

WHY?

FRESH CABBAGES

'This book made me do a poem out my nose!'  
Andy Stanton

TOAST

THE BOOK OF

NOT ENTIRELY

ONION POWER

WHY NOT?

USEFUL  
ADVICE



Not the Poet

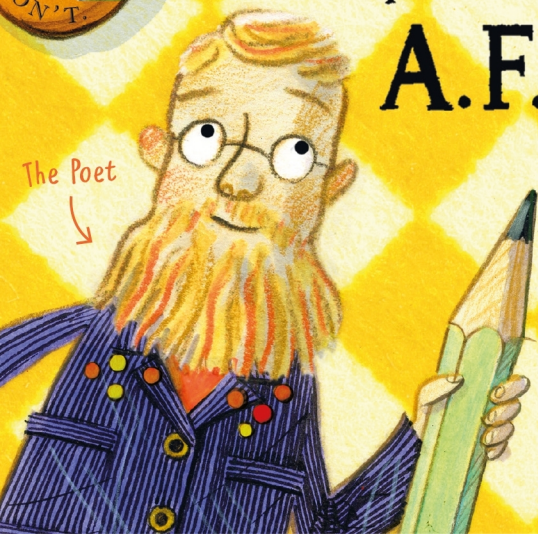
WAKES DON'T

Spectacularly silly poems by  
**A.F. HARROLD**

SAVE THE WORMS

Follow a duck

The Poet

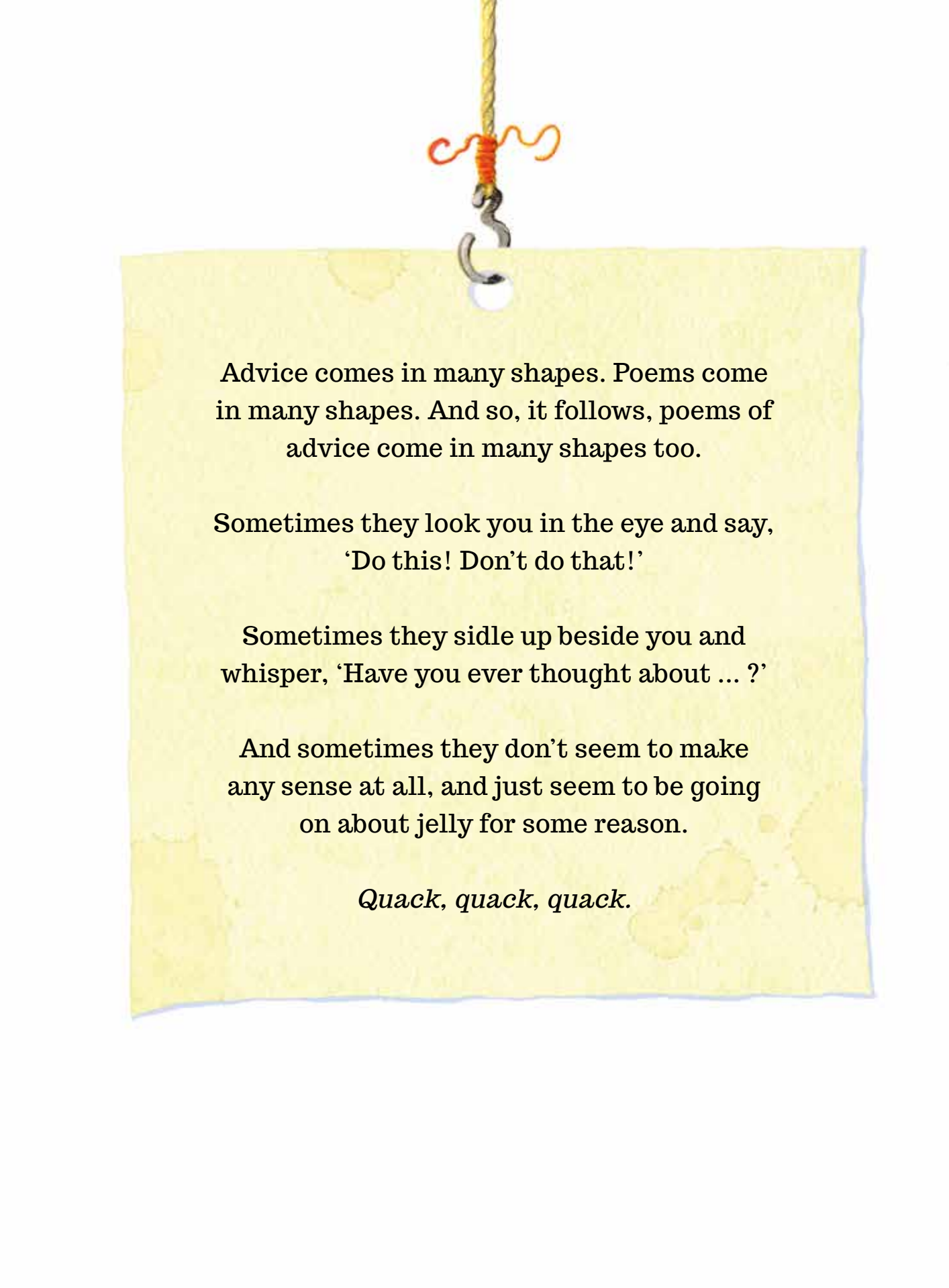


fizzingly fun  
illustrations by

**MINI GREY**

BLOOMSBURY

DAILY EGG



Advice comes in many shapes. Poems come  
in many shapes. And so, it follows, poems of  
advice come in many shapes too.

Sometimes they look you in the eye and say,  
'Do this! Don't do that!'

Sometimes they sidle up beside you and  
whisper, 'Have you ever thought about ... ?'

And sometimes they don't seem to make  
any sense at all, and just seem to be going  
on about jelly for some reason.

*Quack, quack, quack.*

Books by A.F. Harrold

*The Afterwards*

Illustrated by Emily Gravett

*The Imaginary*

Illustrated by Emily Gravett

*The Song from Somewhere Else*

Illustrated by Levi Pinfold

The Fizzlebert Stump series

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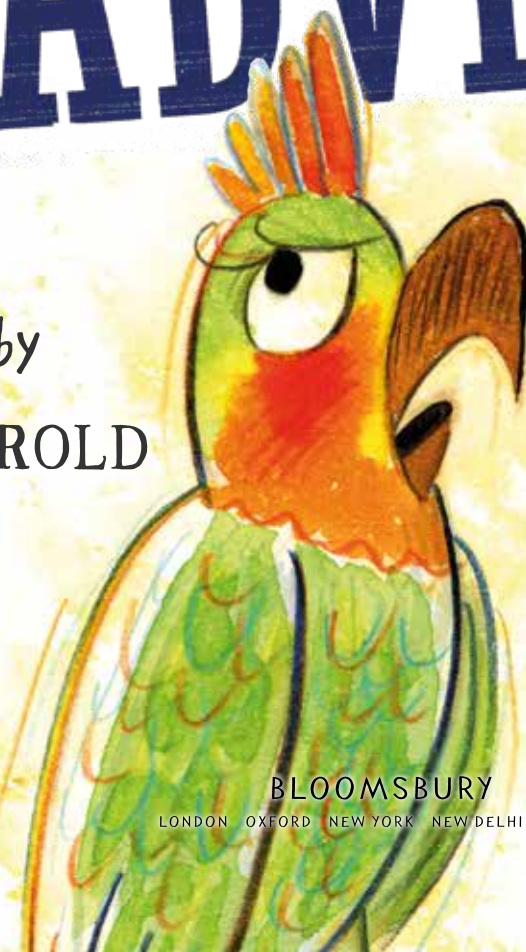
The Greta Zargo books

Illustrated by Joe Todd-Stanton



# THE BOOK OF *NOT ENTIRELY* USEFUL ADVICE

Poems by  
A.F. HARROLD



BUM

Illustrated by  
MINI GREY

BLOOMSBURY  
LONDON OXFORD NEW YORK NEW DELHI SYDNEY

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For Roger and Brian  
(McGough and Patten, respectively),  
this is all your fault  
AFH



For John Vernon Lord  
with vindaloo and rice  
love from Mini





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# Warnings

Don't do that.  
Or that.  
Or that.

As cute as it looks.  
As bright as a button.  
As sweet as honey pie.

It might shock you.  
It might bite you.  
It might smile wickedly when you turn away.

So just don't.  
Don't.  
Don't say I didn't warn you.

**DON'T**

PICK THE  
FLOWERS

# A Note for the Reader

It's a dangerous world, and so I have created this book to keep readers everywhere safe.

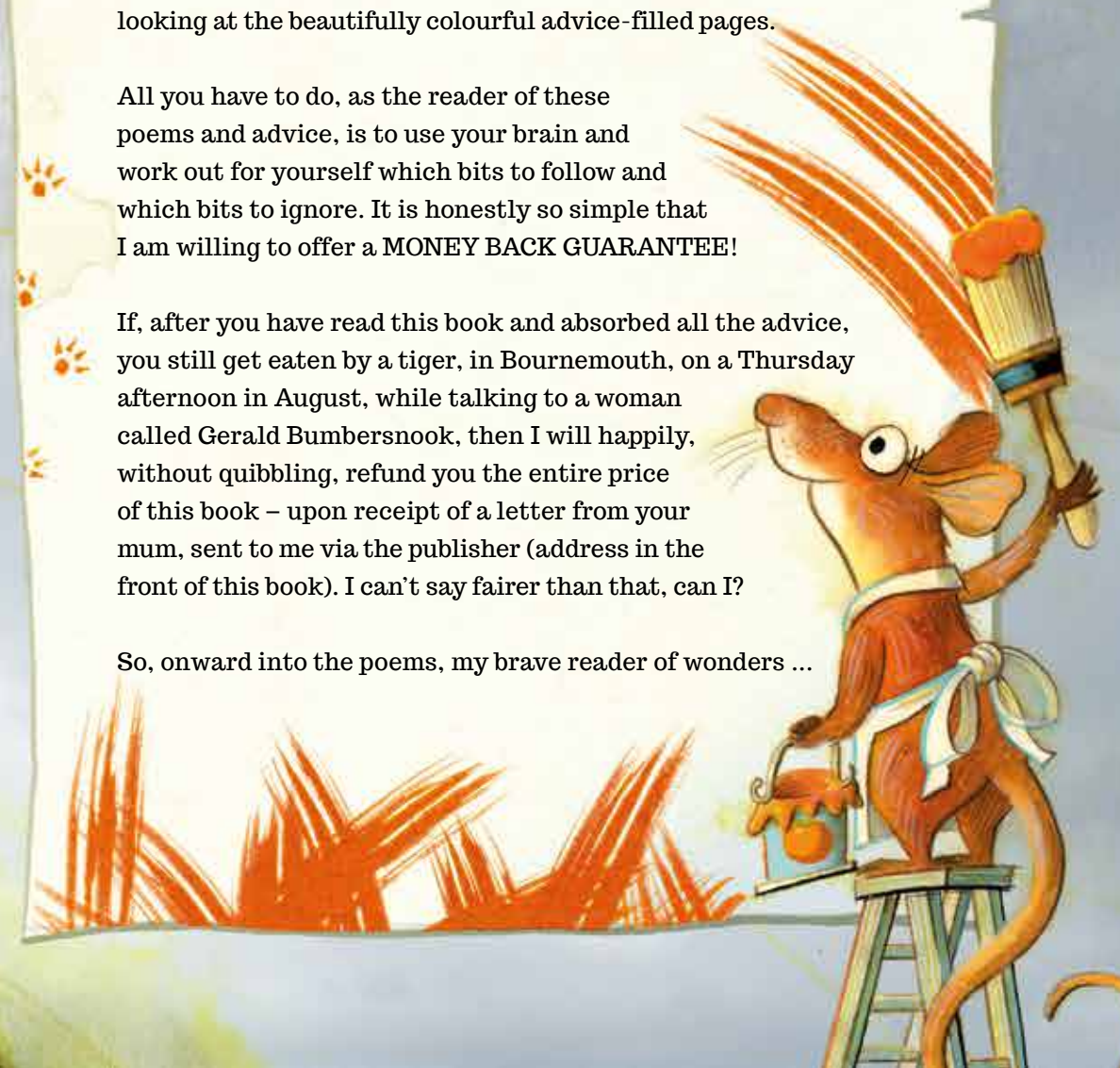
I've filled it with all the advice I could think of. Everything I've learnt over this long, long life of mine, and I believe the poems in this book will not only make you happy, not only keep you safe, but also – most importantly – stop you from getting eaten by tigers.

My friend Mini (who also knows all sorts of useful things and has never been eaten by a tiger) has made the pictures for this book, so that even people who don't usually like poems will be able to learn ways to survive this tricky and treacherous world, just by looking at the beautifully colourful advice-filled pages.

All you have to do, as the reader of these poems and advice, is to use your brain and work out for yourself which bits to follow and which bits to ignore. It is honestly so simple that I am willing to offer a **MONEY BACK GUARANTEE!**

If, after you have read this book and absorbed all the advice, you still get eaten by a tiger, in Bournemouth, on a Thursday afternoon in August, while talking to a woman called Gerald Bumbersnook, then I will happily, without quibbling, refund you the entire price of this book – upon receipt of a letter from your mum, sent to me via the publisher (address in the front of this book). I can't say fairer than that, can I?

So, onward into the poems, my brave reader of wonders ...

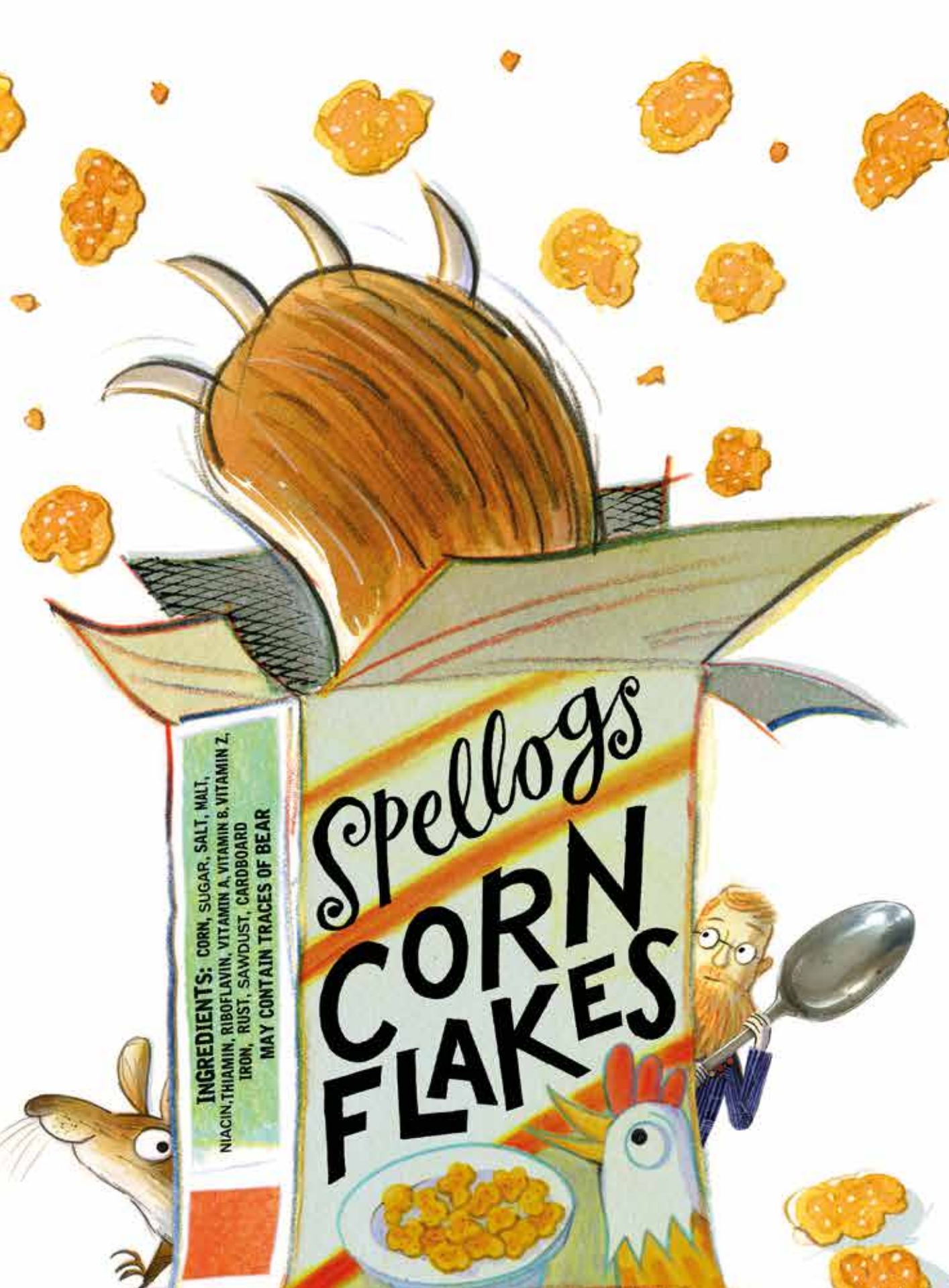




## SECTION 1

Advice mainly  
relating to food,  
ducks and  
dessert





## The Perils of Breakfast

Watch out for bears in your cornflakes.

Bears are dangerous.  
Bears have big claws.  
Bears are always hungry.  
At breakfast time, doubly so.

If you lift a spoonful of cornflakes to your mouth  
and it's got a bear hiding in it,  
well,  
you'll be in trouble then. Won't you?  
Eaten up just like that.  
Gobble. Gobble. *Crunch.*

Fortunately  
bears are larger than cornflakes  
and so you can usually spot  
a little bit of fur poking round the side.

If you do  
spot a little bit of fur poking round the side  
of the cornflake  
in the spoon  
you've lifted up to your mouth to have for your breakfast  
then just put your spoon down,  
step away  
and choose something else instead.

But  
watch out for crocodiles in your porridge  
and watch out for tigers under your toast.

# Breakfast Is Not Boring

In order  
to make breakfast  
more enjoyable  
I pretend to be  
a different animal each day.

Today I was a warthog  
wallowing in my cereal bowl.

Yesterday I was a parrot  
shouting  
rude words  
from the top of the kitchen cupboard.

Tomorrow I'll be a chameleon  
and paint myself  
the same colour  
as the chair,  
with bold felt tips.

I think  
it's important to have a hobby

and,  
my mum says,  
a good wash  
before you go to school.





# The Most Toast

For breakfast I like to have the most toast.  
I'll have three slices if you have two.  
If you have an extra one, I'll take another.  
If the bread's run out, I'll steal it from my brother's plate.

I should have a medal for the toast I've eaten.  
It'd be a winner's medal – I've never been beaten.  
You can't have my medal – you've not et enough.  
When the toast gets going, my teeth get tough.

I eat the most toast cos I want to be the best,  
but I ain't no good at playing the piano,  
I can't paint a seagull or write a great play  
and I've never scored a goal at home or away ...

So ... I eat the most toast.  
I eat the most toast.  
I know it's a boastful thing to say  
but I can eat toast, I can eat toast, I can eat toast all day.

Now, when people see me coming they all sing:  
*Here comes the toast-man to-oast!* – which is embarrassing,  
but true.  
Eating toast is my skill. What do you do?

## Advert

If your granny's had a fall  
and you go to visit her in hospital –  
take her a bunch of cauliflowers.

If your teacher's moving on  
and you're sad she'll soon be gone –  
give her a bunch of cauliflowers.

If it's Mother's Day today  
and you don't know how to say,  
'Thanks Mum, I love you very much' –  
try a bunch of cauliflowers.

Whatever the occasion,  
whatever the emotion,  
whatever the season –  
say it with cauliflowers.

## The Secret Life of the Cabbage

In the middle of the night  
when the lights are out,  
the cabbages ... start rolling.

Uprooted from the earth  
they tumble down the hills,  
bouncing in the moonlight.

Oh! Cabbages love to roll,  
cabbages love to bounce,  
cabbages love to be free.

Every morning men and women  
with shovels scoop them up  
and clear the roads and paths.

They bed in their reaching roots,  
replant them in the earth,  
recabbage the decabbaged fields.

If you've never seen the cabbages  
heaped up outside your house in the morning then  
those men and women have done their job.

But one day, when money's tight,  
and they've been made unemployed,  
it'll be cabbages for breakfast and for breakfast  
and for breakfast.

