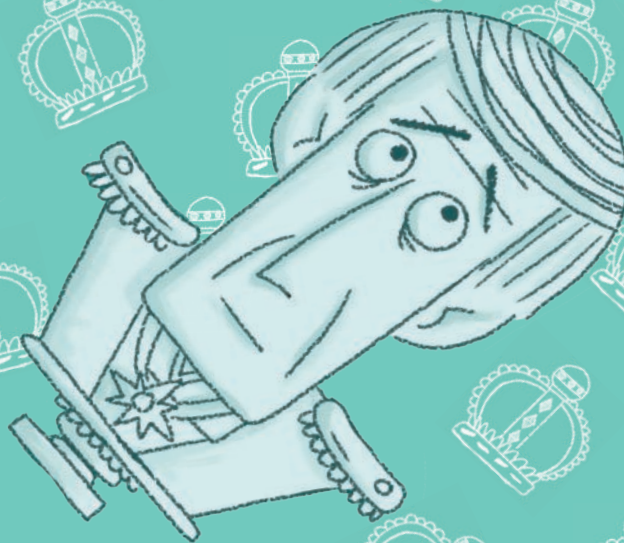




*For Emma, a faithful, affectionate,
and loyal four-legged friend—R.S.*

*For Fran, Finn, Joss
and Nanny Apples—J.S.*



Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
and education by publishing worldwide. Oxford is a registered trade mark of
Oxford University Press in the UK and in certain other countries

Text © Oxford University Press 2023
Illustration © Ian Smith 2023

The moral rights of the author and artist have been asserted

Database right Oxford University Press (maker)

First published 2023

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced,
stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means,
without the prior permission in writing of Oxford University Press,
or as expressly permitted by law, or under terms agreed with the
appropriate reprographics rights organization.
Enquiries concerning reproduction outside the scope
of the above should be sent to the Rights Department,
Oxford University Press, at the address above.

You must not circulate this book in any other binding or cover
and you must impose this same condition on any acquirer
British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available

ISBN: 978-0-19-278858-0

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in China

Paper used in the production of this book is a natural,
recyclable product made from wood grown in sustainable forests.
The manufacturing process conforms to the environmental
regulations of the country of origin

The KING'S Runaway CROWN

A coronation caper



OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

The King's butler was feeling nervous.
So nervous his toes were trembling.

Today was a stupendous
day, an exciting day,
a MOST important day.

Today was the day
of the new King's
coronation.



He was polishing the King's crown, sceptre, and orb.
They had to be extra shiny for the ceremony.
'I hope I do a good job,' he thought.



But he didn't see Colin, the King's dog, hiding under the table.

Before the Butler could say,
'Double-polish, double-shine,'

Colin leapt up to the table ...

... snatched
the crown ...





...and *raced* off
down the corridor.

‘NO!’ cried the butler.
‘Catch Colin, save the crown!’

The palace guards were feeling nervous.
So nervous they were jittering in their jerkins.



They were practising their parading for the coronation.
There was a lot to get right. 'I hope we do a good job,' they thought.

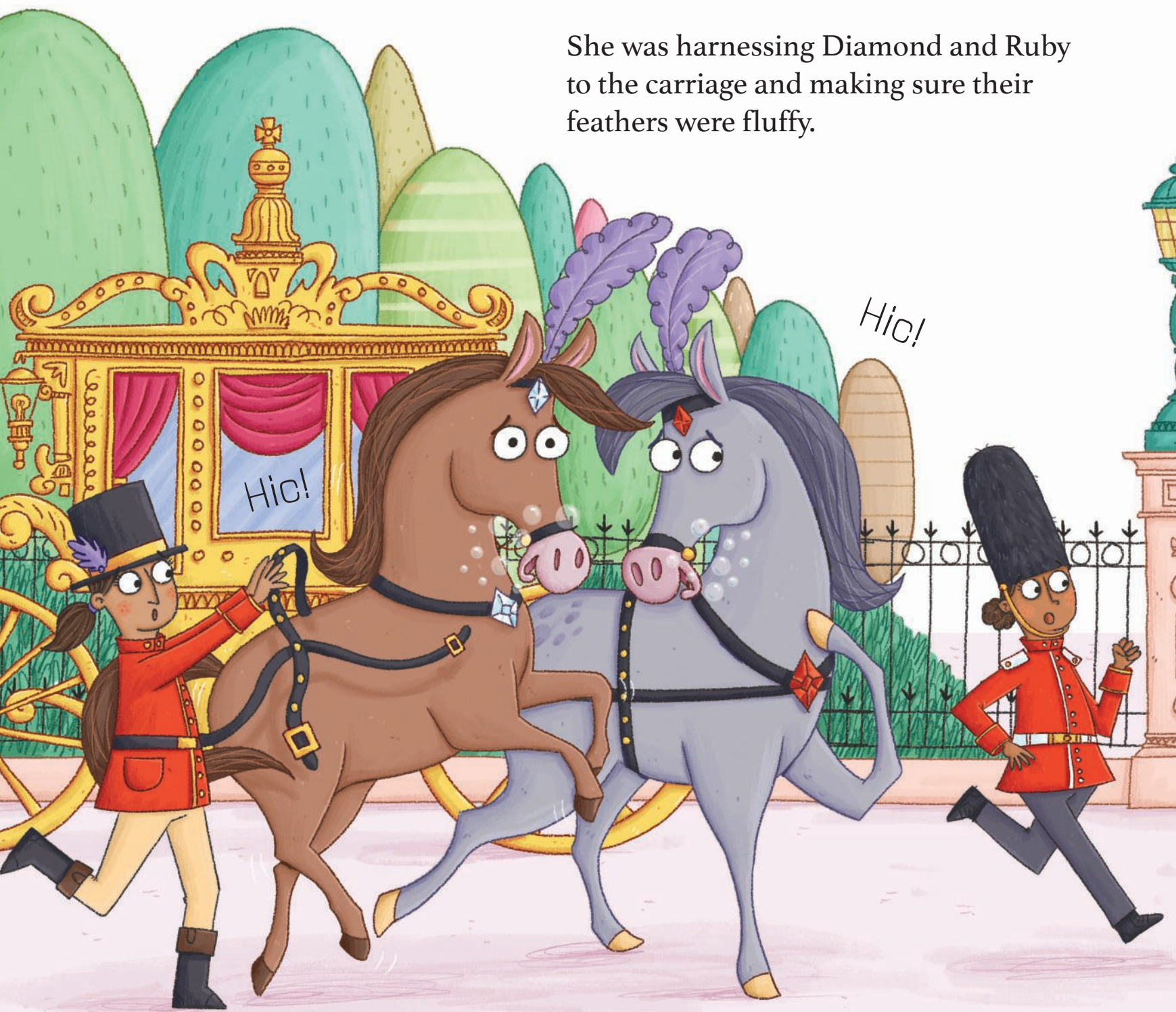
Just then, they saw a dog dash past carrying the crown.
Running behind was the butler.



‘Catch Colin!’ he cried. ‘Save the crown!’

The King's coach driver was feeling nervous.
So nervous her horses were hiccupping
(and she was too).

She was harnessing Diamond and Ruby
to the carriage and making sure their
feathers were fluffy.



'I hope I do a good job,' she thought.
Just then, she saw a dog dash past carrying the crown.



Running behind were the butler and the palace guards.

‘Catch Colin!’ they cried. ‘Save the crown!’