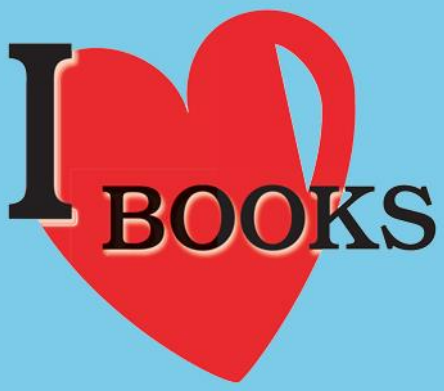


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Opening extract from

Colin the Cart Horse

Written by

Gavin Puckett

Illustrated by

Tor Freeman

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For Nia & Rhys – GP

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COLIN the Cart Horse

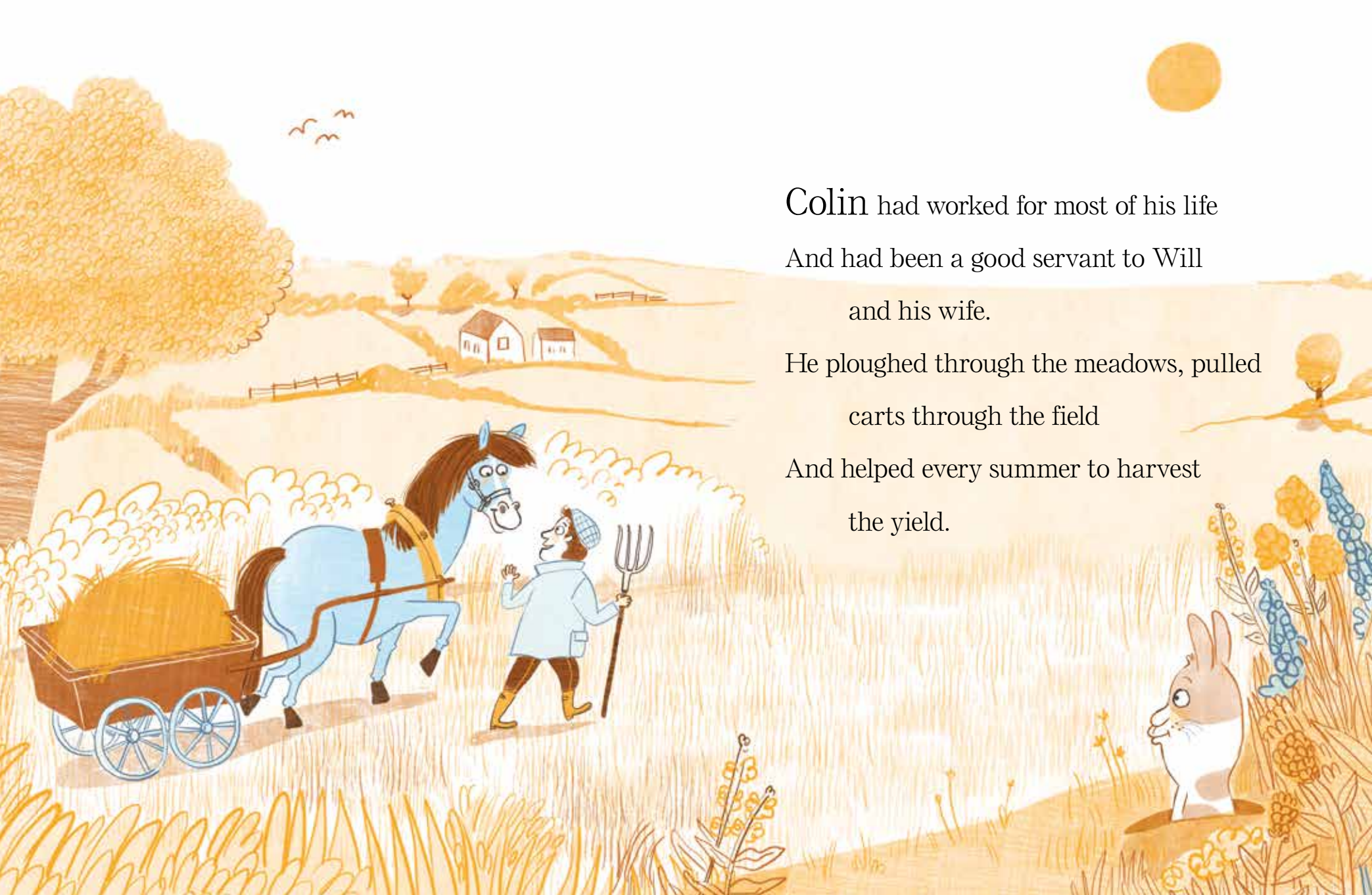
Gavin Puckett
Illustrated by Tor Freeman

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FABER & FABER

Hello young reader . . . !

Thanks for taking the time,
In selecting my book of ridiculous rhyme.
I'm Gavin, (you'll find my full name on the cover)
The teller of tales, which you're soon to discover.
It's taken me years to unearth these strange fables,
By visiting farmyards and hanging round stables
– And this is a series with just a selection, of some of the weirdest in my collection.

They're all about horses – each one of them true,
And it's such a nice privilege to share them with you!
Well, when I say *"True,"* I mean . . . that's what I've heard.
(It's hard to believe, since they're all so **absurd!**)
So, instead of returning this book to the shelf,
Why not read on and decide for yourself?



Colin had worked for most of his life
And had been a good servant to Will
and his wife.
He ploughed through the meadows, pulled
carts through the field
And helped every summer to harvest
the yield.

Will's kids ADORED him and so did their dad –

He was simply the best horse this farm EVER had!

They rode on his cart through the wind, snow and rain,

And they helped clean his stable and groomed Colin's mane.



Colin loved work, it was clear to see,

And he grafted each weekday from seven

'til three.

The farmer was grateful and paid him

each day

With stack-upon-stack of DELICIOUS

fresh hay.

Hay was his favourite, he found it

a treat.

It was ever so soft and remarkably sweet.



At breakfast time,
Colin would
have a quick
MUNCH,





Then pause
around twelve
and have hay
for his lunch.

Then when work had
finished (just
after three),
Colin walked to his
stable and ate
some for tea.



Even for supper, he **LONGED** for a snack,
And grazed on a bale as he lay on his back.



Colin was thankful for all that he had,

He was awfully happy and ever so glad.

But Colin didn't realise that Will had a need,

For giving his horse this particular feed.

The farmer used hay and his horse in

conjunction,

To naturally trigger a bodily function.

This process occurred deep inside

Colin's belly –

Creating a substance quite **squidgy** and

SMELLY.

