

For Nia & Rhys – GP

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COLLIN

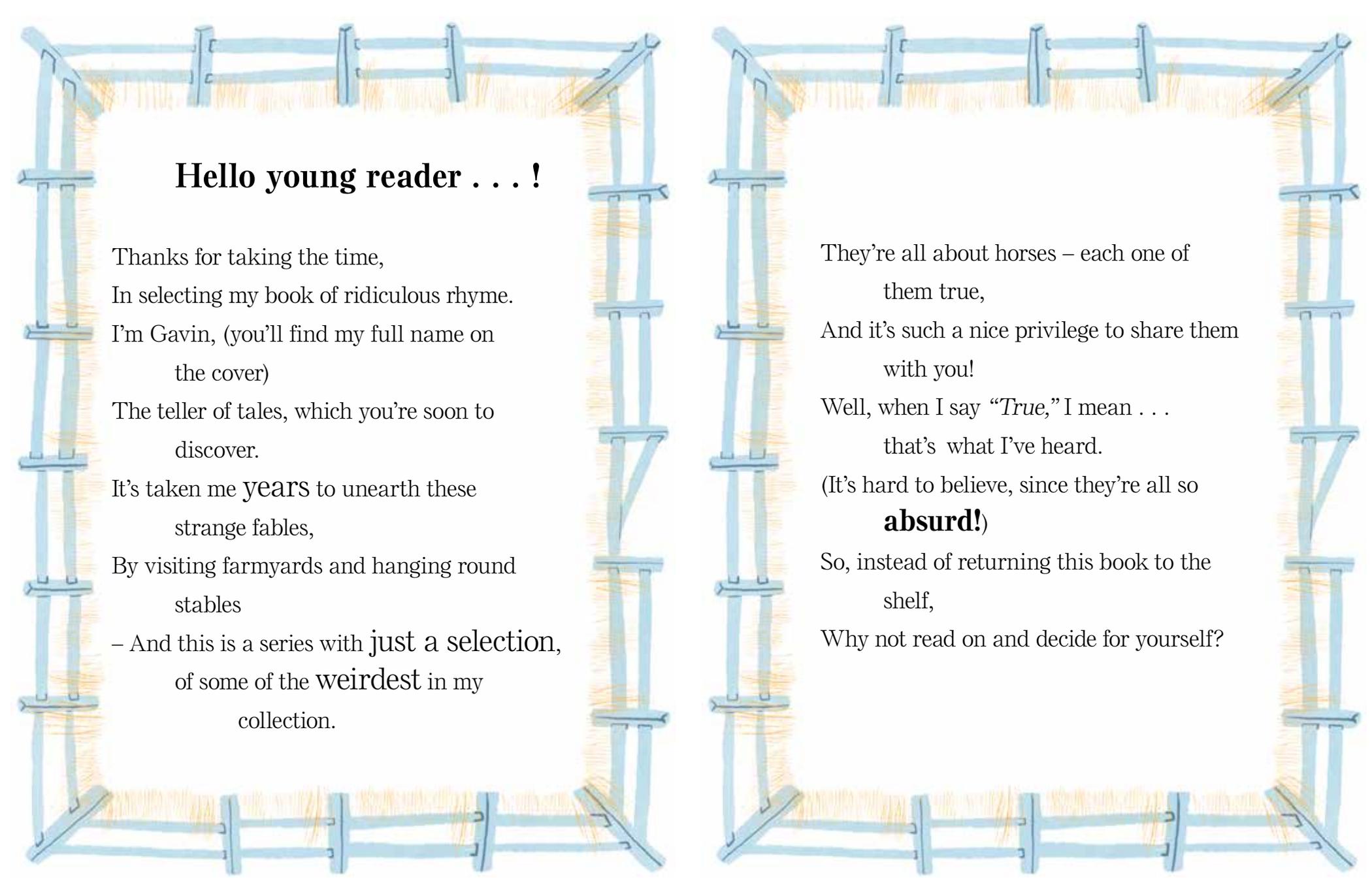
the Cart Horse



Gavin Puckett
Illustrated by **Tor Freeman**

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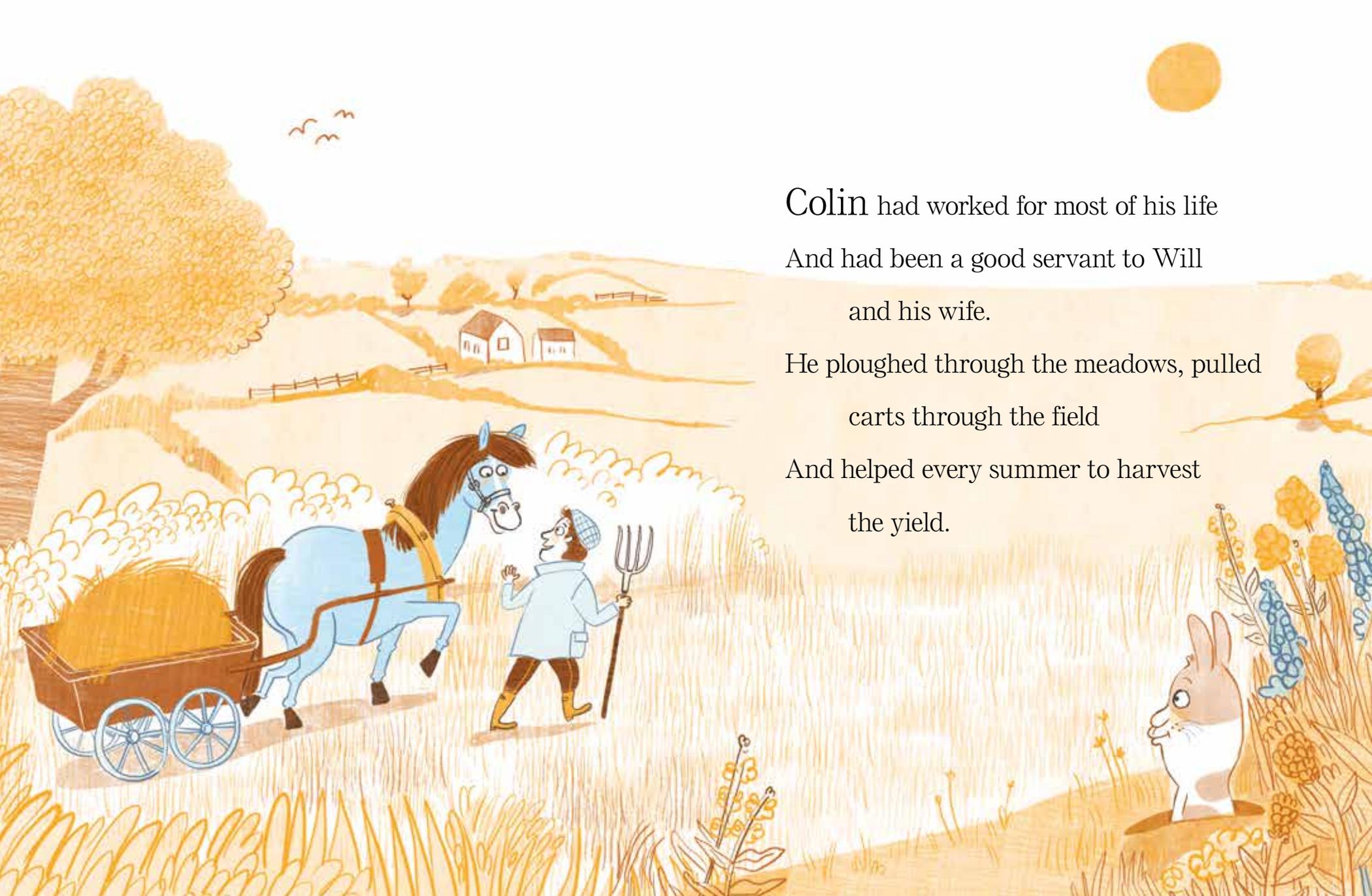
FABER & FABER



Hello young reader . . . !

Thanks for taking the time,
In selecting my book of ridiculous rhyme.
I'm Gavin, (you'll find my full name on
the cover)
The teller of tales, which you're soon to
discover.
It's taken me *years* to unearth these
strange fables,
By visiting farmyards and hanging round
stables
– And this is a series with *just a selection*,
of some of the *weirdest* in my
collection.

They're all about horses – each one of
them true,
And it's such a nice privilege to share them
with you!
Well, when I say "*True*," I mean . . .
that's what I've heard.
(It's hard to believe, since they're all so
absurd!)
So, instead of returning this book to the
shelf,
Why not read on and decide for yourself?



Colin had worked for most of his life
And had been a good servant to Will
and his wife.

He ploughed through the meadows, pulled
carts through the field
And helped every summer to harvest
the yield.

Will's kids ADORED him and so did their
dad –
He was simply the best horse this farm
EVER had!

They rode on his cart through the wind,
snow and rain,
And they helped clean his stable and
groomed Colin's mane.



Colin loved work, it was clear to see,
And he grafted each weekday from seven
'til three.

The farmer was grateful and paid him
each day

With stack-upon-stack of DELICIOUS
fresh hay.

Hay was his favourite, he found it
a treat.

It was ever so soft and remarkably sweet.



At breakfast time,
Colin would
have a quick
MUNCH,



Then pause
around twelve
and have hay
for his lunch.

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Then when work had
finished (just
after three),
Colin walked to his
stable and ate
some for tea.



Even for supper, he **LONGED** for a snack,
And grazed on a bale as he lay on his back.



Colin was thankful for all that he had,
He was awfully happy and ever so glad.
But Colin didn't realise that Will had a need,
For giving his horse this particular feed.
The farmer used hay and his horse in
conjunction,
To naturally trigger a bodily function.
This process occurred deep inside
Colin's belly –
Creating a substance quite **squidgy** and
SMELLY.

