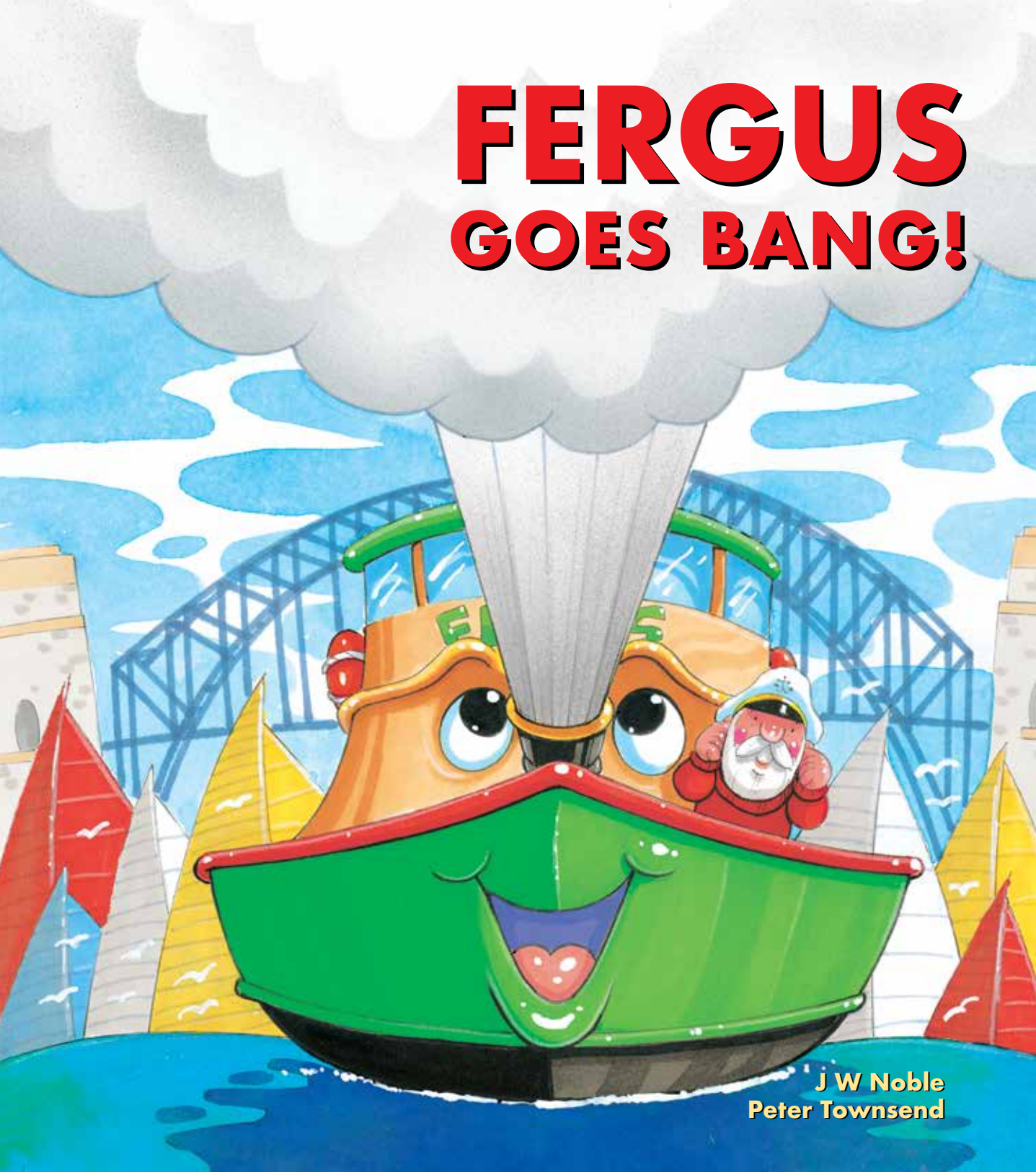


FERGUS GOES BANG!



**J W Noble
Peter Townsend**



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Peter Townsend**

Snwball
PRESS

www.fergusferry.com

Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

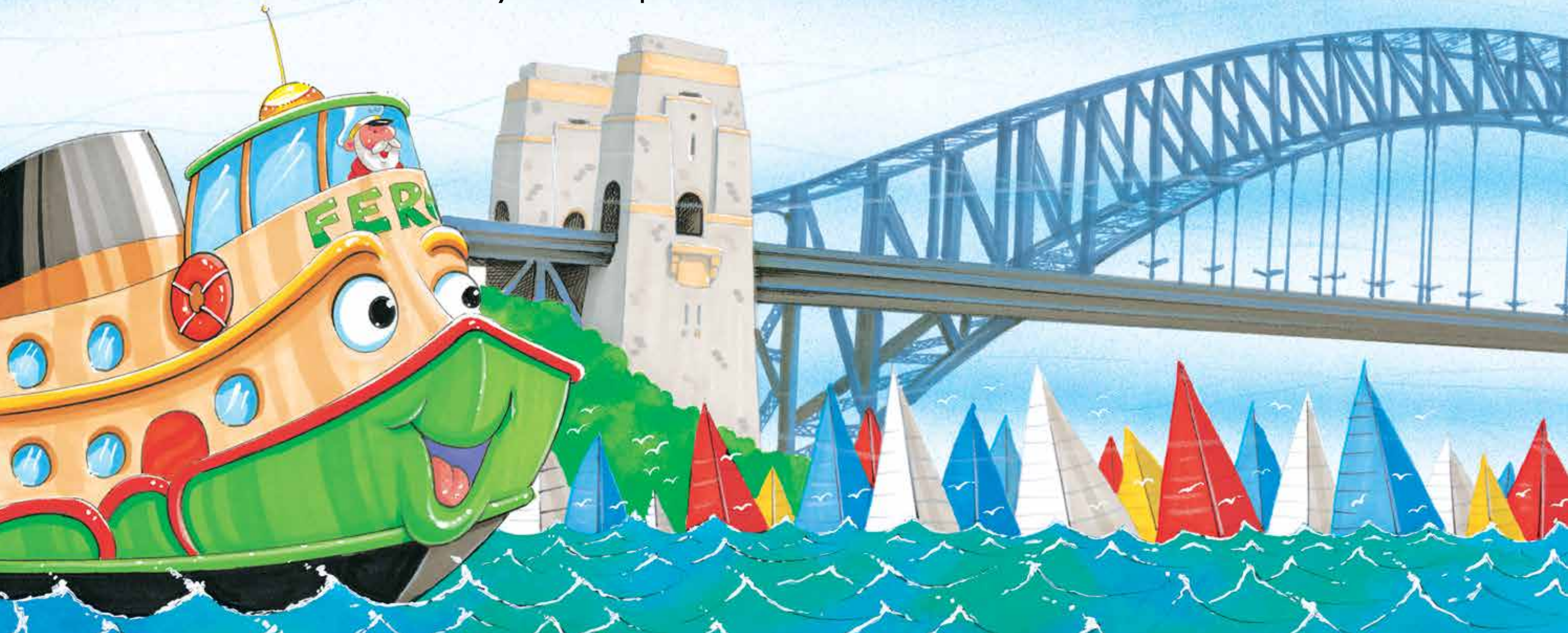
It's Fergus Ferry on his round.

It's Boxing Day and time for the start

Of the annual race when all the yachts take part.

The wind is strong. The sun shines bright.

Sails cover the harbour—red, blue and white.

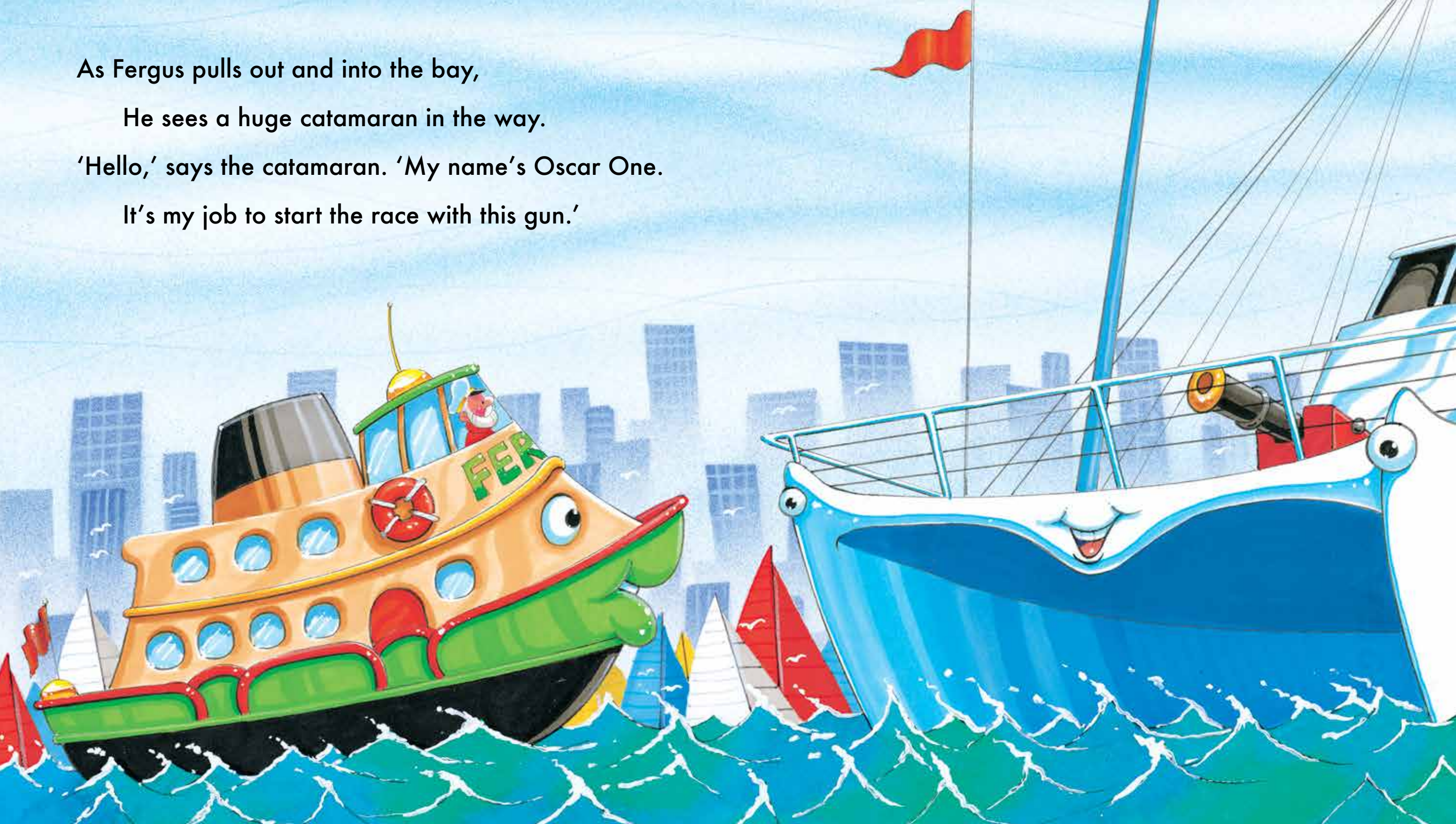


As Fergus pulls out and into the bay,

He sees a huge catamaran in the way.

'Hello,' says the catamaran. 'My name's Oscar One.

It's my job to start the race with this gun.'



Then something catches Fergus's eye.

It's Flash the speedboat whizzing by.

'We've lost control,' yells Flash.

'There's nothing to be done.'

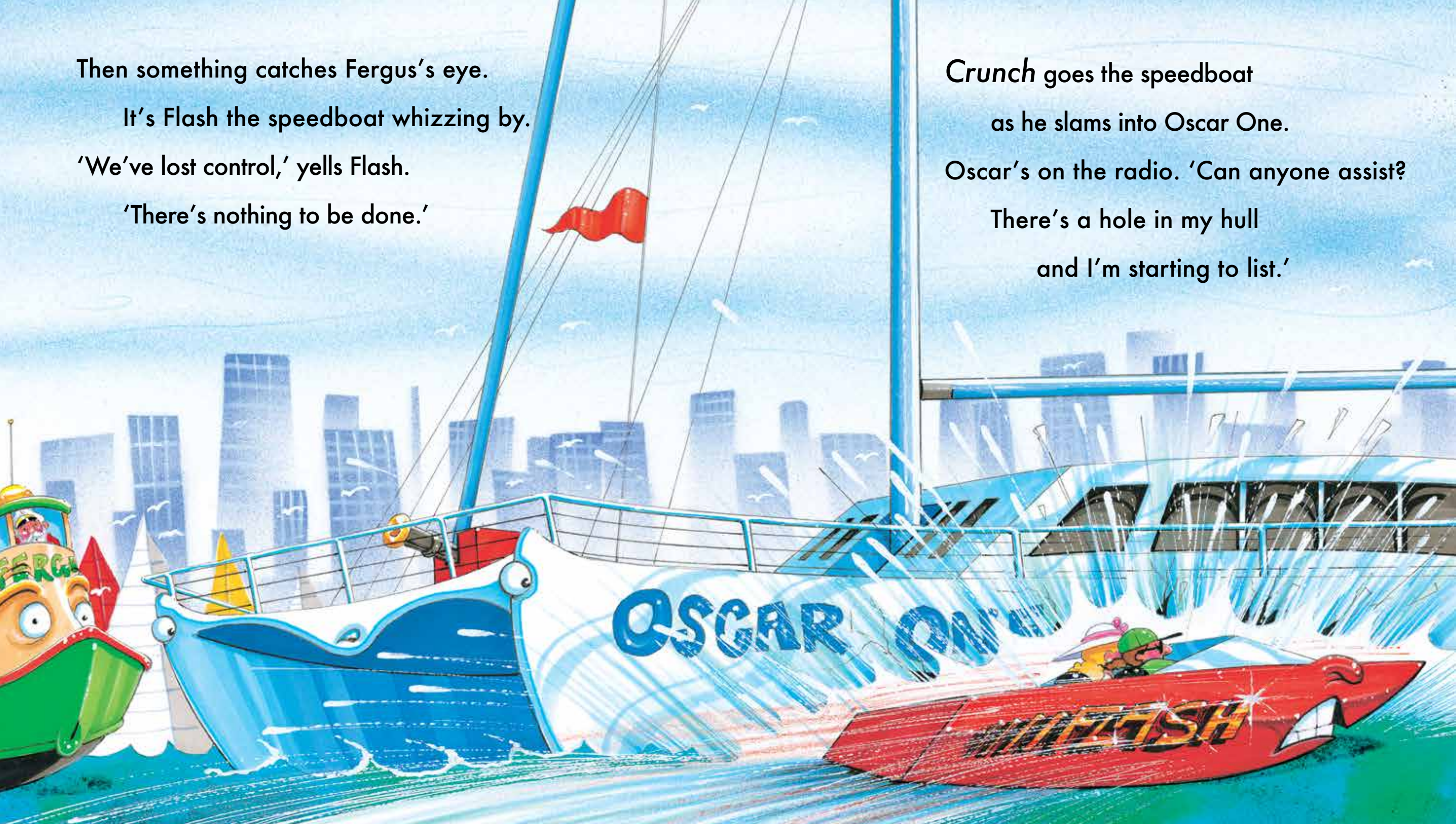
Crunch goes the speedboat

as he slams into Oscar One.

Oscar's on the radio. 'Can anyone assist?

There's a hole in my hull

and I'm starting to list.'

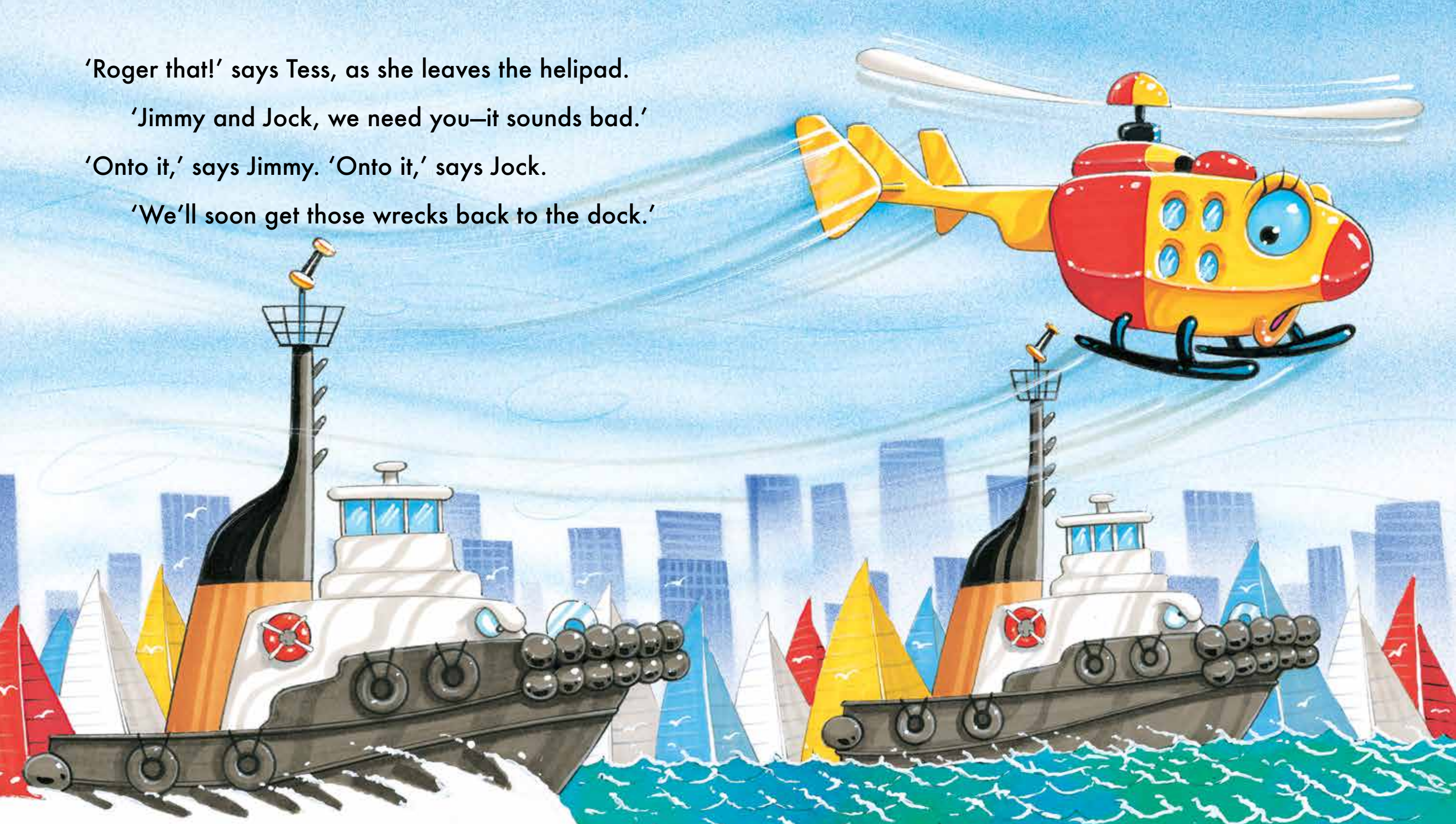


'Roger that!' says Tess, as she leaves the helipad.

'Jimmy and Jock, we need you—it sounds bad.'

'Onto it,' says Jimmy. 'Onto it,' says Jock.

'We'll soon get those wrecks back to the dock.'



They start to tow, but there's a frown on Tess's face.

'Stop, Jimmy! We need that gun to start the race.

I can hoist it up with my winch and cable,

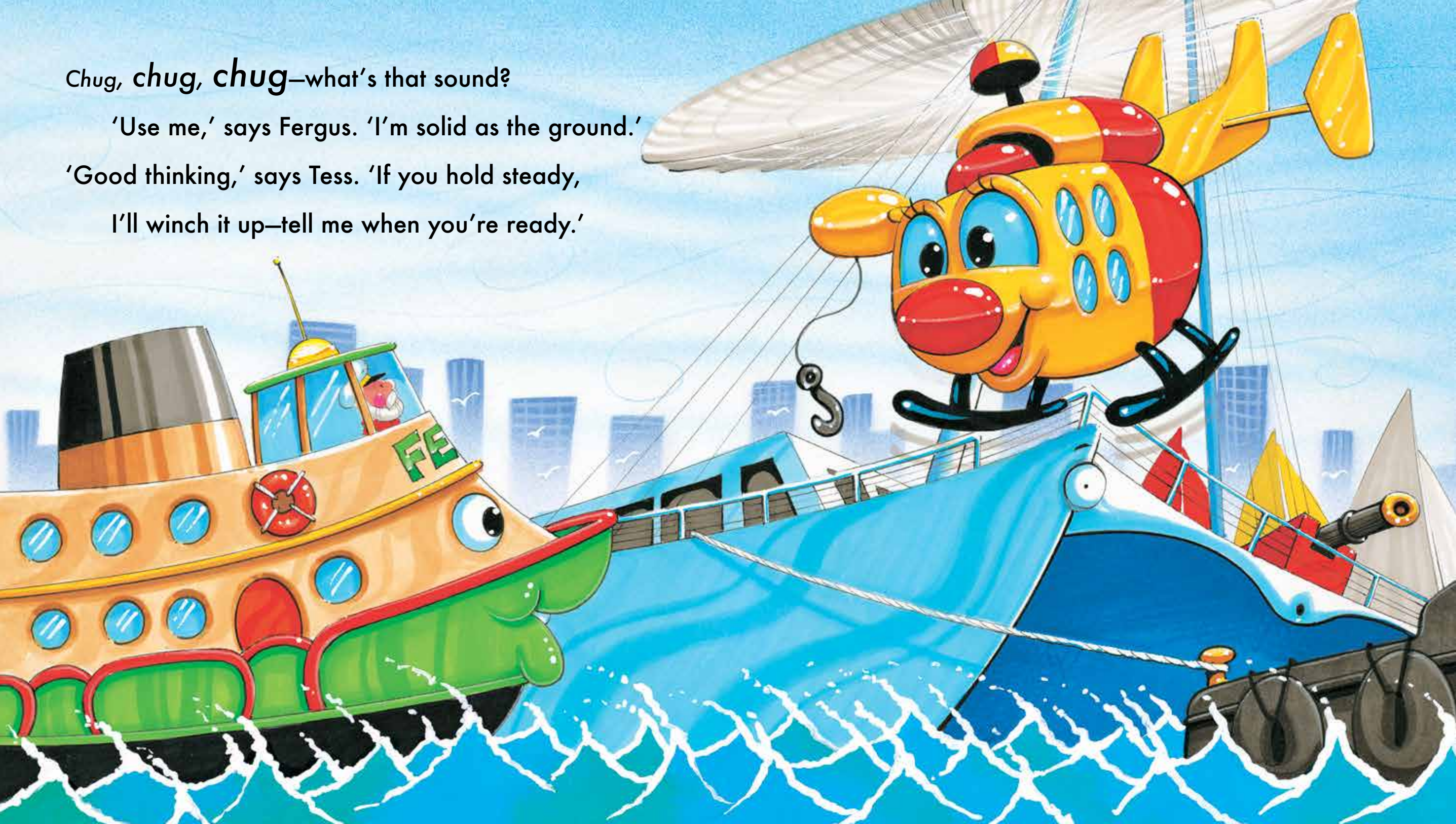
But we need to stand it on something stable.'



Chug, chug, chug—what's that sound?

'Use me,' says Fergus. 'I'm solid as the ground.'

'Good thinking,' says Tess. 'If you hold steady,
I'll winch it up—tell me when you're ready.'

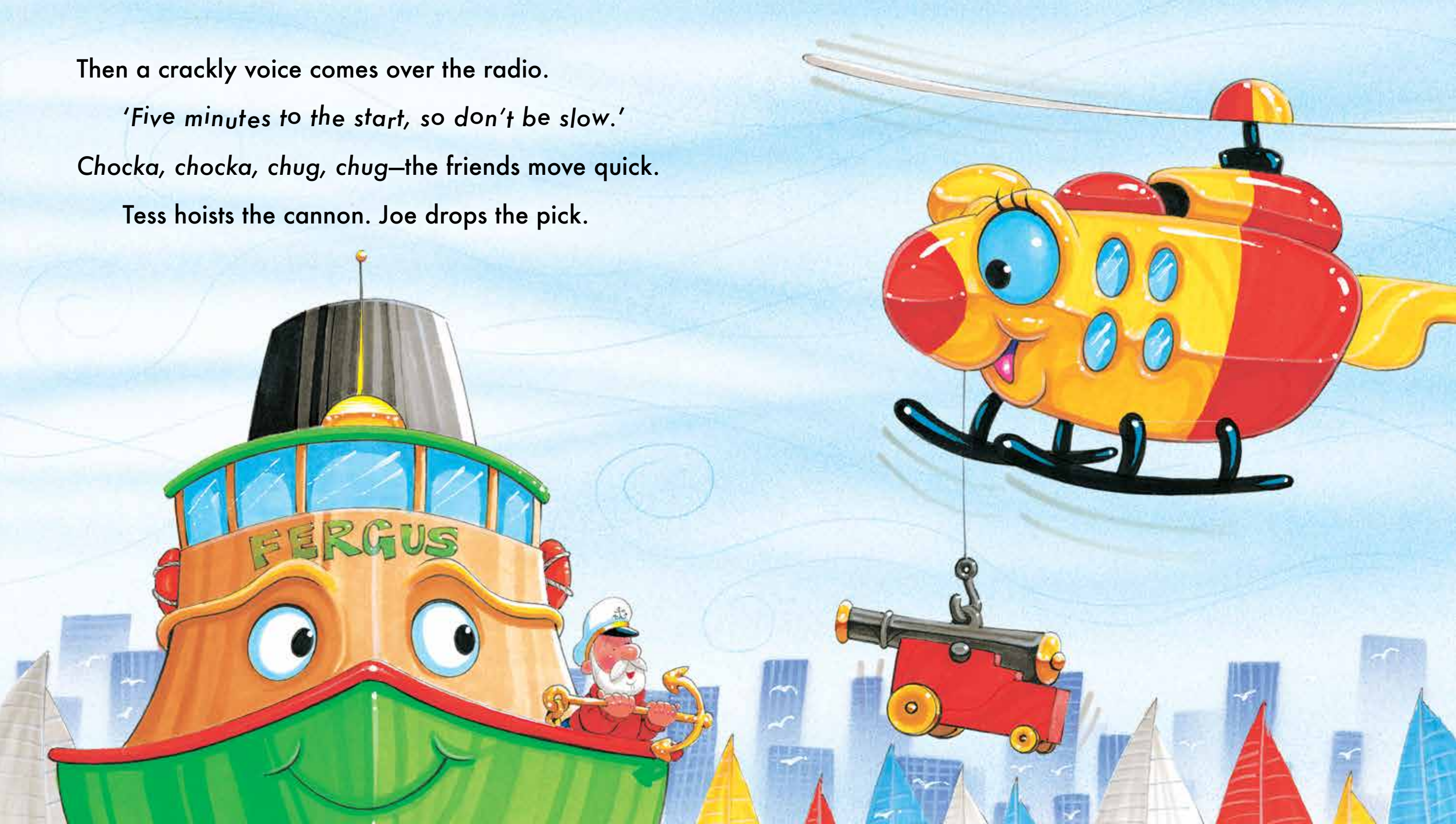


Then a crackly voice comes over the radio.

'Five minutes to the start, so don't be slow.'

Chocka, chocka, chug, chug—the friends move quick.

Tess hoists the cannon. Joe drops the pick.

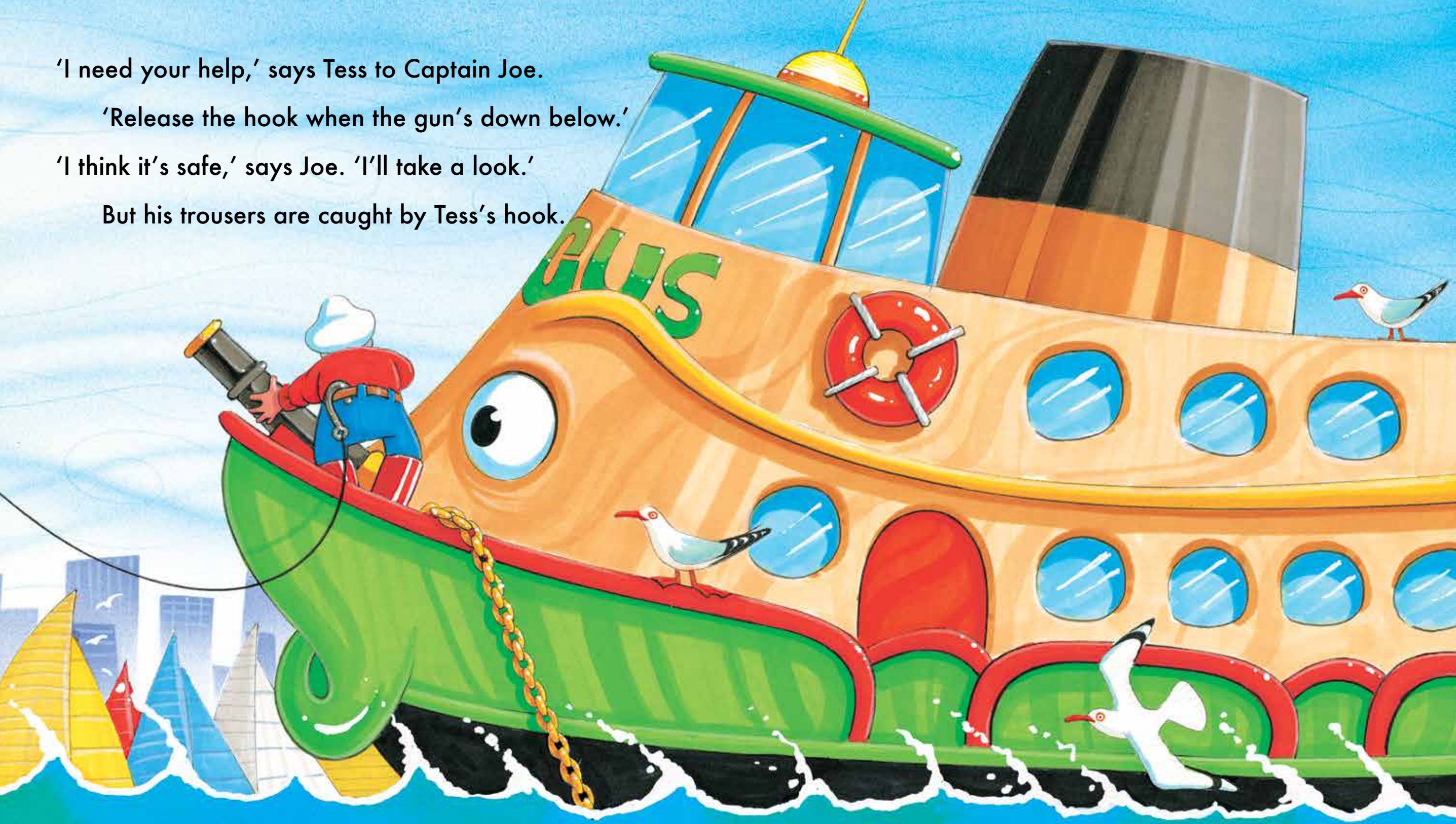


'I need your help,' says Tess to Captain Joe.

'Release the hook when the gun's down below.'

'I think it's safe,' says Joe. 'I'll take a look.'

But his trousers are caught by Tess's hook.

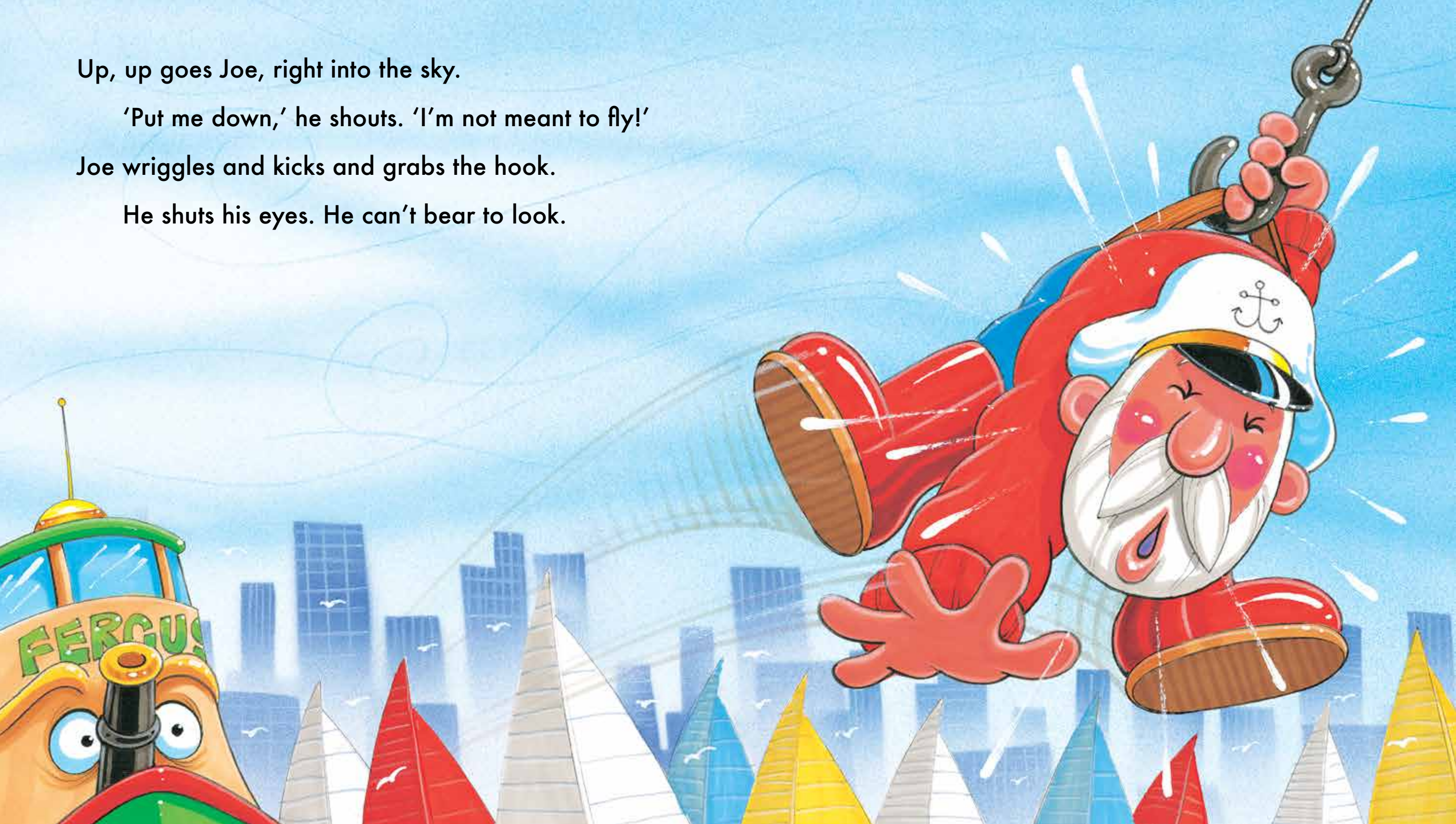


Up, up goes Joe, right into the sky.

‘Put me down,’ he shouts. ‘I’m not meant to fly!’

Joe wriggles and kicks and grabs the hook.

He shuts his eyes. He can’t bear to look.



Tess is worried. 'Joe, there's only one way—

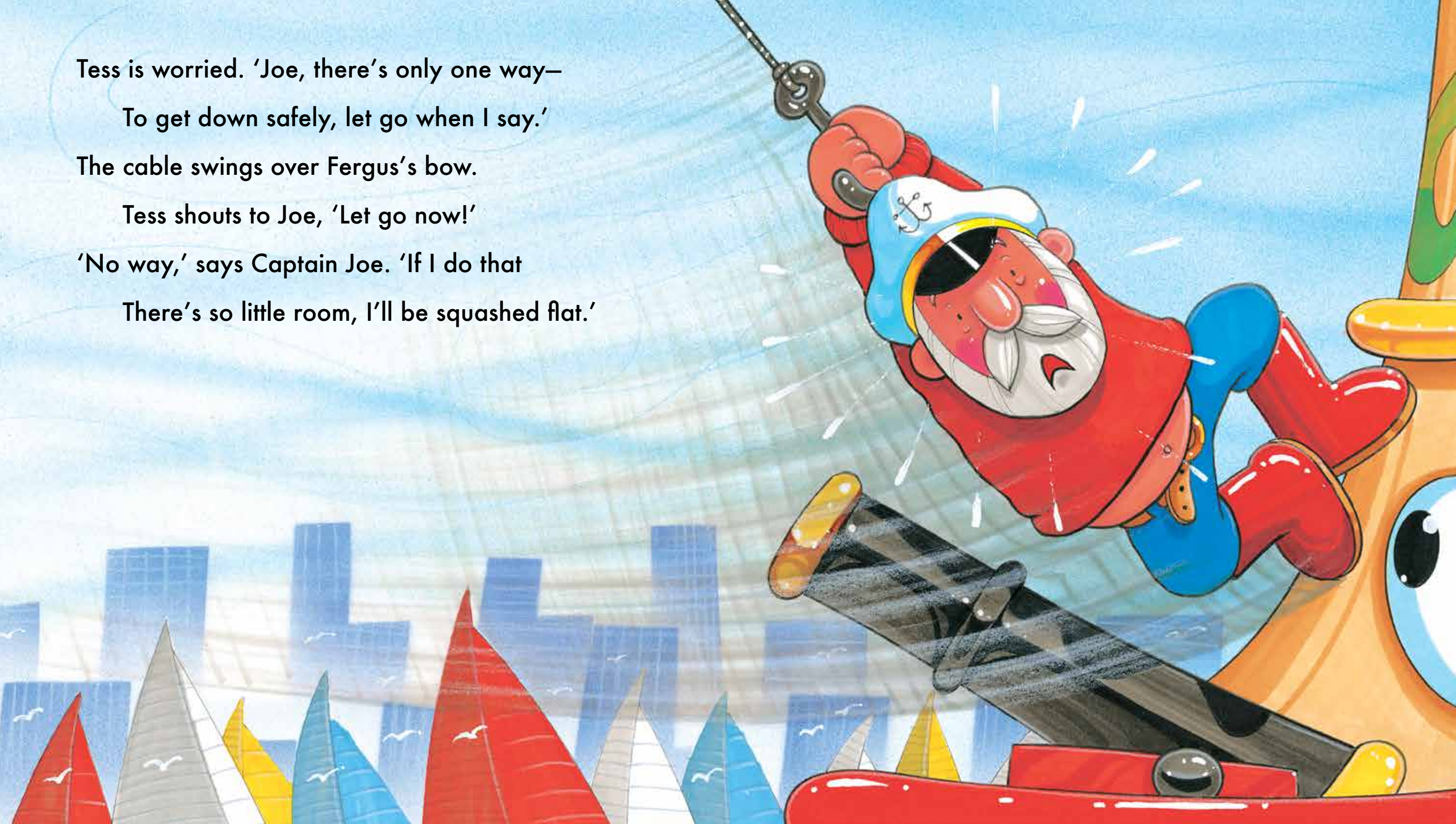
To get down safely, let go when I say.'

The cable swings over Fergus's bow.

Tess shouts to Joe, 'Let go now!'

'No way,' says Captain Joe. 'If I do that

There's so little room, I'll be squashed flat.'





'For goodness sake,' says Tess. 'There's one thing I know.

If you want to get down, you'll have to let go!'

The cable swings back over the sea.

'What now?' cries Joe, 'It'll be the end of me.'

'Make it quick,' crackles the voice on the radio.

'We're counting down—only one minute to go.'

Then Fergus realises he needs to turn.

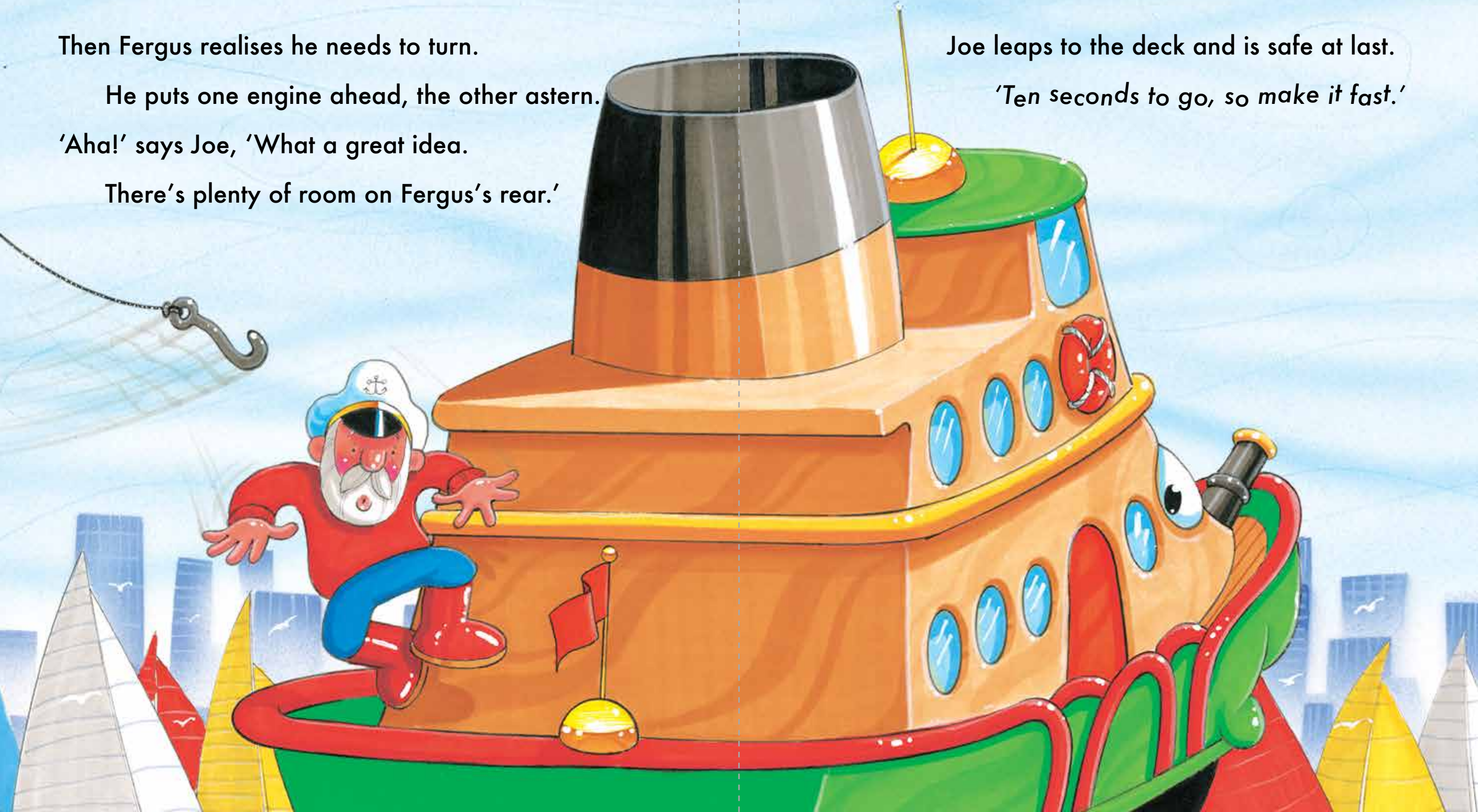
He puts one engine ahead, the other astern.

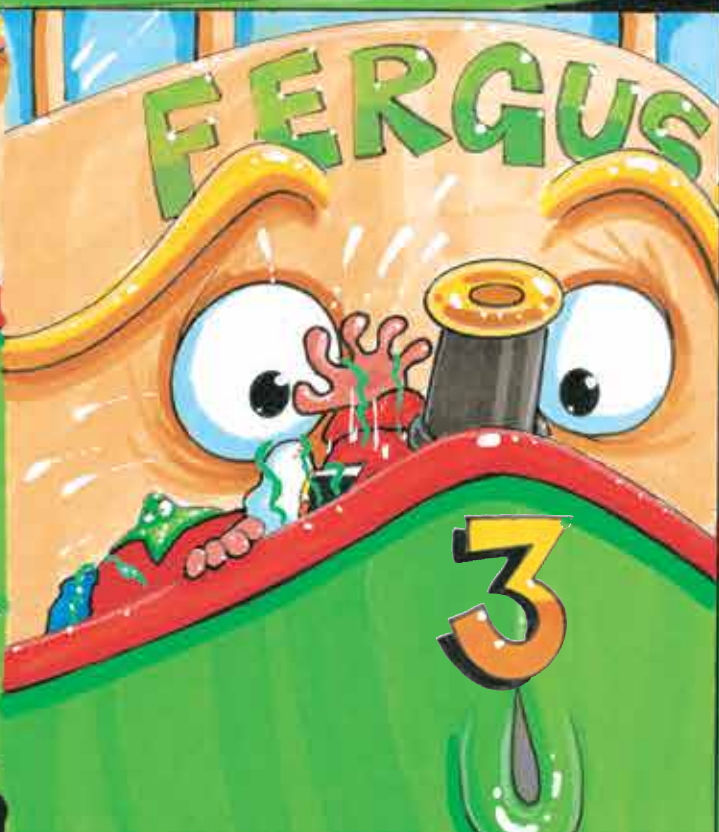
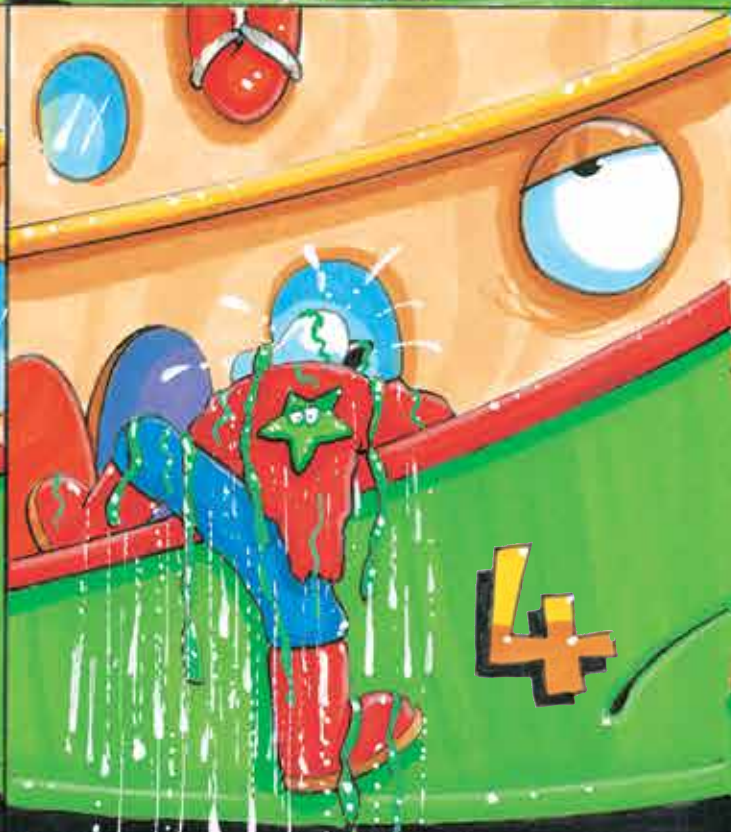
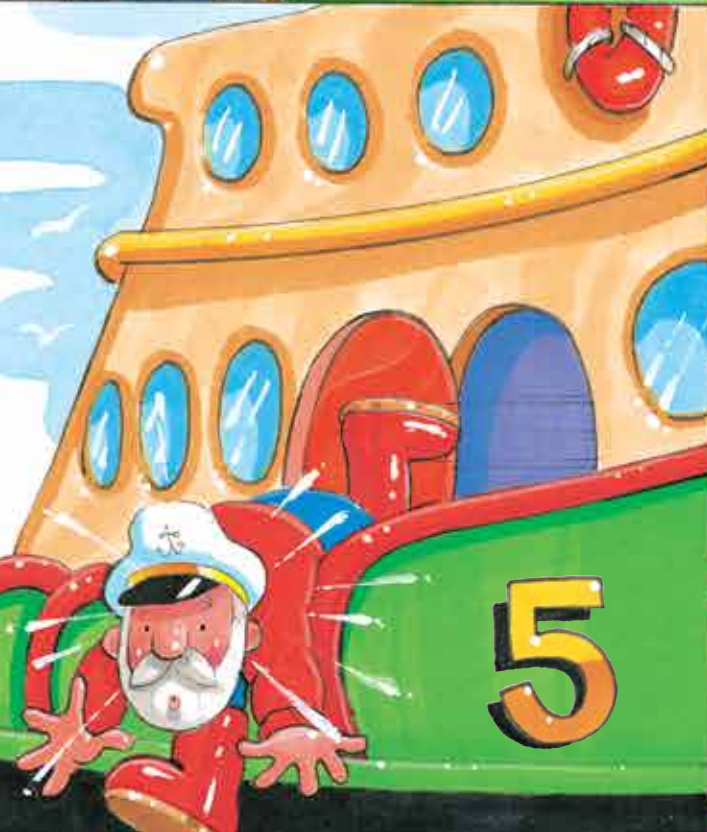
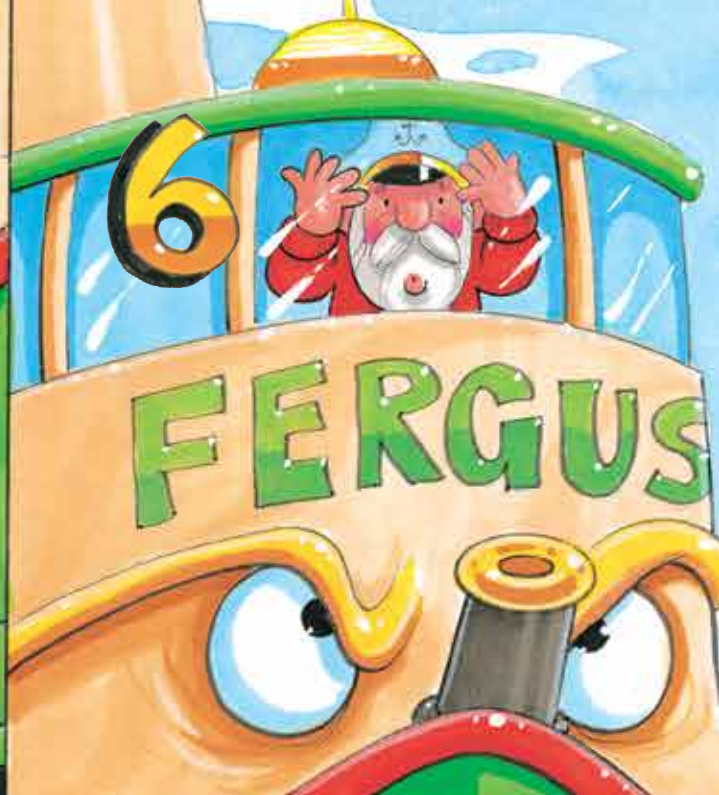
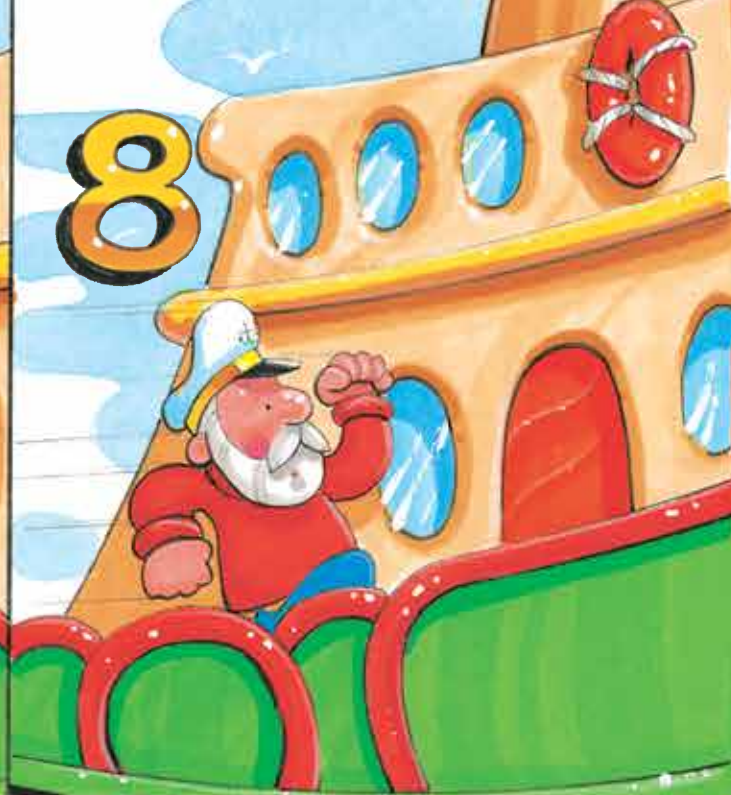
'Aha!' says Joe, 'What a great idea.

There's plenty of room on Fergus's rear.'

Joe leaps to the deck and is safe at last.

'Ten seconds to go, so make it fast.'



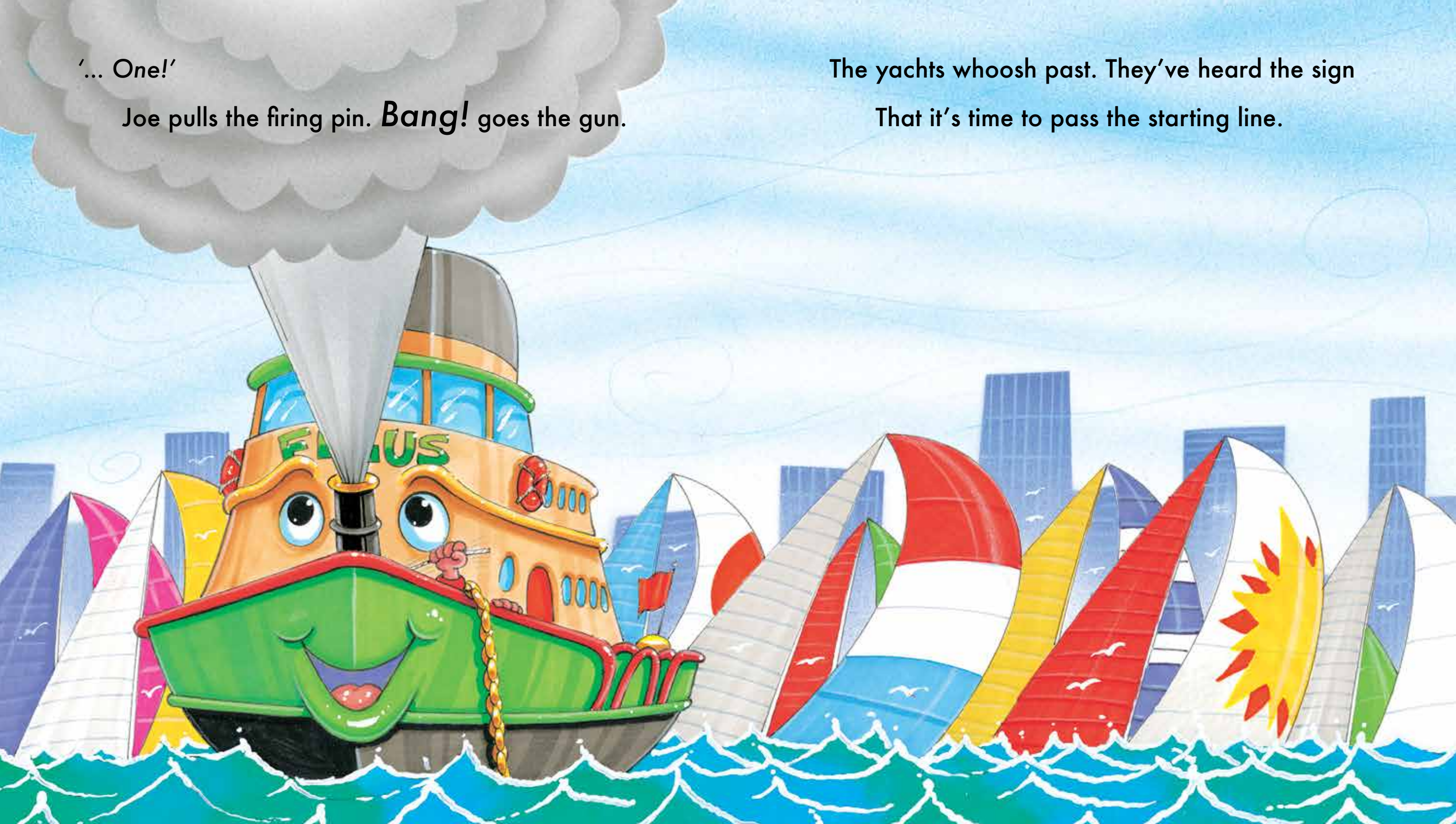


'... One!'

Joe pulls the firing pin. **Bang!** goes the gun.

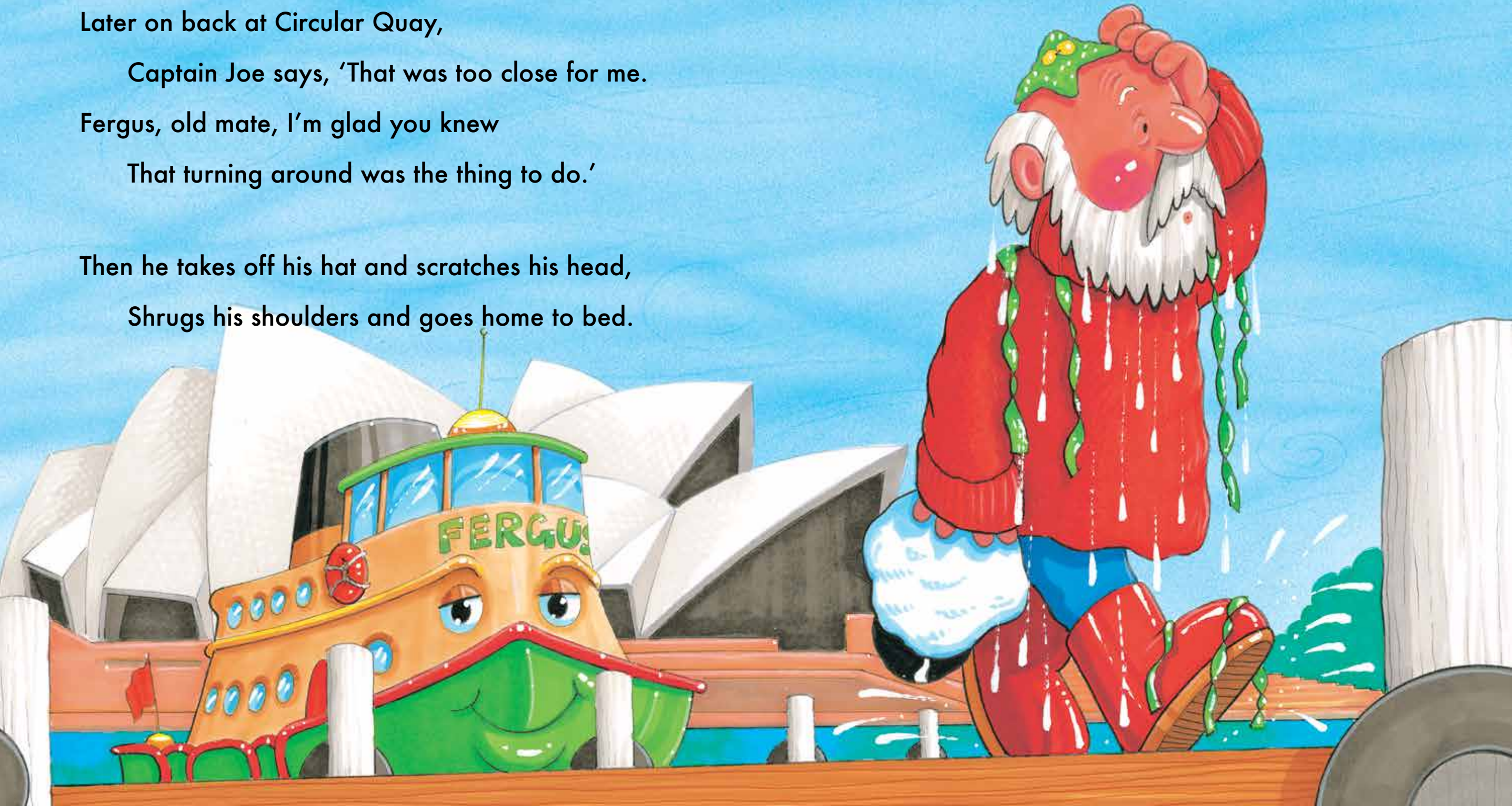
The yachts whoosh past. They've heard the sign

That it's time to pass the starting line.



Later on back at Circular Quay,
Captain Joe says, 'That was too close for me.
Fergus, old mate, I'm glad you knew
That turning around was the thing to do.'

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



For Tom

JWN

For Dhanashri

PT

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