

Munch and the Funny Tummy

Patrick Guihen and
Alessandro Keningale



One day, Ricky was hard at work in the Greentown Recycling Centre when a message came for him. Mr Maclean, his boss, wanted to see him. Ricky hurried along to Mr Maclean's office as soon as he could and knocked on the door.

"Oh, hello Ricky," said Mr Maclean. "Come on in. How would you like to help me run a new recycling scheme? We want to reduce the amount of rubbish that goes to the rubbish dump."



"That sounds exciting, Mr Maclean! I'd **love** to help," replied Ricky.

"**Great!**" said Mr Maclean.

"You're going to be in charge of a new team. And part of that team will be a brand new recycling truck! It even has a special computer that you can speak to, and it'll speak right back!"





Ricky couldn't believe his luck. But he was a bit worried...
"That sounds **amazing**, Mr Maclean, but I don't have a licence to drive large trucks," he said.

"Don't you worry!" replied Mr Maclean.
"I've found a driver for you. Her name is Rachel!"

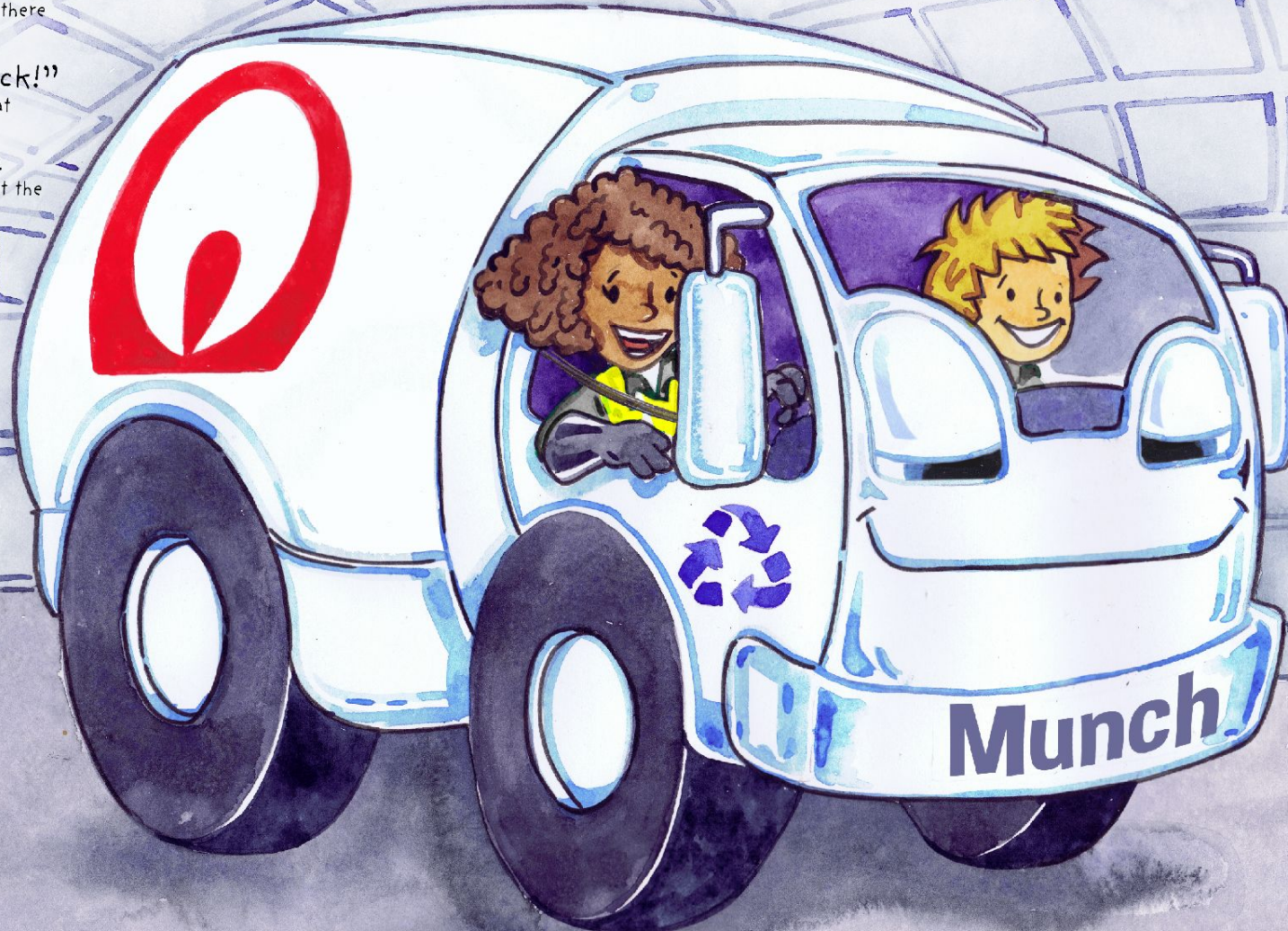
"Ah, here she is now," said Mr Maclean. Ricky and Rachel shook hands and Mr Maclean gave a huge smile.

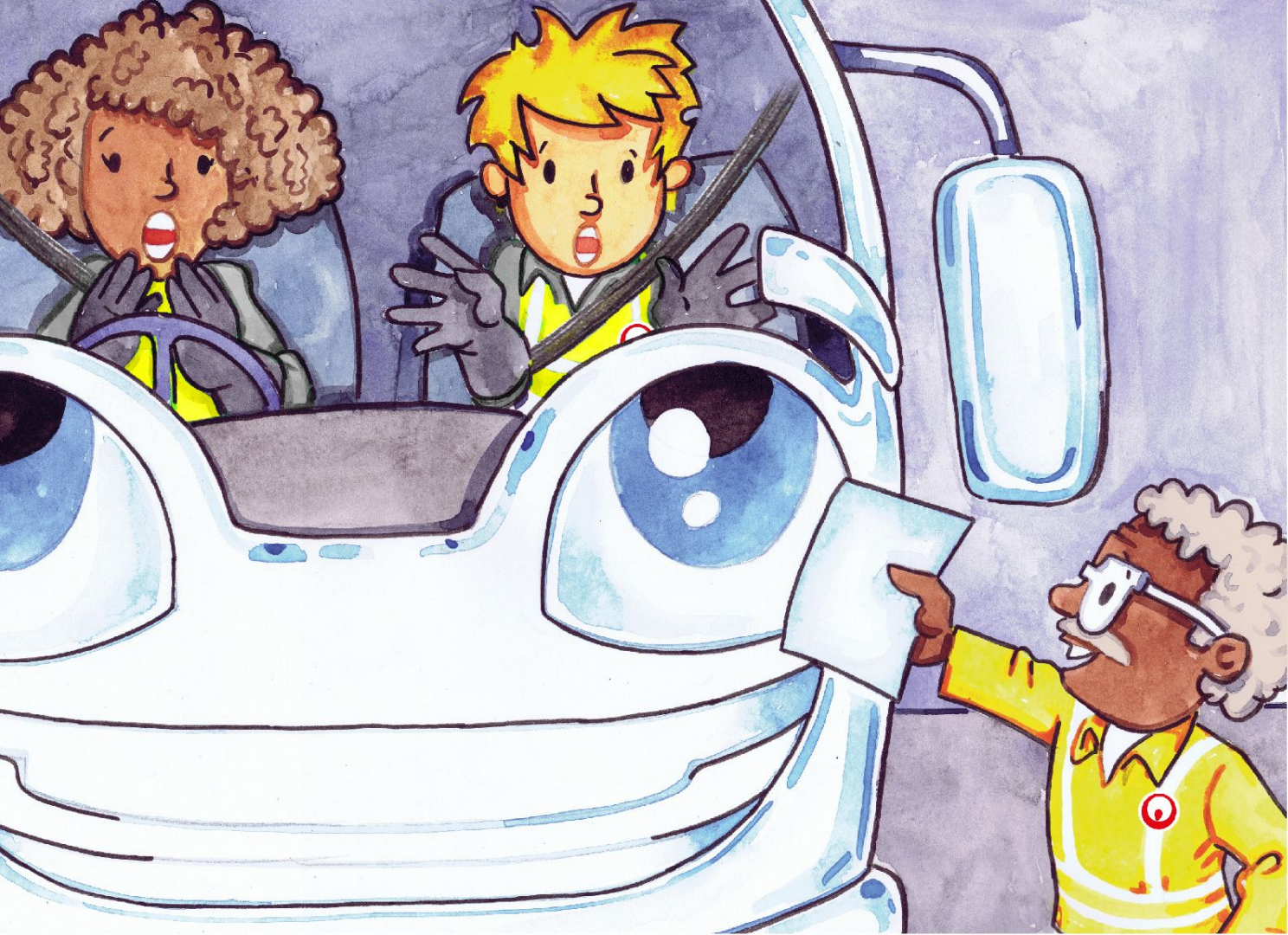
"It's the start of **Ricky and Rachel's recycling team!**" he said. Ricky couldn't wait to get started.

Mr Maclean led them out to the yard, where there was a shiny new recycling truck.

“This is your brand new truck!” said Mr Maclean. “Climb aboard and see what you think.”

Ricky and Rachel climbed into the new truck. “It’s great, isn’t it?” Rachel asked, looking at the smart new steering wheel.





"Wouldn't you like to know a little about me?" the truck said suddenly.

Ricky and Rachel looked at each other in amazement.

"Yes!" they both said.

"Well, my name is Munch!"

I like to gobble up cardboard, plastic, fins and cans."

Ricky and Rachel laughed. "You sound hungry, Munch!" Ricky said.

"Here's the list of jobs, team!" Mr Maclean said. "Ricky, I know I can trust you to be in charge, and Rachel, I know how good your driving is!"

All of a sudden there was a loud **"honk honk!"** from Munch.

Mr Maclean jumped and they all laughed.

"Don't worry, Munch, we haven't forgotten you!" Rachel said.

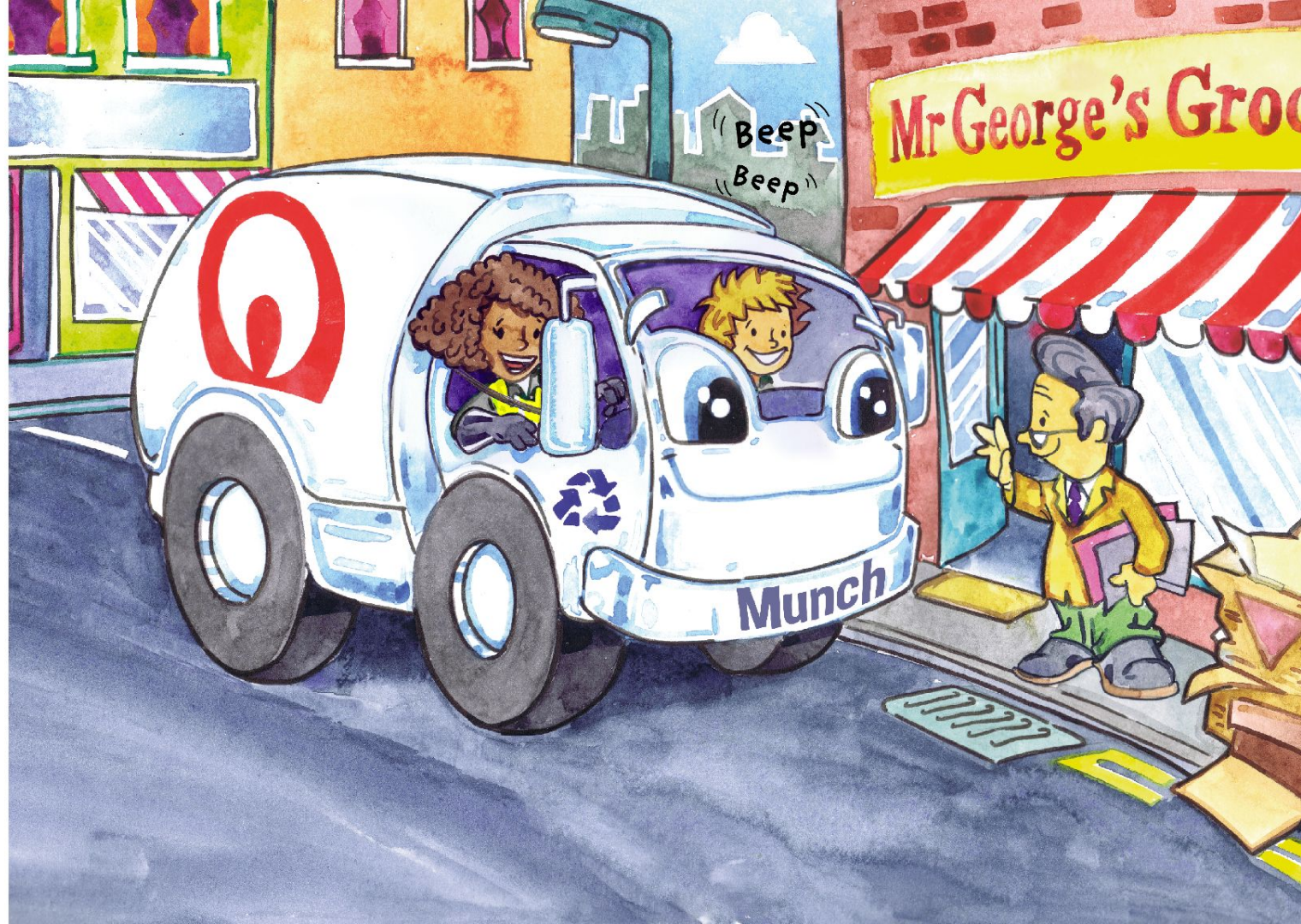
Off they went through Greentown. First stop was Mr George's grocery shop. Mr George was ready and waiting with a big pile of cardboard boxes.

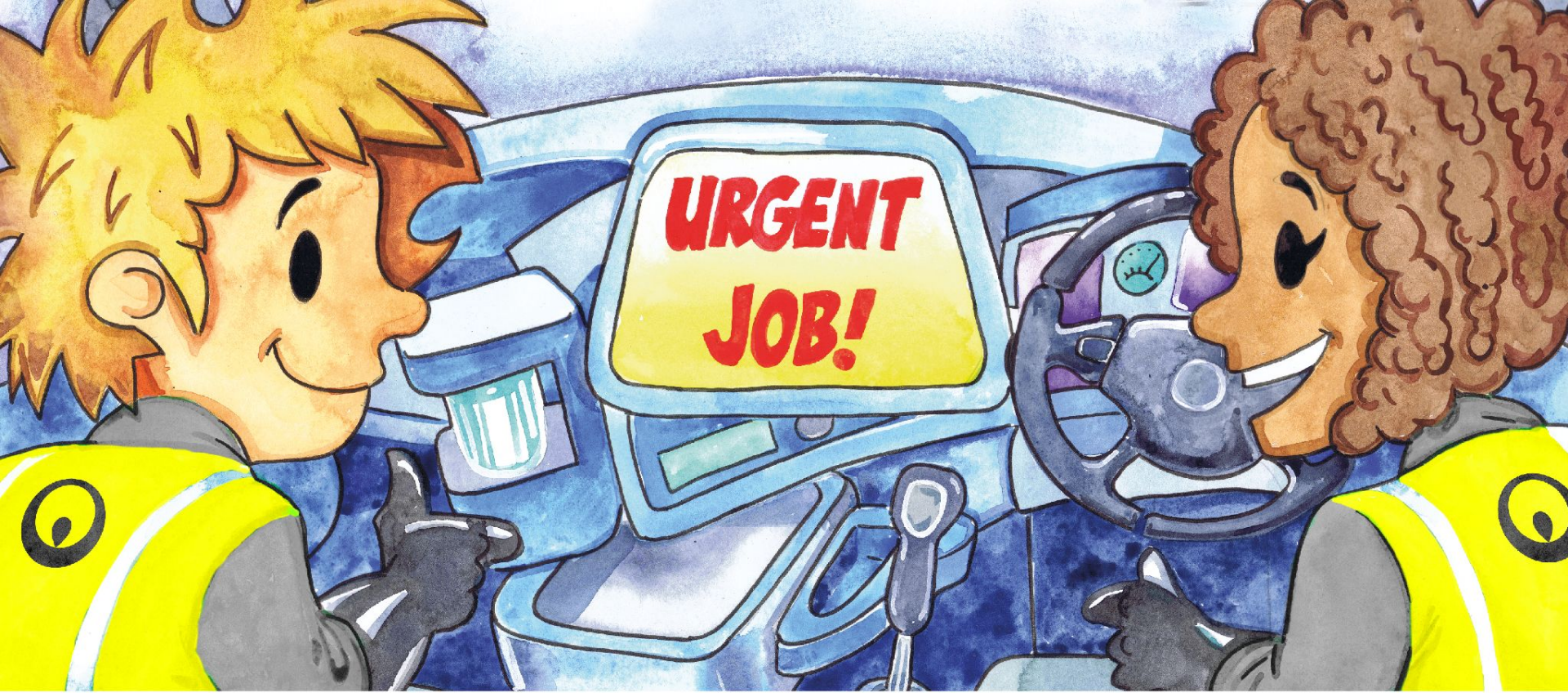
Munch started beeping with excitement.

He couldn't wait to get his big metal jaws around all that recycling!

"It's MUNCHTIME!"

he shouted, and then he started to chomp through the cardboard.





As soon as Munch had finished the cardboard, he made a loud beeping noise and a light flashed on his dashboard.

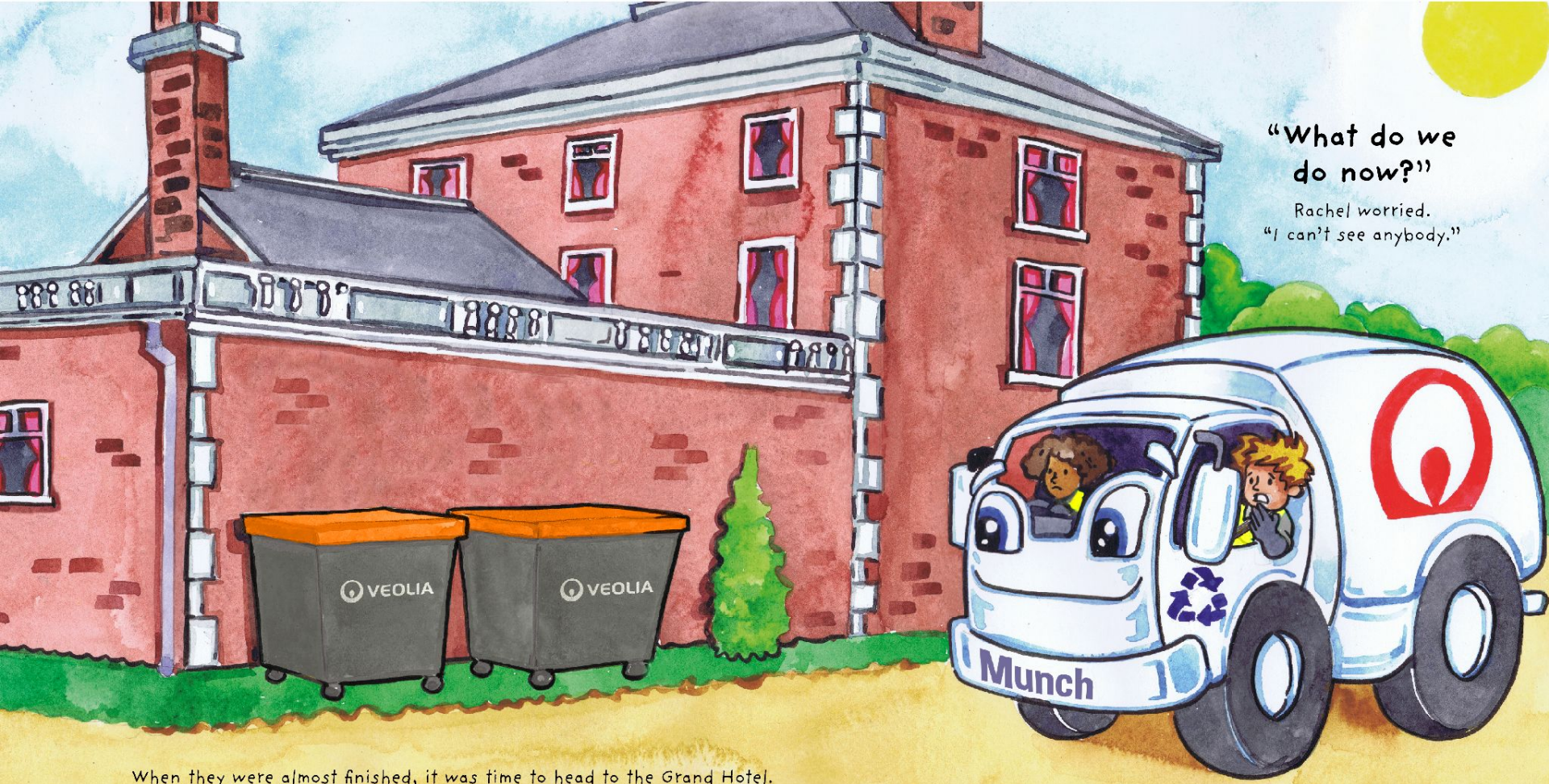
Ricky saw a message had popped up on a screen. "Oh, an urgent job has been added to the list! We need to go to the Grand Hotel at the end of the day and see what they have for collection," he said.

"OK! Once we've finished our job here, we'll head straight there," said Rachel.

They went all round Greentown, collecting recycling.
Munch crunched down all his favourite things:
cardboard, plastic, tins and cans.

Munch was enjoying his new job just as much as Ricky and Rachell!





“What do we
do now?”

Rachel worried.
“I can’t see anybody.”

When they were almost finished, it was time to head to the Grand Hotel.
But when they arrived at the back of the hotel, there was **no one there.**



Ricky got out of Munch and looked around.
There was a large bin by the side of the building.
“They’ve put out a bin for collection,” he shouted to Rachel.
“We’ll get Munch to pick it up.”

Rachel reversed Munch and backed him up to the bin and tipped it in. There was a loud THUD.

"It's MUNCHTIME!" said Munch. But as he crushed up the contents, he made a loud grumbling noise, and there was a funny smell.



"I don't feel so good, Rachel. I think something horrible was in that bin!" Munch groaned.

"I think Munch has eaten something that upset him!" Rachel called to Ricky.

Ricky climbed back into Munch. "What's wrong, Munch?" he asked softly, but Munch began to make strange noises. He didn't seem well at all!

"We'd better call out Monica the mechanic. Let's get back to the yard straight away," said Rachel.

They zoomed back to the yard. Monica the mechanic was waiting for them.

"I'll take a look," Monica said, when Ricky explained what had happened. He opened up the back of Munch and a horrible green gloop began to leak out. Everybody jumped back and held their noses.

It smelled terrible!

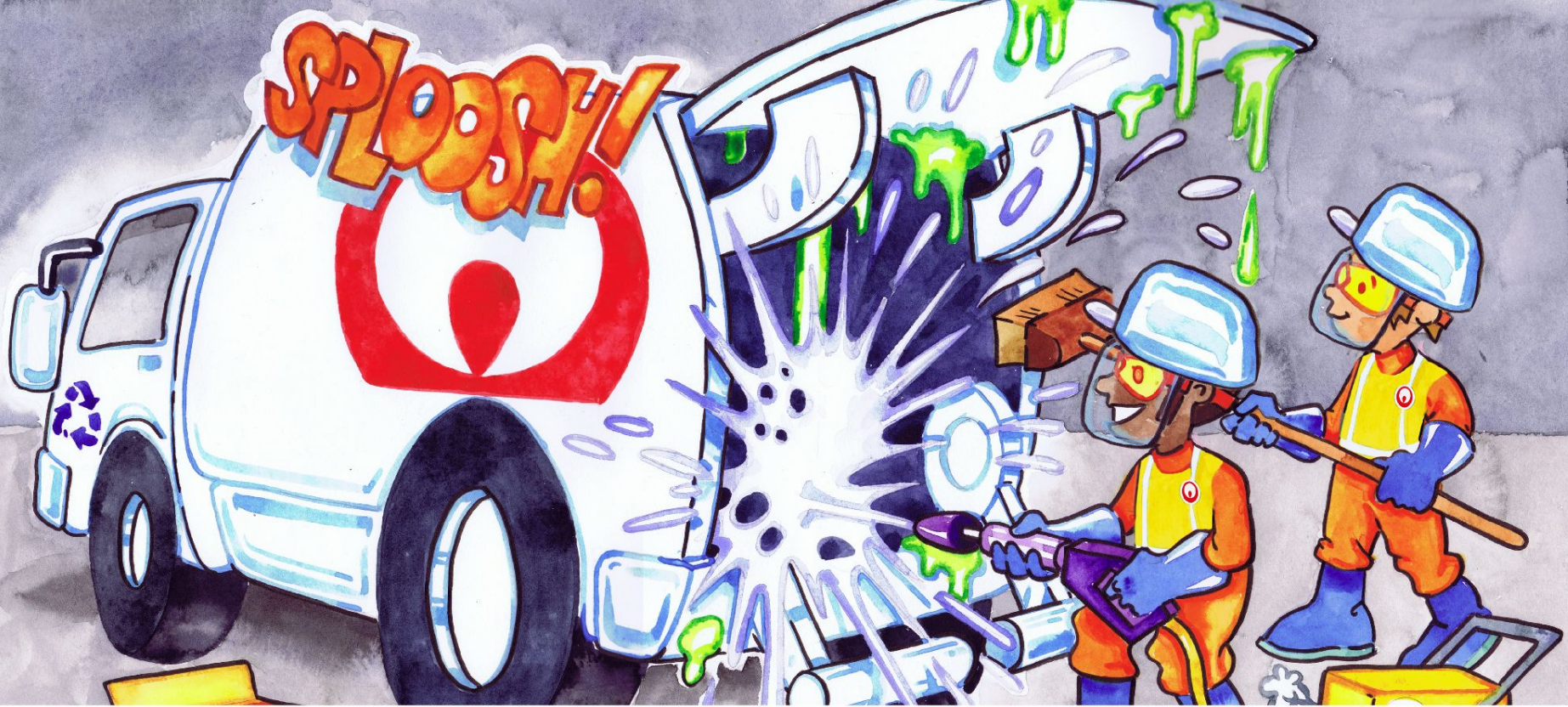
"Where did that come from?" gasped Rachel.

They all gathered around the green puddle. "I think it came from the bin back at the Grand Hotel, after we heard the big thud," replied Ricky.

Mr Maclean arrived just as more smelly slop fell onto the floor.



"Stand back, everyone," he said. "I think we need to call the cleaning crew. Munch needs a good clean out!"



The cleaning crew arrived at top speed.

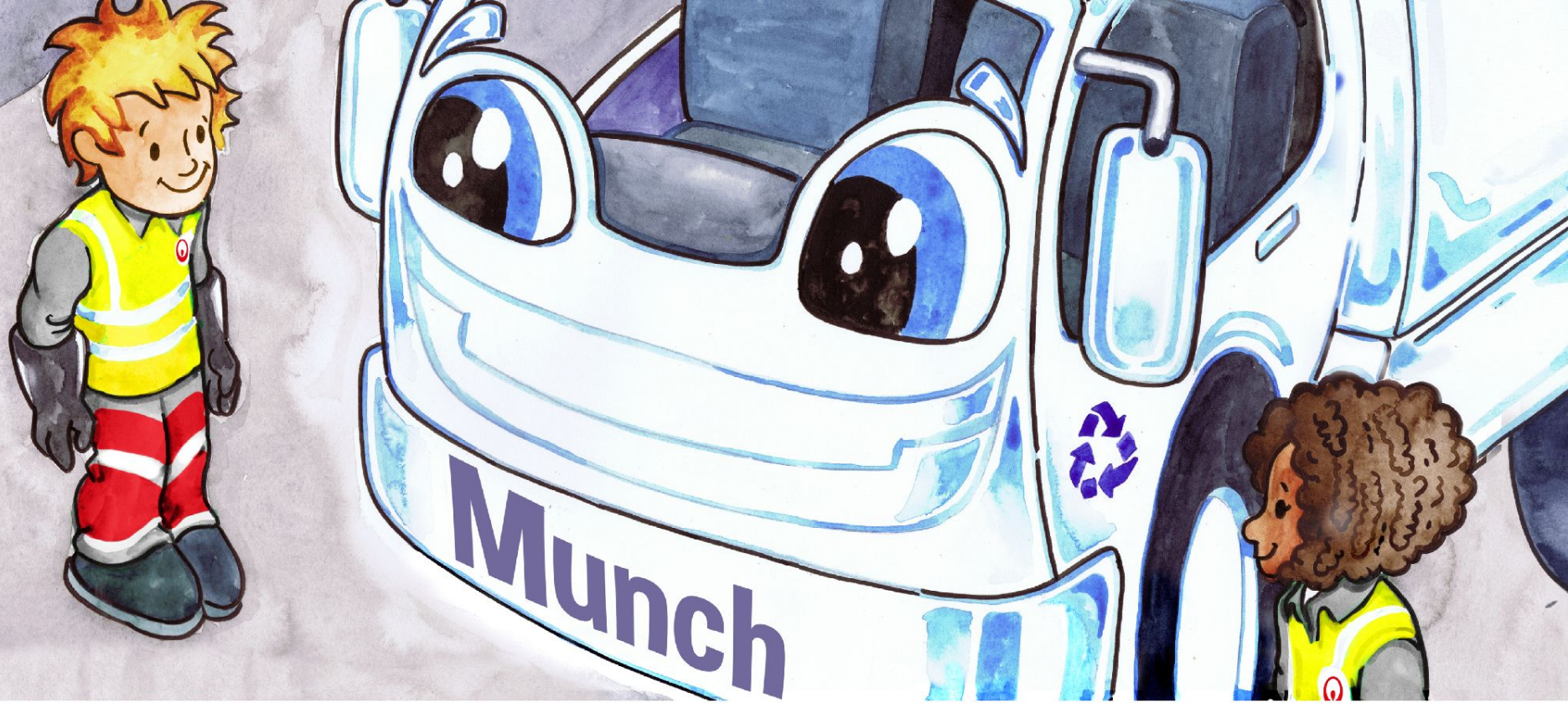
Munch needed a special clean and was hosed out straight away.

Everyone was asked to stand back as they gave Munch a good scrub. Once they were finished, they all waited quietly to see if Munch was OK.

They heard a few small beeps and moved in closer to listen.

"Do you think he's OK?" Ricky whispered to Rachel.

"I'm not sure. I hope so," Rachel whispered back.



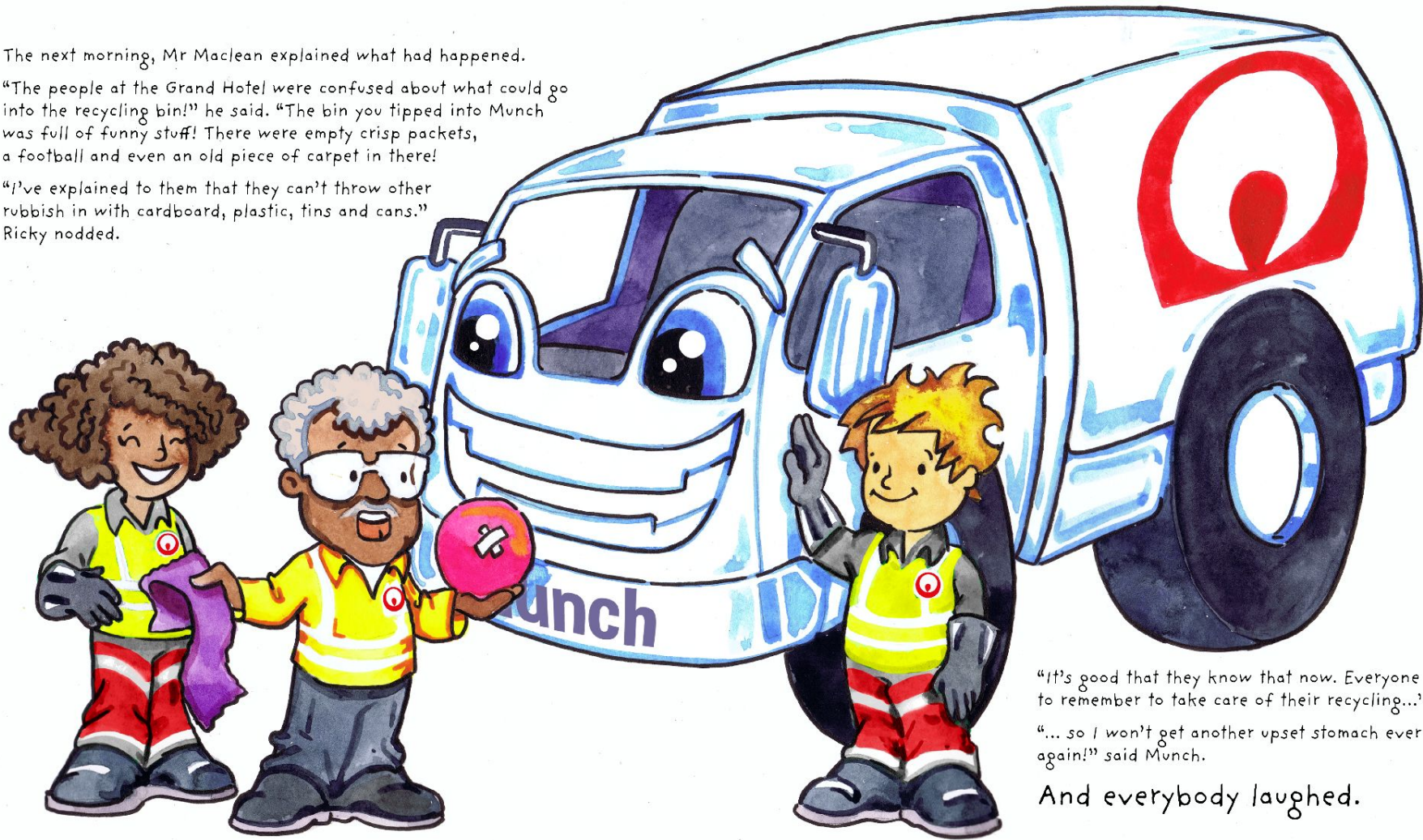
"Why are we all whispering?" said Munch loudly.
Everyone jumped with surprise.

"I'm fine, everyone!" Munch said. "Thanks for helping get rid of my stomach ache!"
Ricky and Rachel smiled at each other. Thank goodness Munch was OK!

The next morning, Mr Maclean explained what had happened.

"The people at the Grand Hotel were confused about what could go into the recycling bin!" he said. "The bin you tipped into Munch was full of funny stuff! There were empty crisp packets, a football and even an old piece of carpet in there!

"I've explained to them that they can't throw other rubbish in with cardboard, plastic, tins and cans." Ricky nodded.



"It's good that they know that now. Everyone needs to remember to take care of their recycling..."

"... so I won't get another upset stomach ever again!" said Munch.

And everybody laughed.