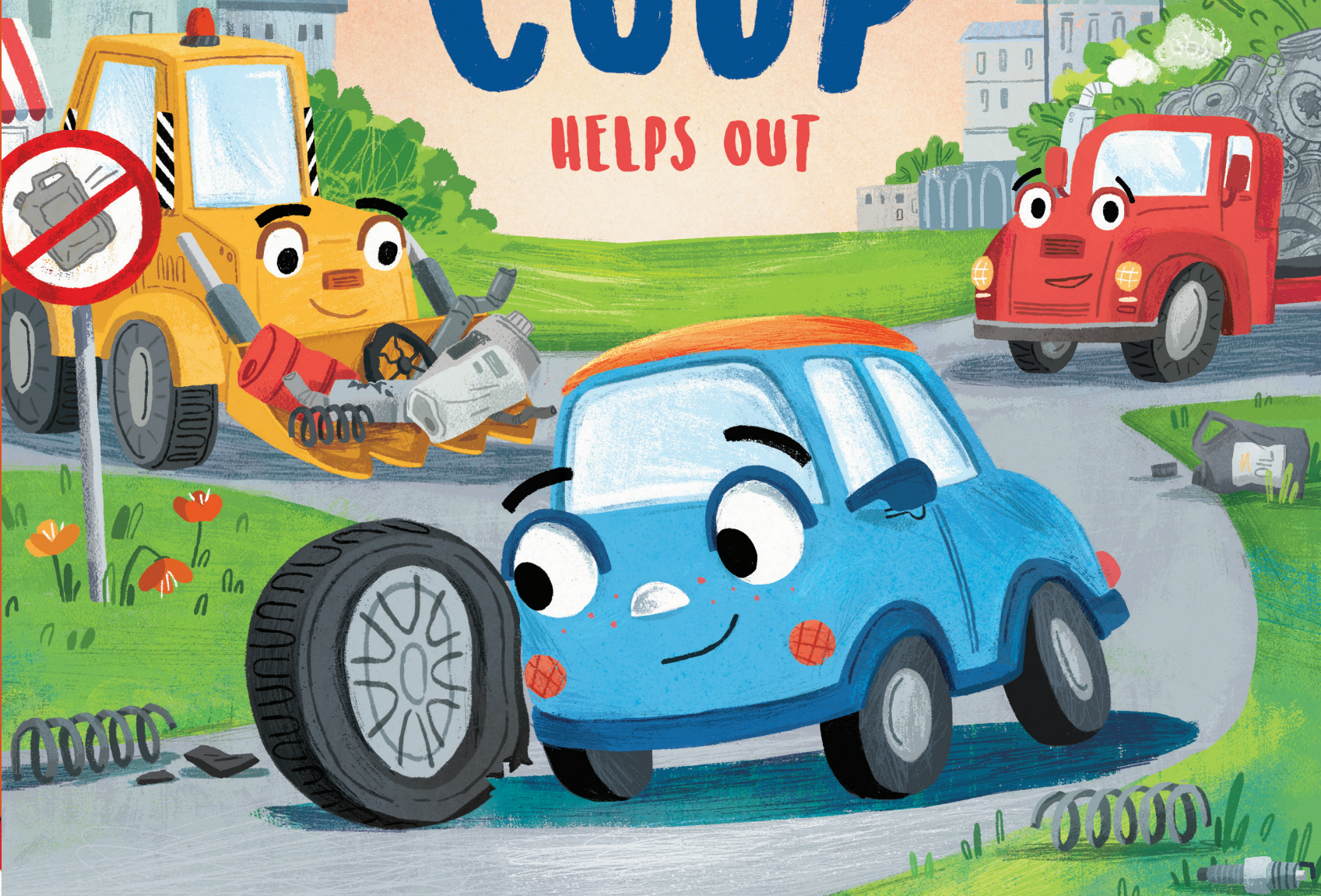


The Wheelies

# COOP

HELPS OUT



by **SARAH REJU**

illustrated by **TANIA REX**



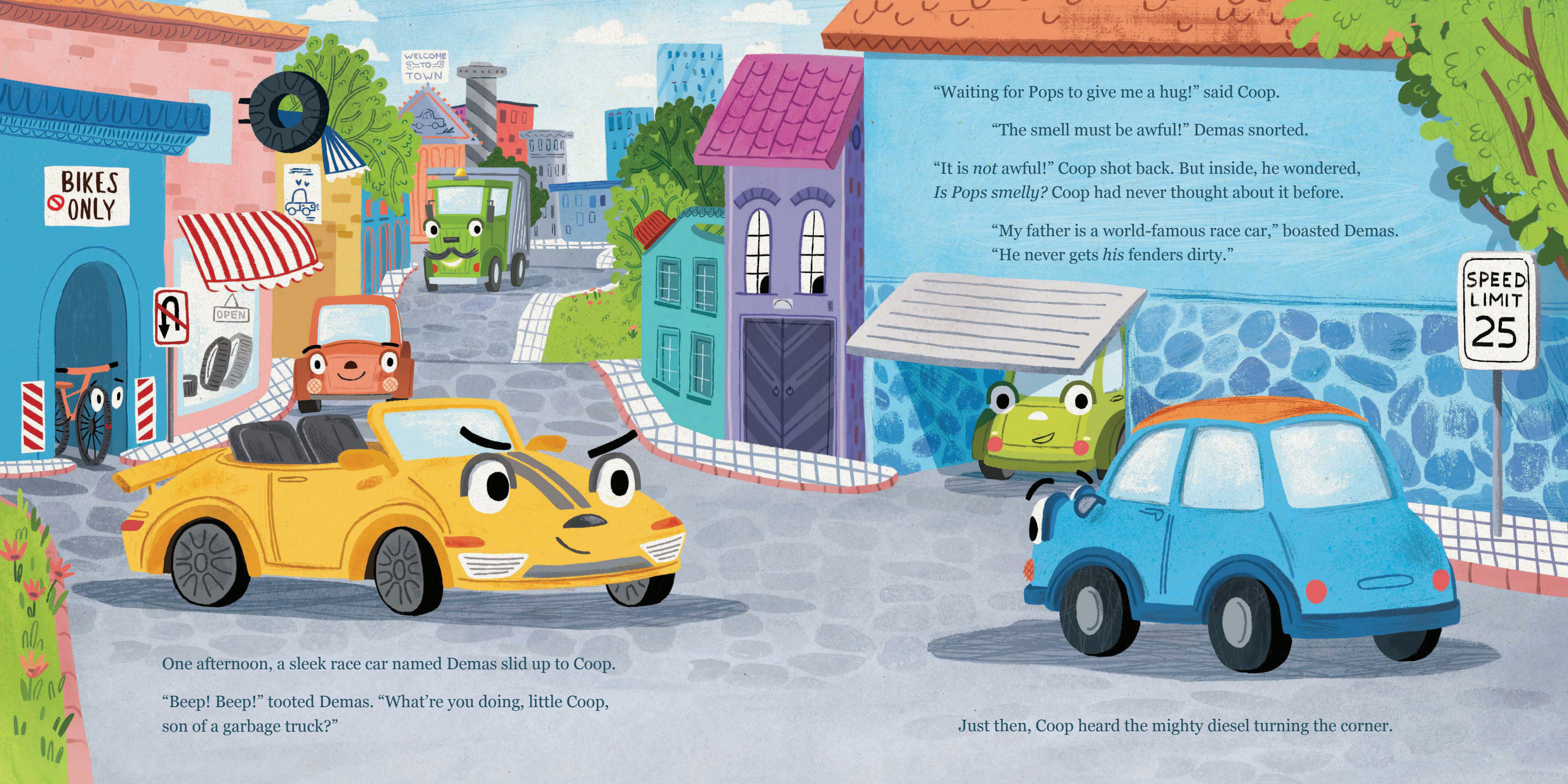


Coop was a small car who dreamed big. He lived in Capital City with Pops, Ma, James, Joy, Lucy, and Nory.

Coop loved Pops. Every afternoon, Coop waited to hear Pops's mighty diesel engine chugging down the street. When Pops got home, Coop zoomed to him for a smile and a cuddle, and a chance to pull his super cool trash crusher lever.

**COOP THOUGHT POPS WAS THE STRONGEST TRUCK IN THE UNIVERSE.**





“Waiting for Pops to give me a hug!” said Coop.

“The smell must be awful!” Demas snorted.

“It is *not* awful!” Coop shot back. But inside, he wondered, *Is Pops smelly?* Coop had never thought about it before.

“My father is a world-famous race car,” boasted Demas. “He never gets *his* fenders dirty.”

One afternoon, a sleek race car named Demas slid up to Coop.

“Beep! Beep!” tooted Demas. “What’re you doing, little Coop, son of a garbage truck?”

Just then, Coop heard the mighty diesel turning the corner.





Demas slipped away as Coop began his usual dash to Pops. Then Coop hesitated, wondering, *What is that goop smeared across Pops's bumper?*

Pops lit up when he saw Coop.

"Hugging you is the best part of my day," he said.

Coop rolled slowly toward Pops and stopped.

*What is that smell?* Coop thought.

"Coop, buddy, you okay?" Pops asked.

"Do you want to pull the crusher lever?"

Coop slipped back,

"Uh, I'm fine. Maybe after you hose off."

