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Opening extract from  
**Colin the Cart Horse**

Written by  
**Gavin Puckett**

Illustrated by  
**Tor Freeman**

Published by  
**Faber & Faber**

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For Nia & Rhys – GP

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# COLLIN

## the Cart Horse



**Gavin Puckett**  
Illustrated by **Tor Freeman**

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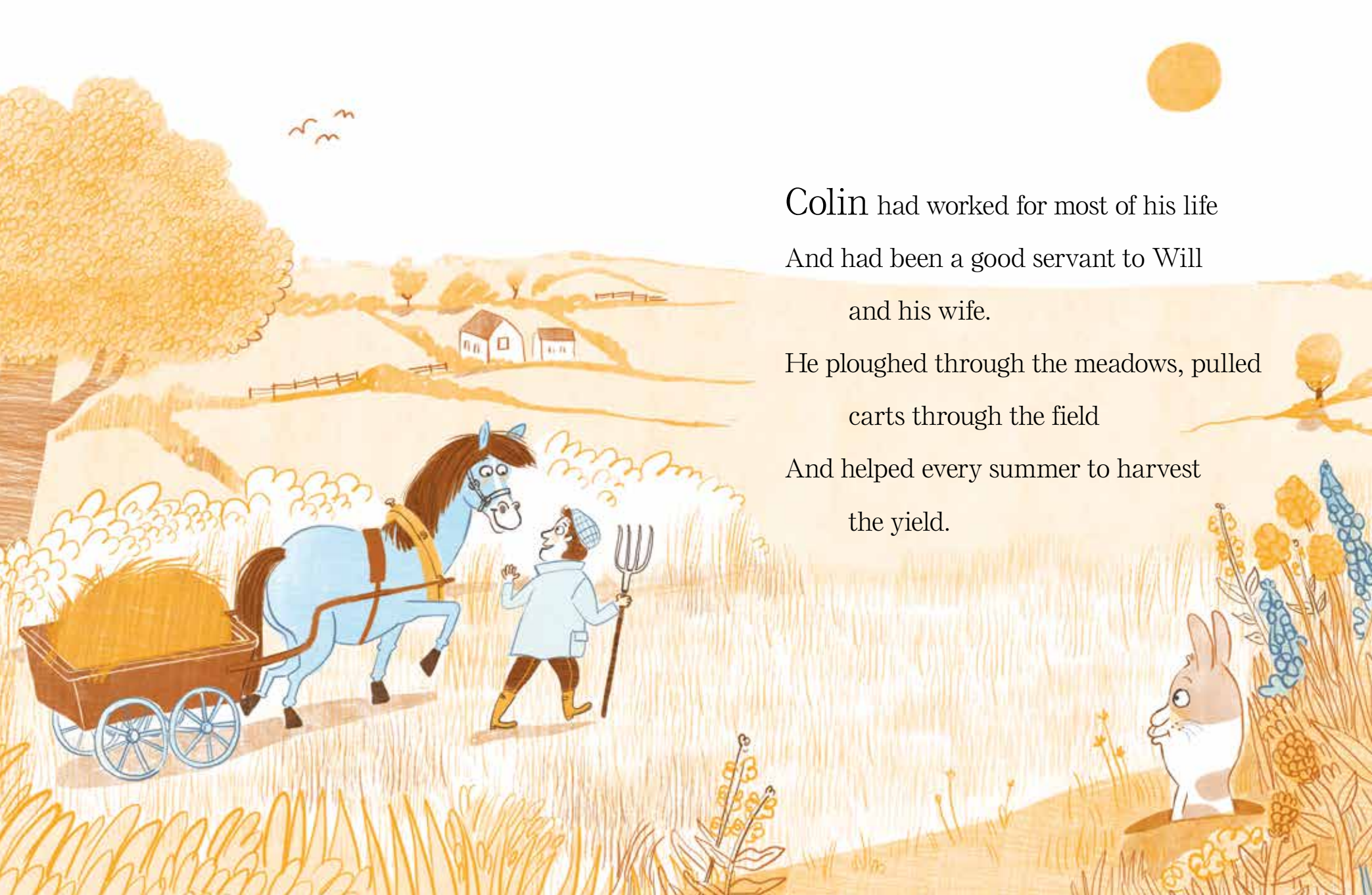
FABER & FABER



## 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.

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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.**

