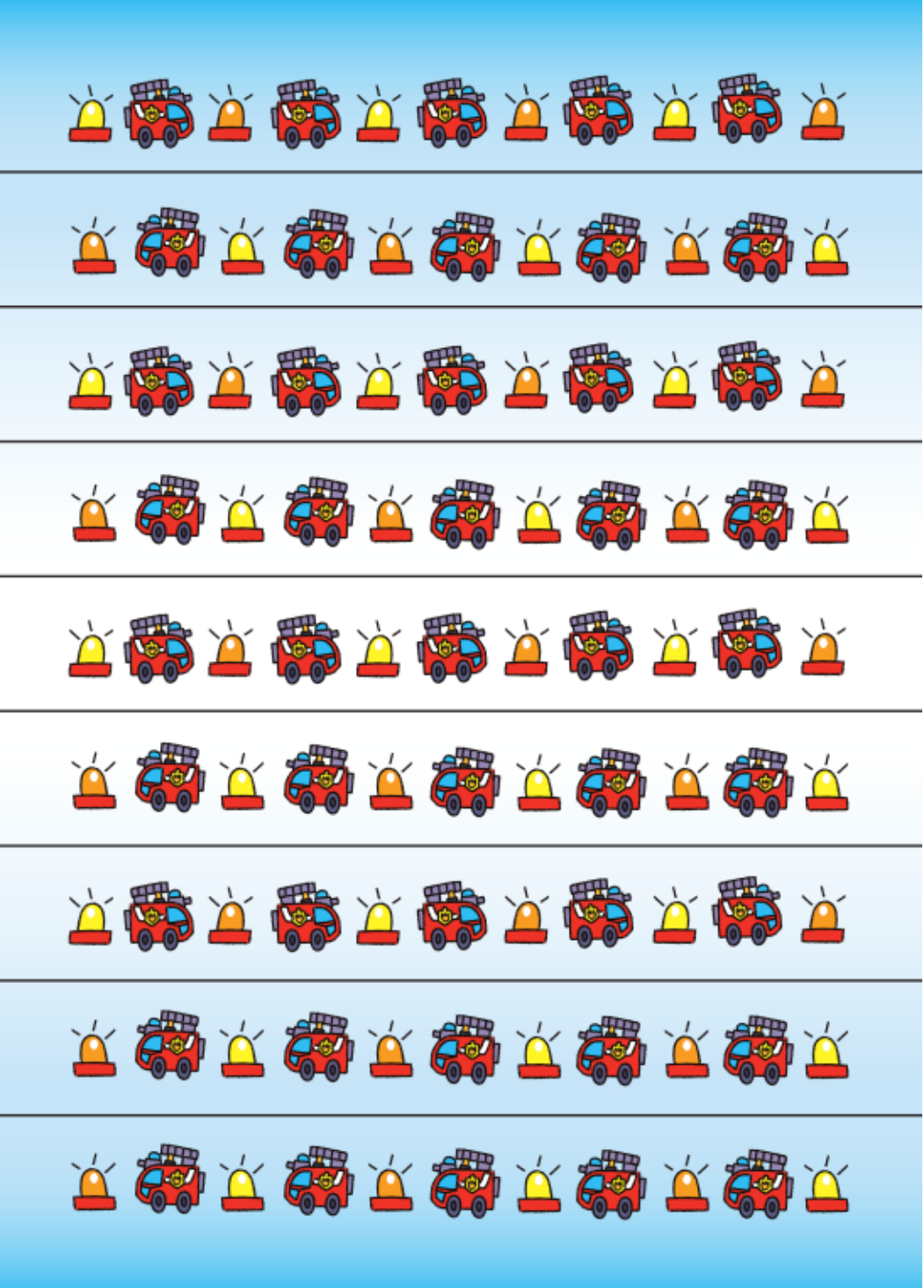




To Jen – for reading all my sister post! – T.C.

For Sam, who's my magical superhero – S.W.

(With special thanks to Perranporth Community Fire Station, Freddie Martin and Remy Whiting)

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Set in 14/18.5pt Ysabeau Infant by Amy Cooper

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MEET THE UNICORNS



Blaze

Firefighter

MEET THE VEHICLES



Quench

The Flamequencher



Pat

The Patroller

UNICORN RAP!

The Unicorns in Uniforms would like to welcome you
to Sunshine Realm, their special home.
Come on and meet the crew!
These unicorns save creatures' lives –
they love the job they do.
But before we start the story,
let's discover WHO is WHO!

Well . . .





First, there's Blaze and Quench – they're the firefighting team.
Blaze is fair but fiery, and she likes to let off steam.
She's a very loyal protector, whereas Quench just likes to play.
I'd watch out for his mischief – if his hose is on, he'll SPRAY!



Then, there's Sergeant Locke who has a cool police car, Pat.
He's a snorer and a baker and he doesn't like to chat.
His heart is made of gold, although he's SUPER strict on rules.
Because Locke's the one in charge and he has no time for fools . . .





bakery's dog, stuck on the roof by shooting him into the air on a fountain of water. He'd created so many muddy puddles, the bakery was now surrounded by ducks.

"Is that your idea of an apology?" tutted Blaze, as she drove Quench into his parking bay.

Quench blew a raspberry and Blaze's grumpy scowl broke into a smile. As annoying as her emergency vehicle was, there was no way she would be without him. She liked his spirit too much.

Blaze turned the radio back up to full volume, grabbed a bucket and sponge and scrubbed at Quench's flame red bodywork until it was spotless. The fire engine showed his disapproval at being

Blaze loved spicy food, even though the other unicorns joked that it inflamed her temper.

Blaze clip-clopped upstairs to the unicorns' living quarters and into the cluttered and messy dormitory she shared with Sunny, Locke and Dash. Hanging off her top bunk was a clean, blue firefighting uniform that had the Unicorns in Uniforms logo embroidered on the jacket pocket and yellow high-vis stripes sewn across the body. Blaze smiled. The Sunshine Realm, with its mishmash of fantasy creatures and animals, really was a beautiful place and she was proud to be one of the emergency workers who kept everyone happy, safe and protected.

Then came a giggle and the scrabbling of claws.

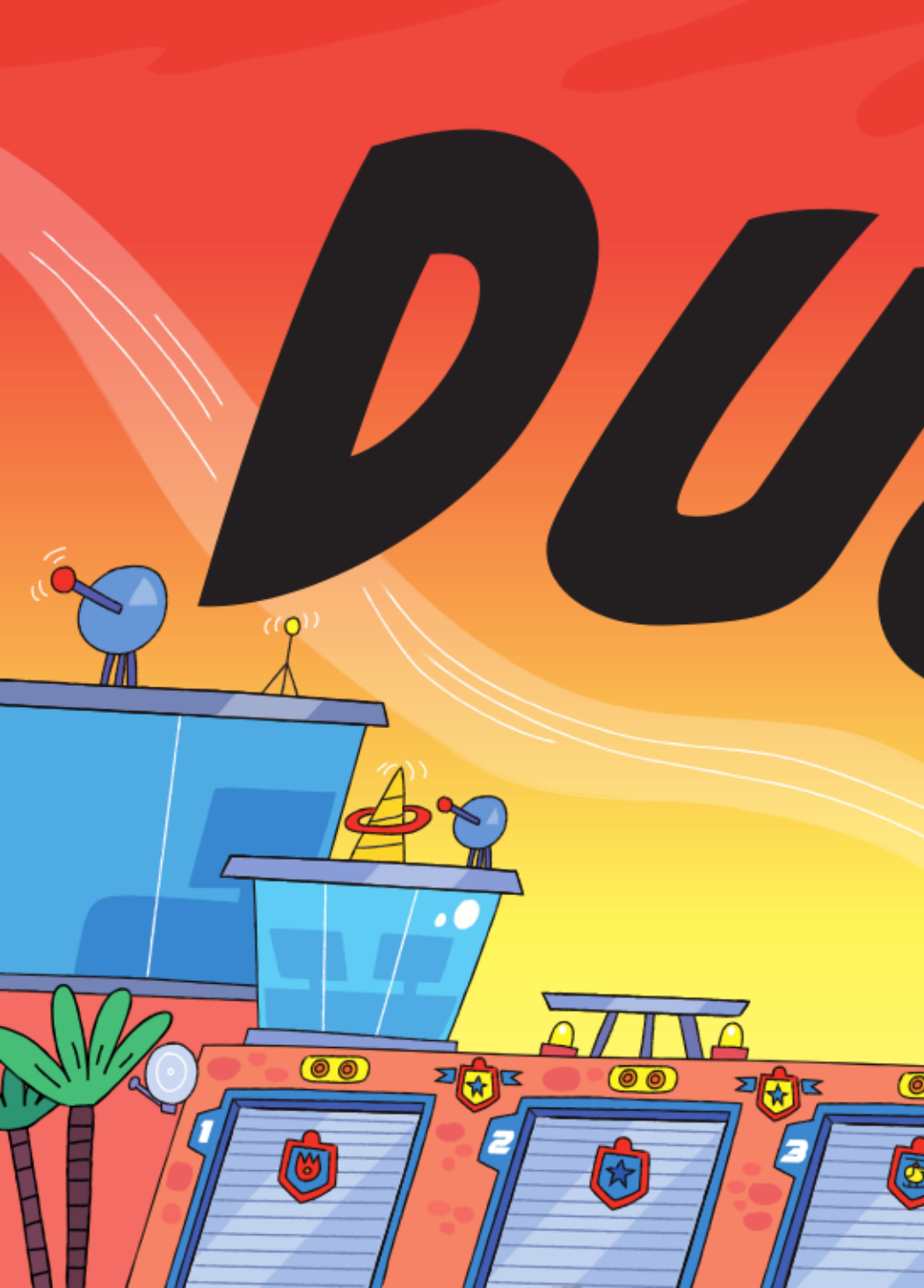
Red dots of fury danced in Blaze's eyes as she dashed into the bathroom, stuck her head in the sink and turned on the cold tap to extinguish any lingering sparks. After all the safety talks she'd given throughout the realm, someone was playing with fire on the roof of their emergency headquarters!

With her soaking wet mane dripping water in her eyes, Blaze raced outside and looked up. More giggling sounded from the rooftop of the cubed building, followed by a flash of silver.

"Who's there? Come down at once!" Blaze demanded.



A bright trail of fire whooshed across the sky as *two* large, winged beasts, shadowy in the sun, launched themselves off the roof of the headquarters and dived


1
2
3



2 The Fun Police

With a playful roar, a smattering of sparks and a huge rush of air, the shadows zoomed straight over Blaze's head, promptly knocking her into Aquarius' rockpool.

"***Agggh!***" The water was freezing! Thankfully, as she kicked out, Blaze could feel Aquarius pushing her back up to the surface.

Snorting in fury, Blaze struggled out of the pool and squinted into the sunlight. Swooping and somersaulting through the

sky were two young dragons from Dragon Desert. The firefighter recognised them instantly. Flare, with his green and blue scales and gold-tipped leathery wings, was the youngest son of the Kindling family – bold and boisterous and often in trouble. The other dragon was his friend, Glimmer. She was slightly smaller with purple, silver-flecked scales and a bright pink ridge down her back.

"Just what do you think you're doing?" shouted Blaze, sparks practically shooting out of her own nostrils as the dragons dive-bombed again. This time, their trail of flames singed the top of her ears.

"***Get down here this instant!***"

"Two careless young dragons on the loose is a recipe for disaster. You know that!" She turned to glare at the youngsters, who were watching her nervously. Their wings were pressed flat against their bodies and their tails drooped.

"***GO. HOME. THIS. INSTANT!***" she ordered, waving her hoof. "Before I call your parents."

Glimmer whimpered.

"We didn't mean any harm," sniffed Flare.

Blaze softened.

"That's all very well," she said, in a gentler tone. "But at your age, you haven't yet mastered full control of your fire-breathing. Just a few stray sparks could cause a lot of damage. Promise me you'll

Blaze's eyes widened in horror as the sizzling sparks drifted dangerously close to the Mane Control Room. Thankfully, before they could settle, Aquarius shot a stream of water out of her blowhole and extinguished them.

"Those mischievous monsters didn't listen to a word I said," cried Blaze in outrage.

"OK, OK, keep your mane on, Blaze," joked Aquarius. "The only thing that's caught fire is your temper. Let's try some deep breaths and then count to ten, shall we?"

Blaze's muscles tensed. The other unicorns were always trying to get her to control her temper. Sunny kept booking

"It's Sunny calling!" said Blaze, her heart filling with dread. Sunny and his alicopter, Bee, were the Unicorns in Uniforms' air and mountain rescue team and they spent most of their time patrolling the skies over The Sunshine Realm. Had they spotted Flare and Glimmer?

"Blaze?" Sunny's voice was shaky. "You need to get to Witchy Wood pronto. Two young dragons just flew out of nowhere and collided straight into us. They've fallen into the wood and . . .

the trees have caught fire!"