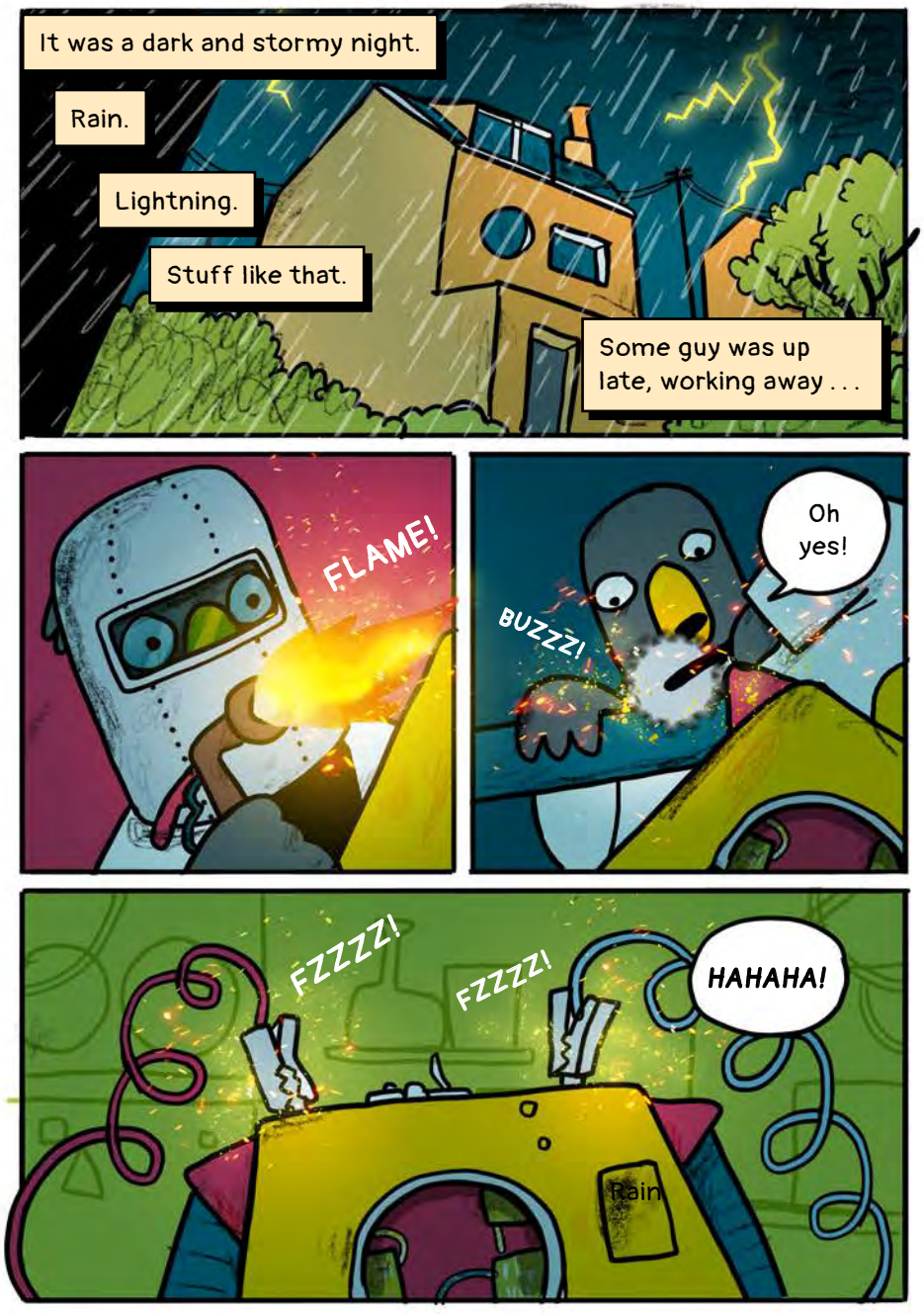


PRESS ANY KEY

TO CONTINUE


It was a dark and stormy night.
Rain.
Lightning.
Stuff like that.
Some guy was up late, working away . . .
FLAME!
BUZZZ!
Oh yes!
FZZZZ!
FZZZZ!
HAHAHA!
Rain


Okay, the moment of truth!
CLICK!
Power . . . ON!
BUZZZ!
FZZZ!
HUM!
YES!
It's ALIVE!!!
RISE, MY PRETTY!
BZZZZZT!
CRACK!
PHUT!
COLLAPSE!
Oh.
Bum.

FOR DAD

WORDS AND PICTURES JACK NOEL
EDITORIAL RUTH BENNETT / AIMEE WHITE
DESIGN JENNY RICHARDS PROOFREADER TAYLA BAKER
AGENT CLAIRE WILSON
SPECIAL THANKS CHARLOTTE KNIGHT

EARLY READERS ALFIE • ANA • ANJAN • CAMERON
DION • ELIAS • FINLEY • FRANK • GABBY • GABI
JZ • LOU • MADDY • NOAH • RAFFY • TOSHI

This edition published in 2025 by
PICCADILLY PRESS
4th Floor, Victoria House, Bloomsbury Square,
London WC1B 4DA

Owned by Bonnier Books
Sveavägen 56, Stockholm, Sweden

bonnierbooks.co.uk/PiccadillyPress

Copyright © Jack Noel, 2025

All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

The right of Jack Noel to be identified as author and illustrator of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

This is a work of fiction. Names, places, events and incidents are either the products of the author's imagination or used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN: 978-1-80078-828-2

1

Typeset by Jack Noel

Printed and bound in China at Toppan Leefung

MIX
Paper | Supporting responsible forestry
FSC® C104723
www.fsc.org

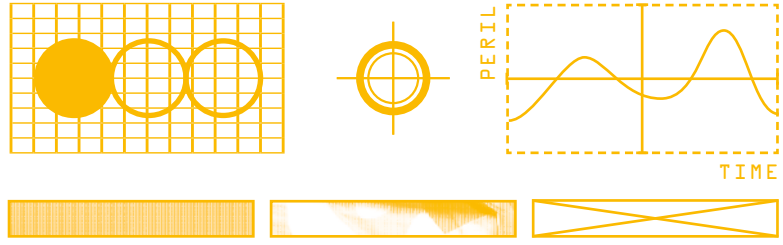
Piccadilly Press is an imprint of Bonnier Books UK

bonnierbooks.co.uk

142MM

(/DB1_TITLE_FINALFINALV3.PSD)

DADBOT





FILE UNDER: MG GN SCI-FI FAM-DRAM

JACK NOEL — AUTHOR NAME

PUBLISHER LOGO

(BOOK TECHNICAL SPECS_)
ISBN: 9781800788282
PAGES: 176
PANELS: 853
WORDS: 7348

(AUTHOR TECHNICAL SPECS_)
AGE (MONTHS): 485
WAIST (MM): 812
TOP SPEED (KM/H): 12
HOBNOBS: >1300

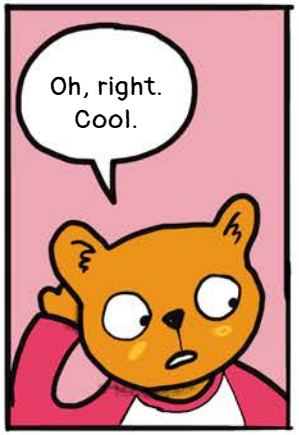
211MM

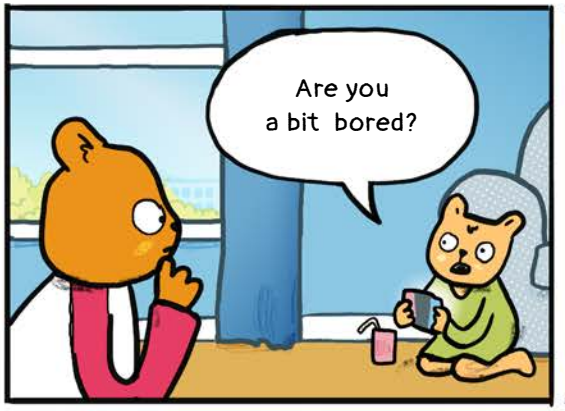
CHAPTER #001

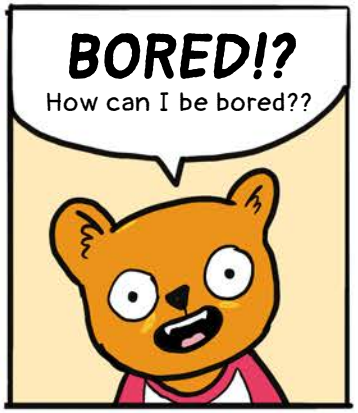
NOT NOW, KIDS!



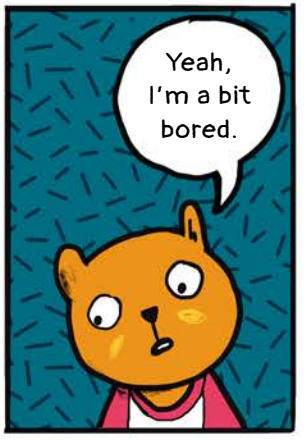




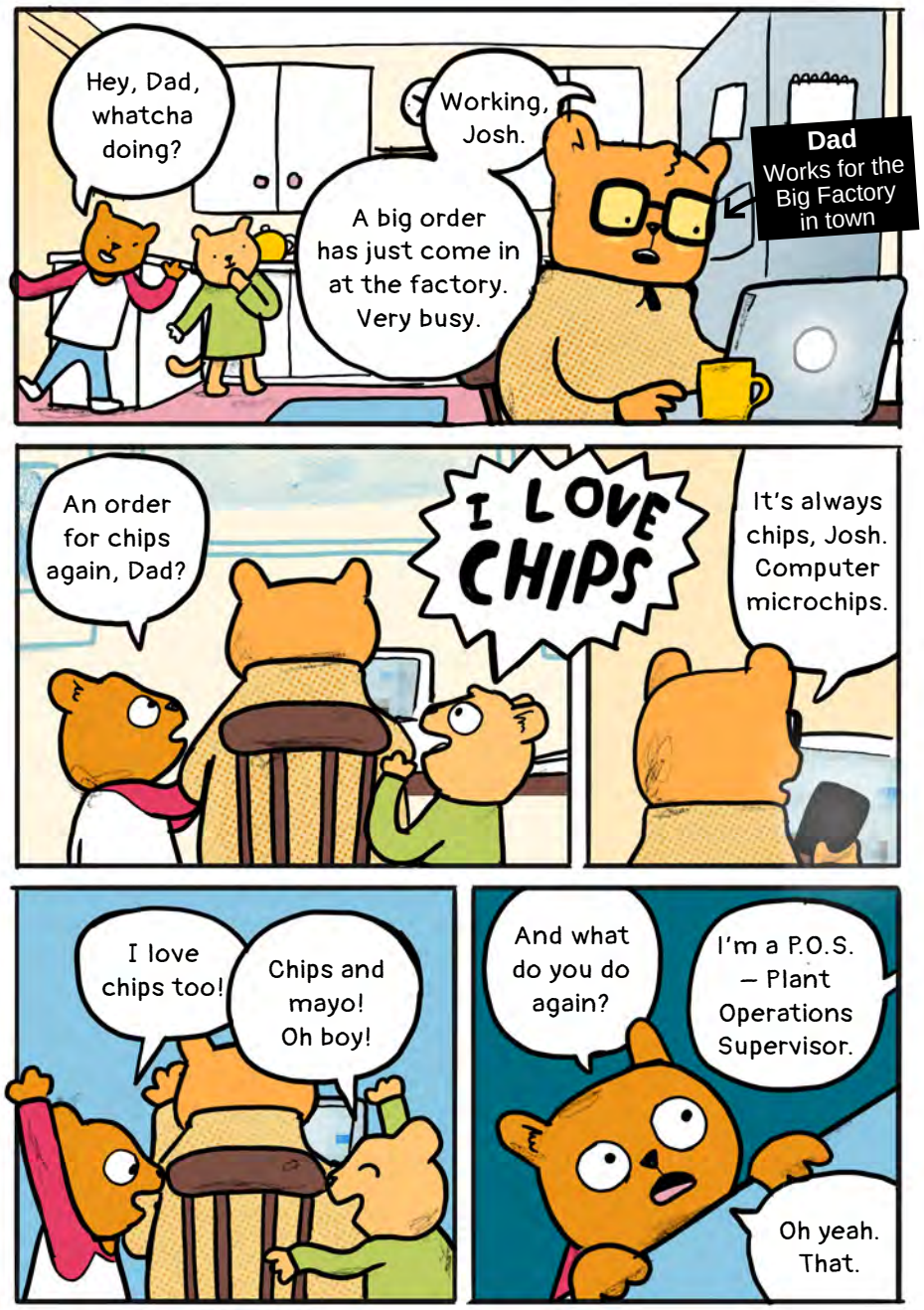






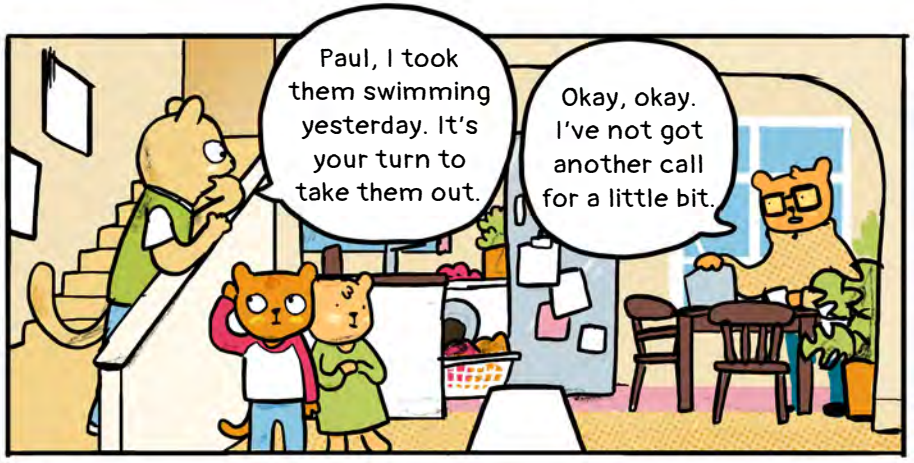


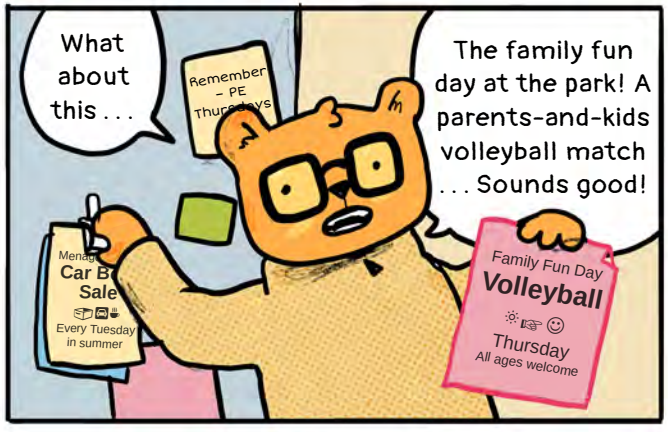

Wanna do something?
Sure! What are Mum and Dad doing?
They're working.
Like always!
Working from home, at least!
Yeah!
DAAAAAD!?
Yes, Josh??
Come down if you want to speak to me.
He's probably gonna say they're too busy to take us out . . .
Yeah, they're ALWAYS too busy!


Hey, Dad, whatcha doing?
Working, Josh.
A big order has just come in at the factory. Very busy.
Dad
Works for the Big Factory in town
An order for chips again, Dad?
I LOVE CHIPS
It's always chips, Josh. Computer microchips.
I love chips too!
Chips and mayo! Oh boy!
And what do you do again?
I'm a P.O.S. – Plant Operations Supervisor.
Oh yeah. That.


What type of plants, Dad?
Not now, guys.
Yeah, is it flowers and stuff?
Sorry, I'm about to go on a call. Go talk to your mum.
Sue (boss)
Sue, hi!
Hey, Mum, whatcha doing?
Mum
Designs T-shirts and stuff
Oh, hey, Josh. Hey, Daise.
I thought of a new funny T-shirt idea, Mum. How about 'It's Chips O'Clock'?
Mm-hmm.
I was thinking about chips because of Dad's job.
Mm-hmm.


But that's computer chips or whatever. But then we were talking about chips.
What's your favourite type of chip, Mum?
I like French fries!
Ooh la la!
Not now, guys. I've got to finish something. Can you go talk to Dad?
He said to talk to you!
Did he, now?
PAUL!?
Yeah?


Paul, I took them swimming yesterday. It's your turn to take them out.
Okay, okay. I've not got another call for a little bit.


What about this . . .
Remember – PE Thursdays
Menag
Car B
Sale
Every Tuesday in summer
The family fun day at the park! A parents-and-kids volleyball match . . . Sounds good!
Family Fun Day
Volleyball
Thursday
All ages welcome


Today's Tuesday, Paul. Just take them to buy milk or something.


Tuesday? Okay, not to worry – I'll take them to this. The CAR BOOT SALE!
Menagerie Park
Car Boot Sale
Every Tuesday in summer


Hmmm . . . The forecast says there's a storm coming. Not great for a boot sale!
Can you just do something normal, like get milk?
A car boot sale IS normal!


Kids, get ready! We're going out.
Yes!!! We love car boot sales!

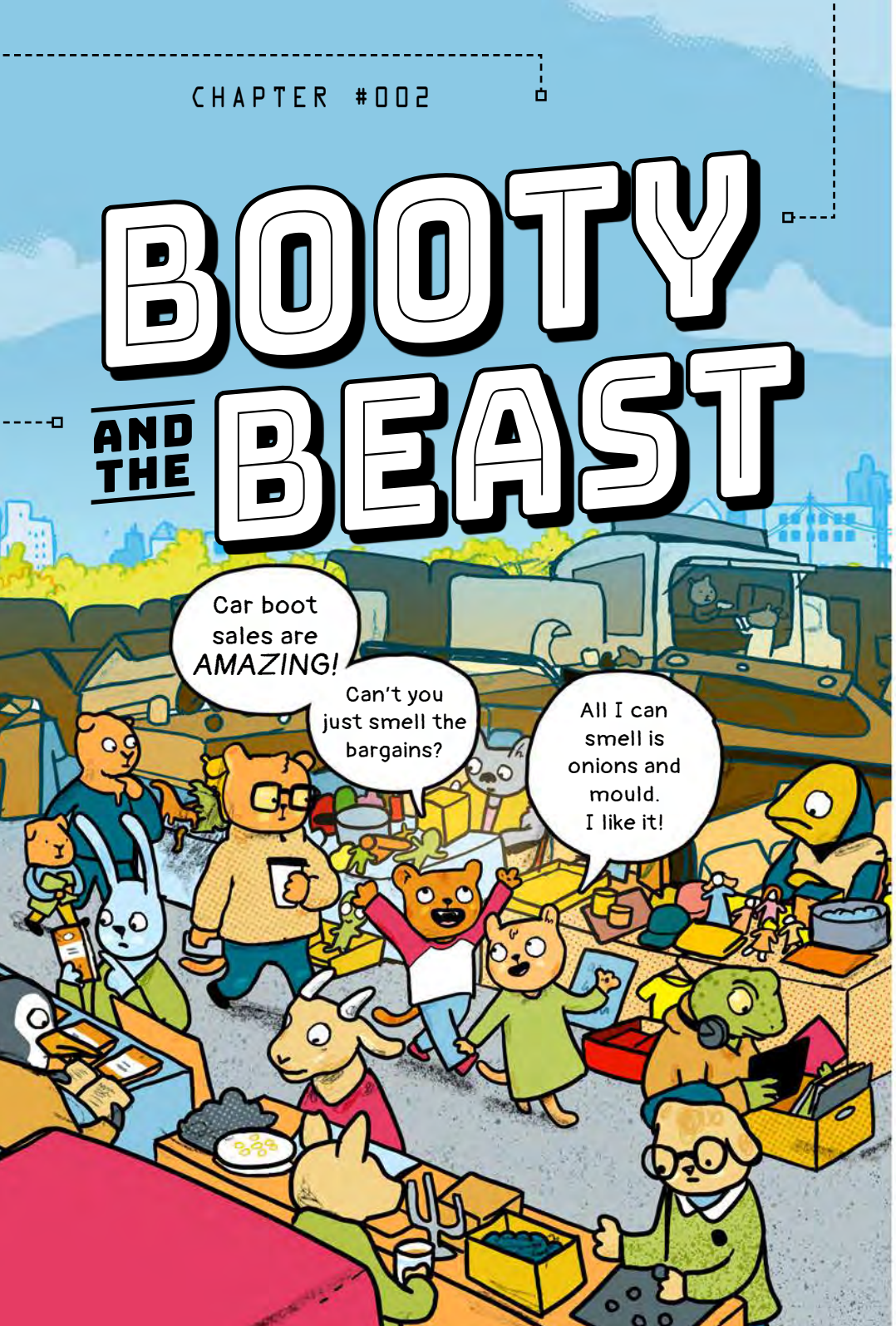

I'll just make a quick coff-coff . . . and then let's go.

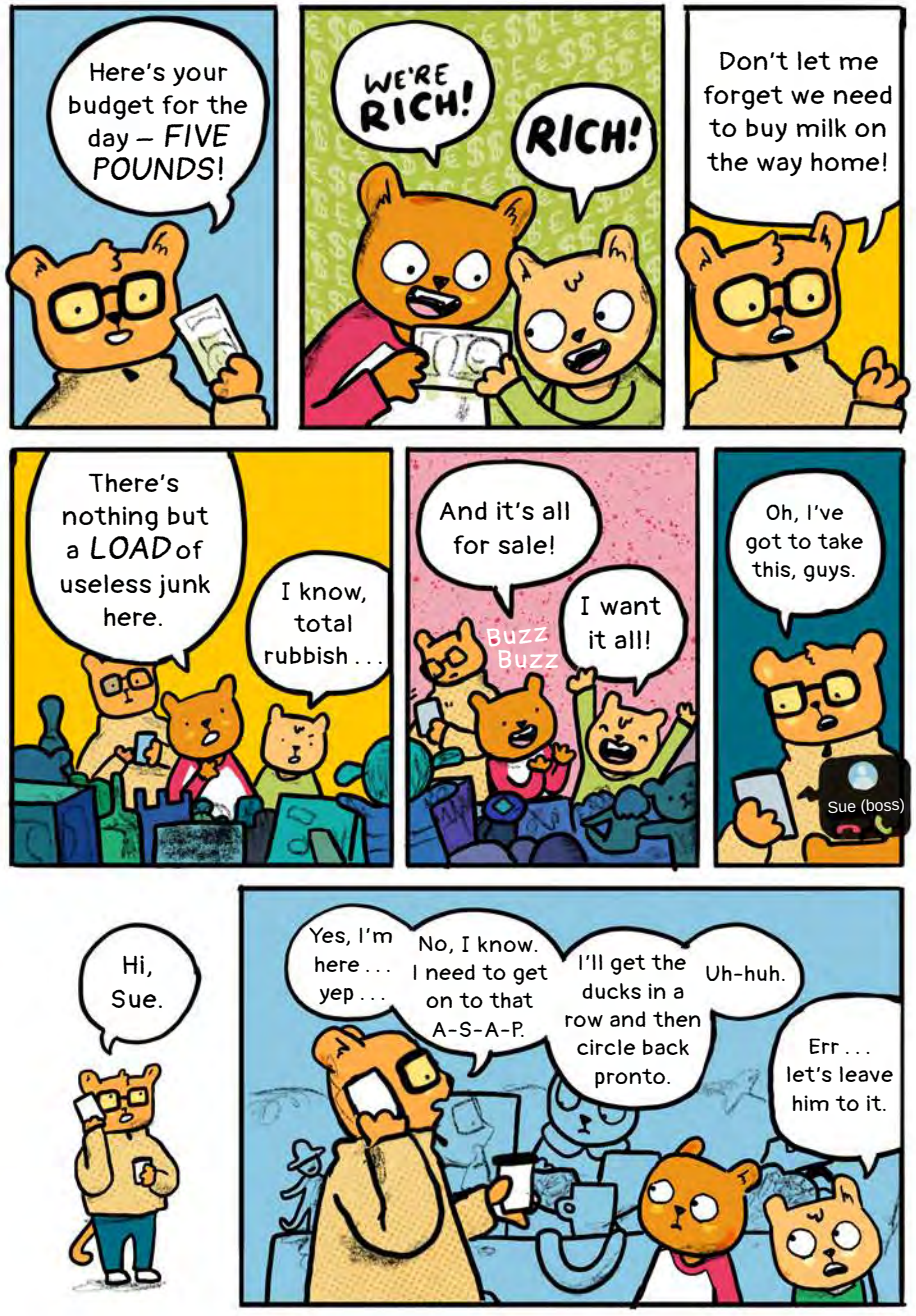

Just keep an eye on the kids. And take this umbrella. And DO get milk.
But it never rains in summer. We'll be fine!
Let's go, kids!


Now remember, guys, I'm still technically at work.
If my boss calls, PLEASE let me take the call in peace!
Got it, Dad.

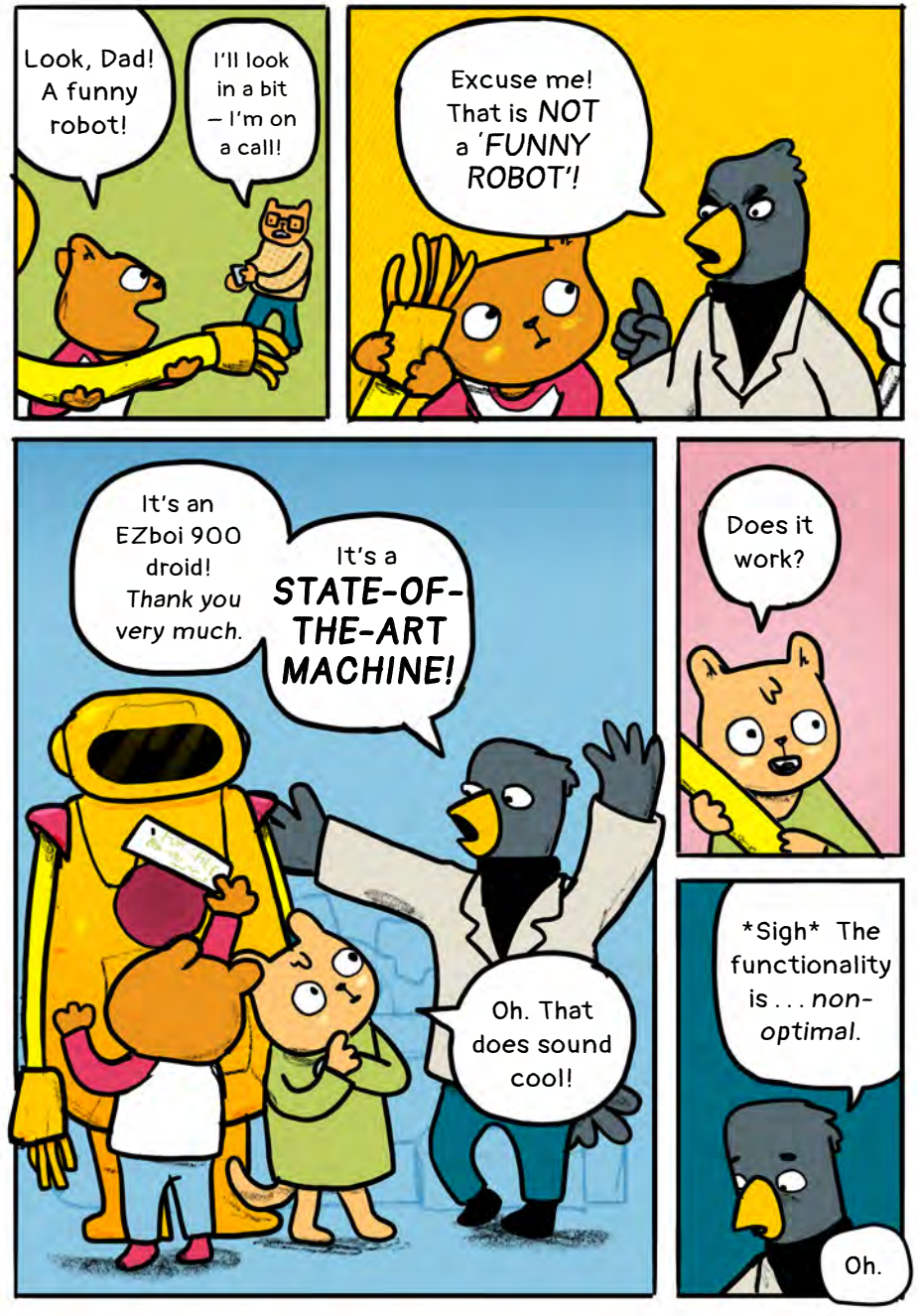
CHAPTER #002

BOOTY AND THE BEAST






Holy moly, there's some good stuff here!
Look – a kite!
I'm Ben Franklin!
I don't know who that is!
Look at this!
I'm a pirate!
Arr! Imma download a movie!
A fishing rod!
I'm Angler Merkel!
Who?!?
Oooh, Daisy, what about this?
Ooh, yeah! A robot!
That is quite cool!
Humph.
FAMOUS INVENTOR
FAMOUS INVENTOR


Look, Dad! A funny robot!
I'll look in a bit – I'm on a call!
Excuse me! That is NOT a 'FUNNY ROBOT'!
It's an EZboi 900 droid! Thank you very much.
It's a STATE-OF-THE-ART MACHINE!
Oh. That does sound cool!
Does it work?
Sigh The functionality is . . . non-optimal.
Oh.