



Ahlberg & Amstutz



Master Track's Train



A favourite **HAPPY FAMILIES** story

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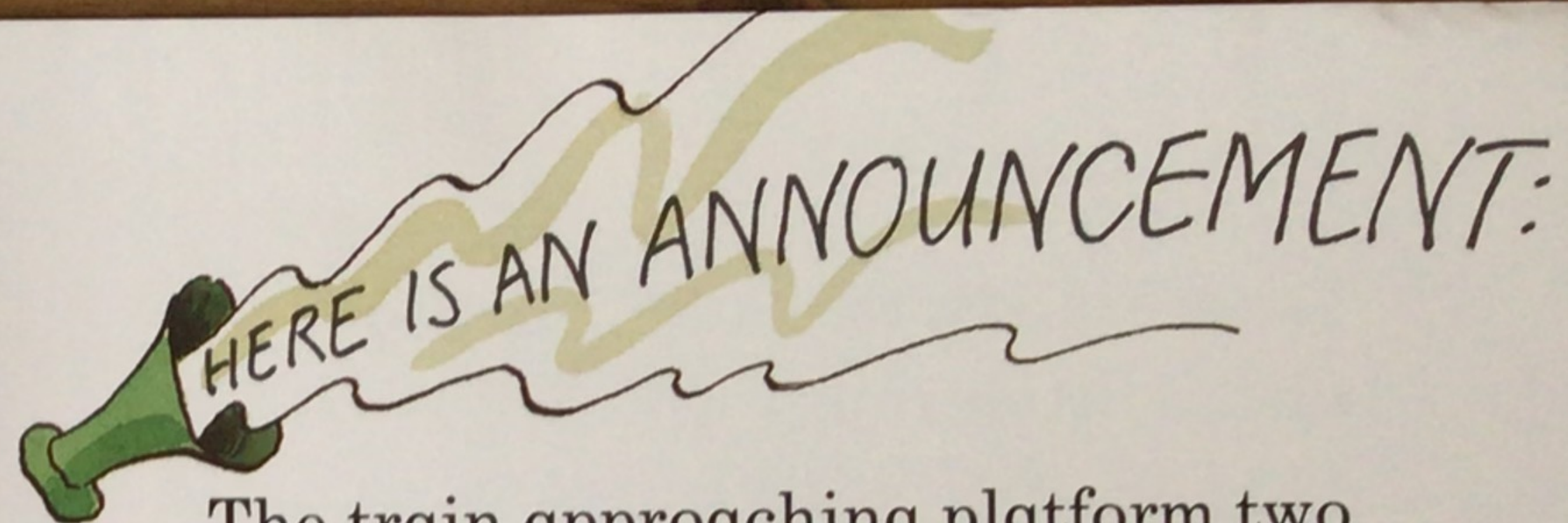
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The train approaching platform two
is full of stolen goods,
crowded with crooks
and a day and a half late.

British Rail are sorry for the delay.



How could this happen? you ask.
Well, listen and I'll tell you . . .
all about it.

The story began many years ago,
with a little train,
a big driver,
a big driver's wife,
an empty platform
and a handbag.



A handbag?



Yes - a handbag.

Mr Track (he was the driver)
picked up the bag.
Mrs Track (she was the driver's wife)
peeped inside.
And what did they find?



A baby.



Mr and Mrs Track took the baby to the Lost Property Office. When no one claimed him, they took him home to live with them.



"We will call him . . . Toby," they said. And they did.



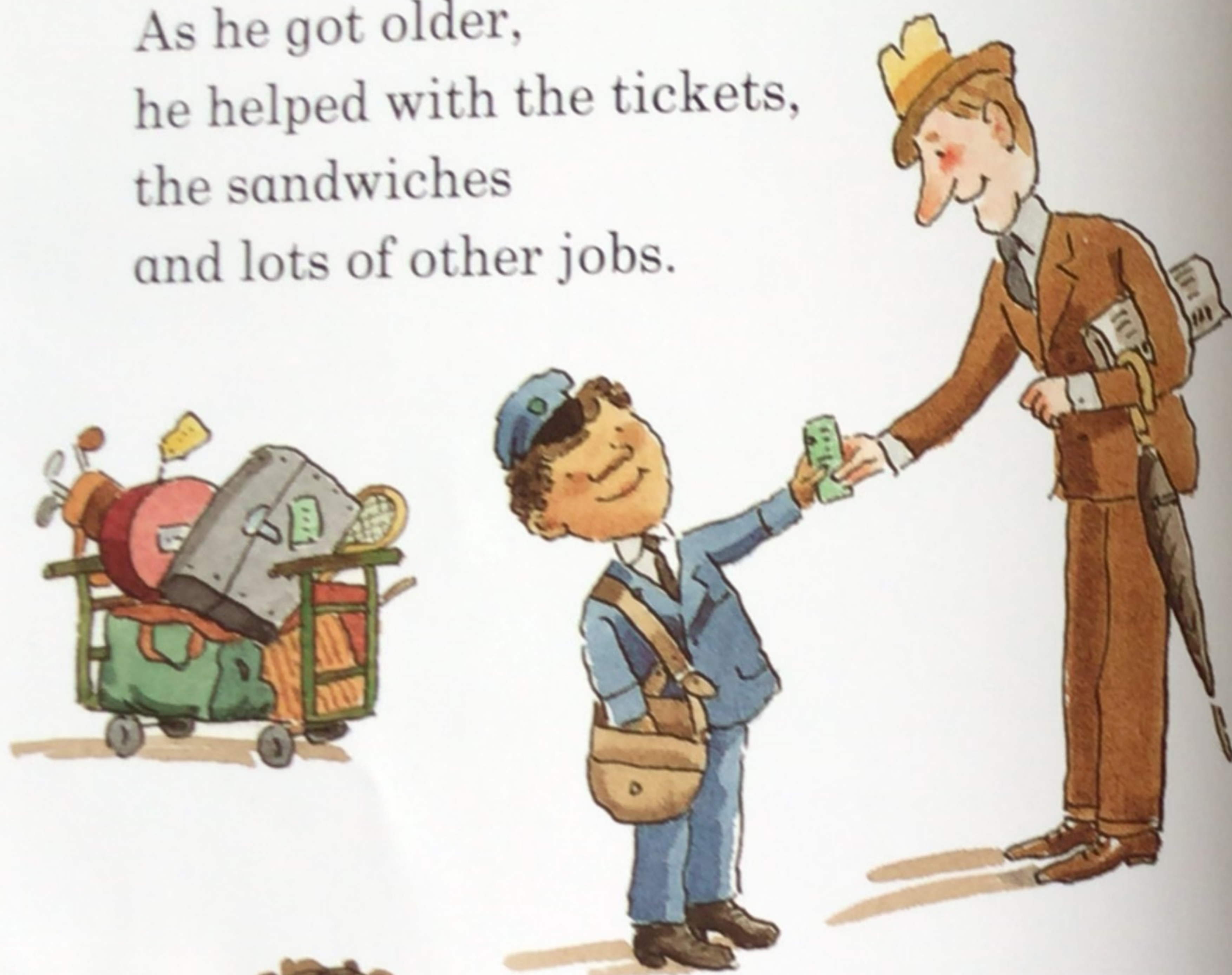
Toby Track was a good baby,
a good toddler
(well, nearly),
a good little boy
and a good big boy.



He went everywhere
with his mum and dad.



As he got older,
he helped with the tickets,
the sandwiches
and lots of other jobs.



Then, one morning,
just two days ago,
a terrible thing happened.



Mr and Mrs Track woke up to find that Toby's bed was empty and the train had gone.



I can't bear it!

HELP!



Help! you say.
How could this happen?
Well, listen . . .
and you'll hear.

Toby Track had woken in the night to find:



a shining torch,



a whispering voice,

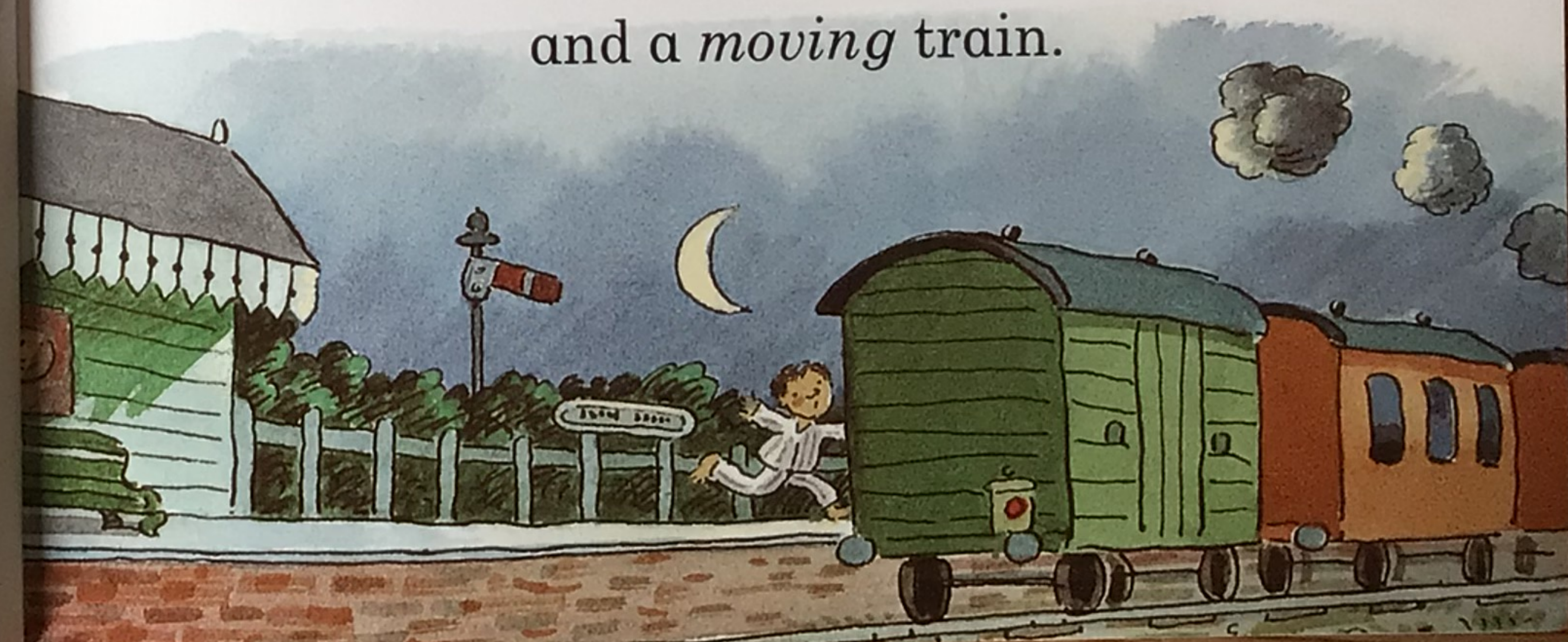


a grabbing hand,



running feet

and a *moving* train.



The *stolen* train puffed off
into the night.

On board, a *family* of crooks:



bad dad,



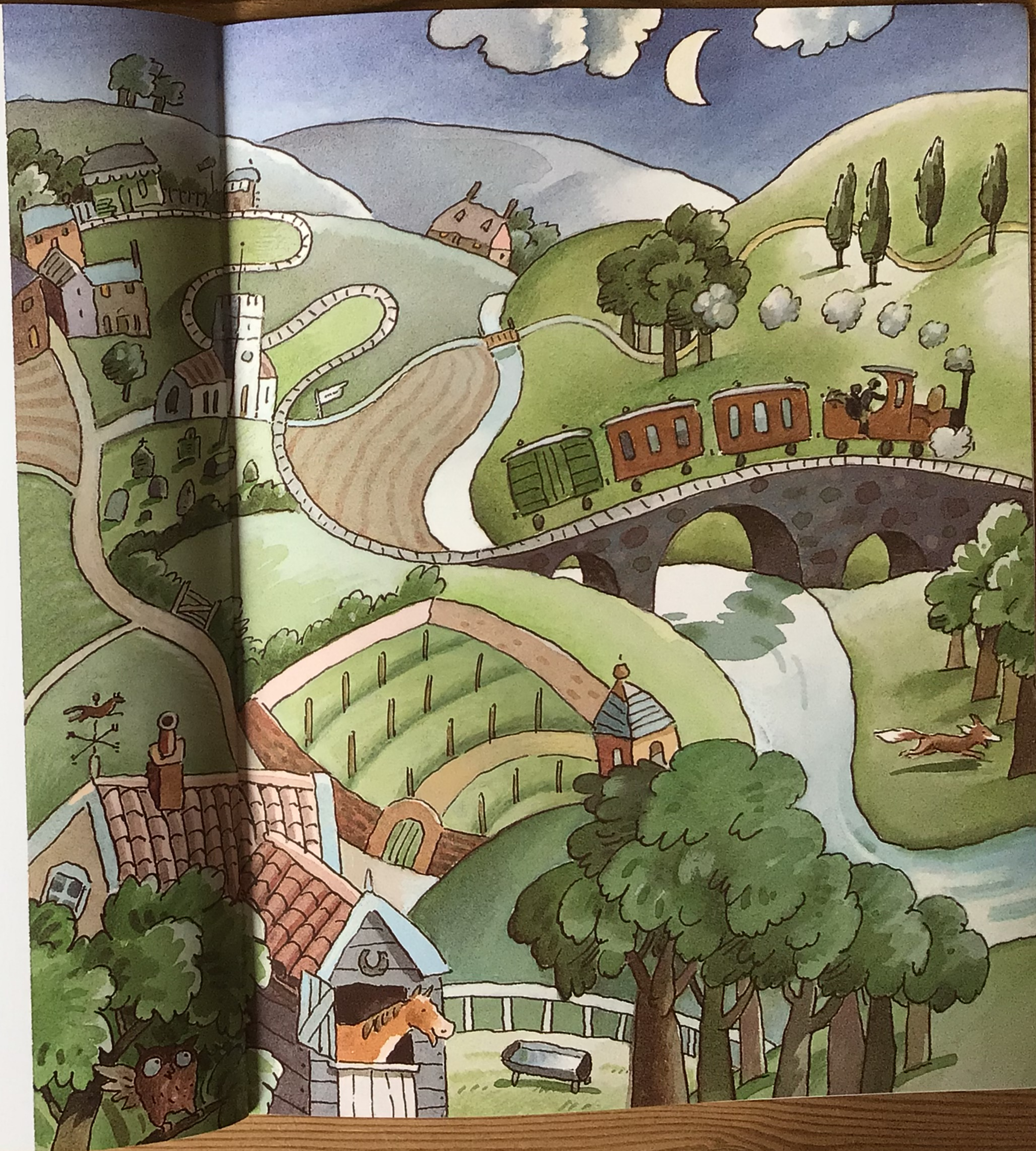
bad mum,



two bad children
and a bad dog.



Their name was CREEP!



The train puffed on.
It stopped
and started
and stopped
and started.



The Creeps were stealing
as they went along:
anything and everything,
this – that – and the other.



They worked all night.
When morning came they hid . . .

in a tunnel.



The Creeps sat in the guard's van and ate their stolen breakfasts.



Then, worn out and pleased with themselves, they fell asleep.



Out crept Toby Track.

How did he get in there?

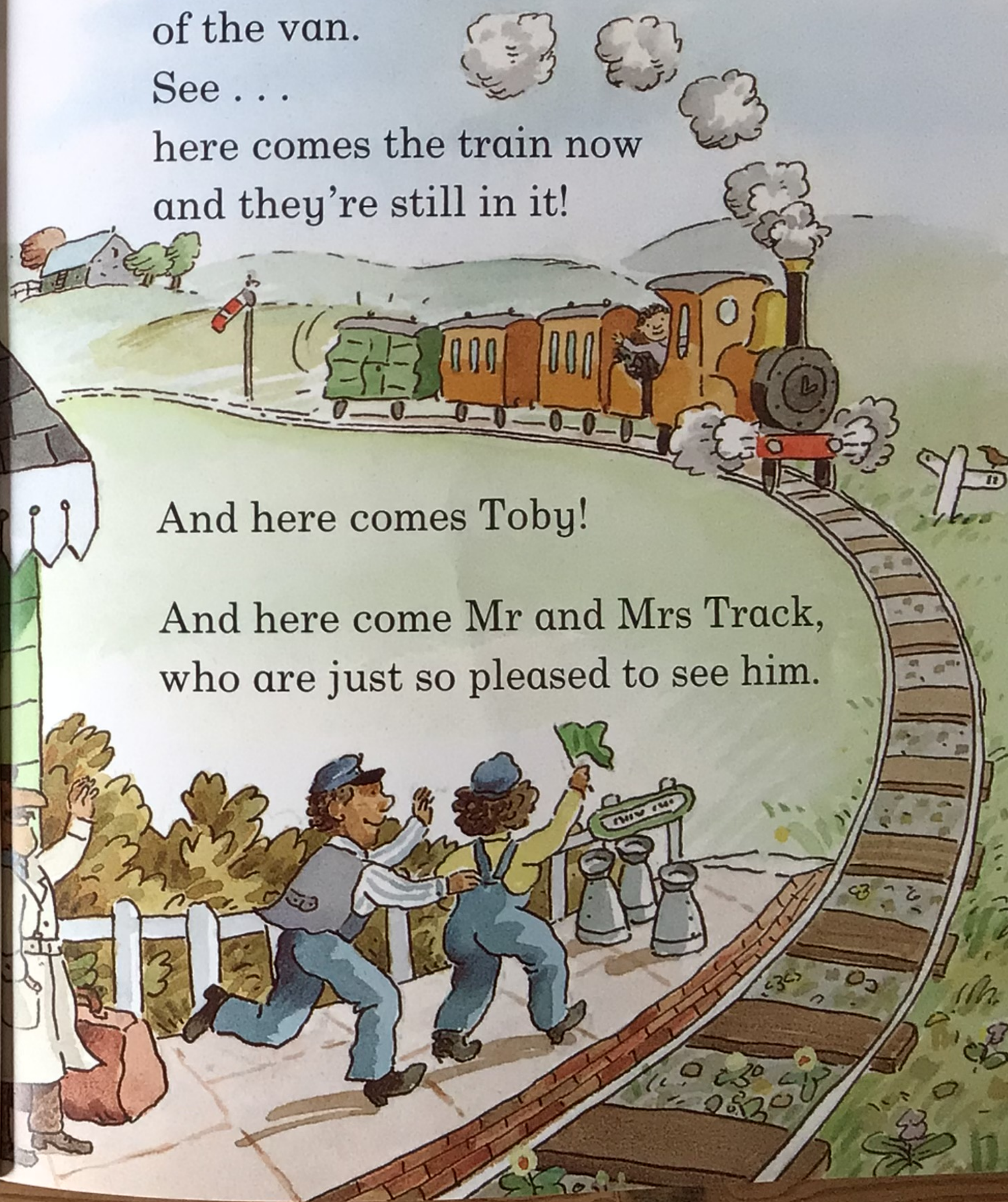


HE HID IN A TRUNK!

Yes, out crept Toby.
He knew how to lock the guard's van,
so he locked it.
He knew how to drive the train,
so he drove it.
He didn't know his way home,
so he got lost . . .

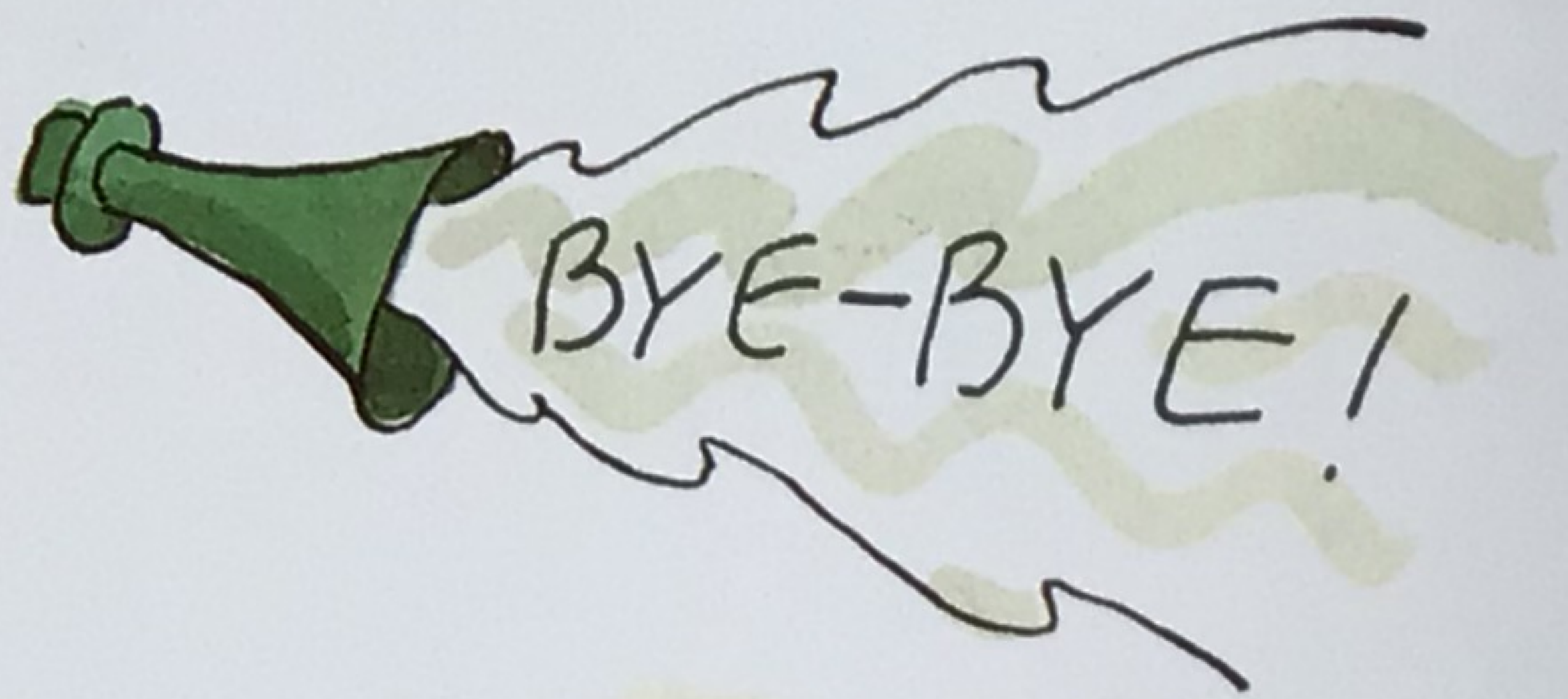


But what about the Creeps? you ask.
Well, they yelled and they banged,
but they couldn't get out
of the van.
See . . .
here comes the train now
and they're still in it!



And here comes Toby!

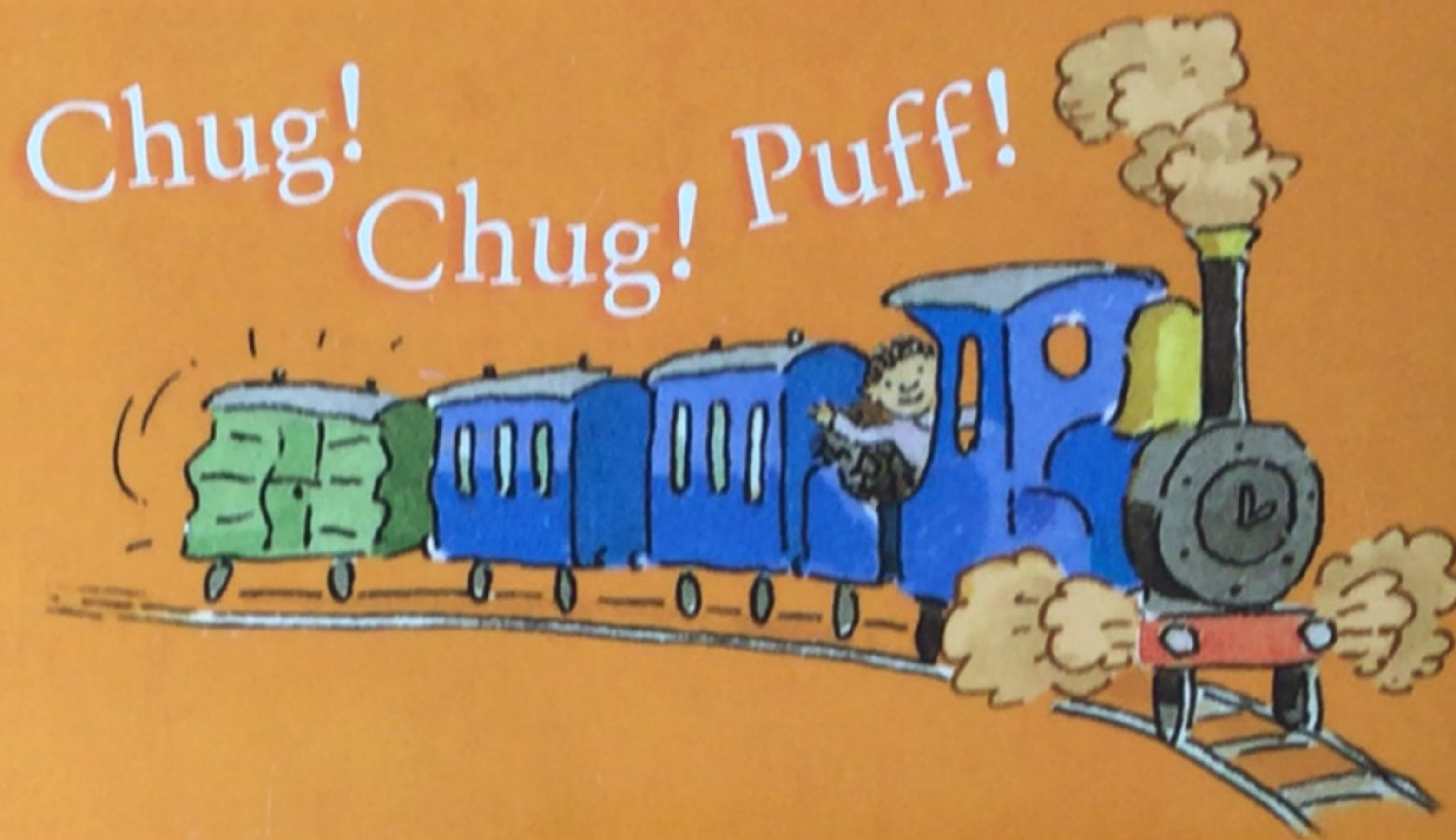
And here come Mr and Mrs Track,
who are just so pleased to see him.



"We've got a train to catch!"



Master Track's train is *steaming* down the tracks and it's crowded with crooks! *Oh no!*



Luckily he knows **JUST** how to deal with villains **AND** can drive the train (even if he doesn't know the way home)! *Phew!*

A hilarious **HAPPY FAMILIES** picture book from Allan Ahlberg and André Amstutz



"Marvellous" – CHILD EDUCATION

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