

THE WATER FLOWERS

An illustration of several water lilies with long, thin stems and pointed buds. The stems are arranged in a way that they appear to be holding up the text 'THE WATER FLOWERS'. The background is dark, and the water is a light, textured surface.

EDWARD GOREY

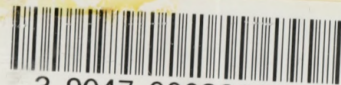
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*A curious culinary adventure  
incorporating a caveat  
against Lesser Literature  
and an instance  
of startling Sensibility.*

Fiction

GOREY, EDWARD

THE WATER FLOWERS



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THE WATER FLOWERS

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EDWARD GOREY

*The Water Flowers*

*Congdon & Weed, Inc.*

NEW YORK

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*For Isobel Grassie*

*It began snowing early in the afternoon.*



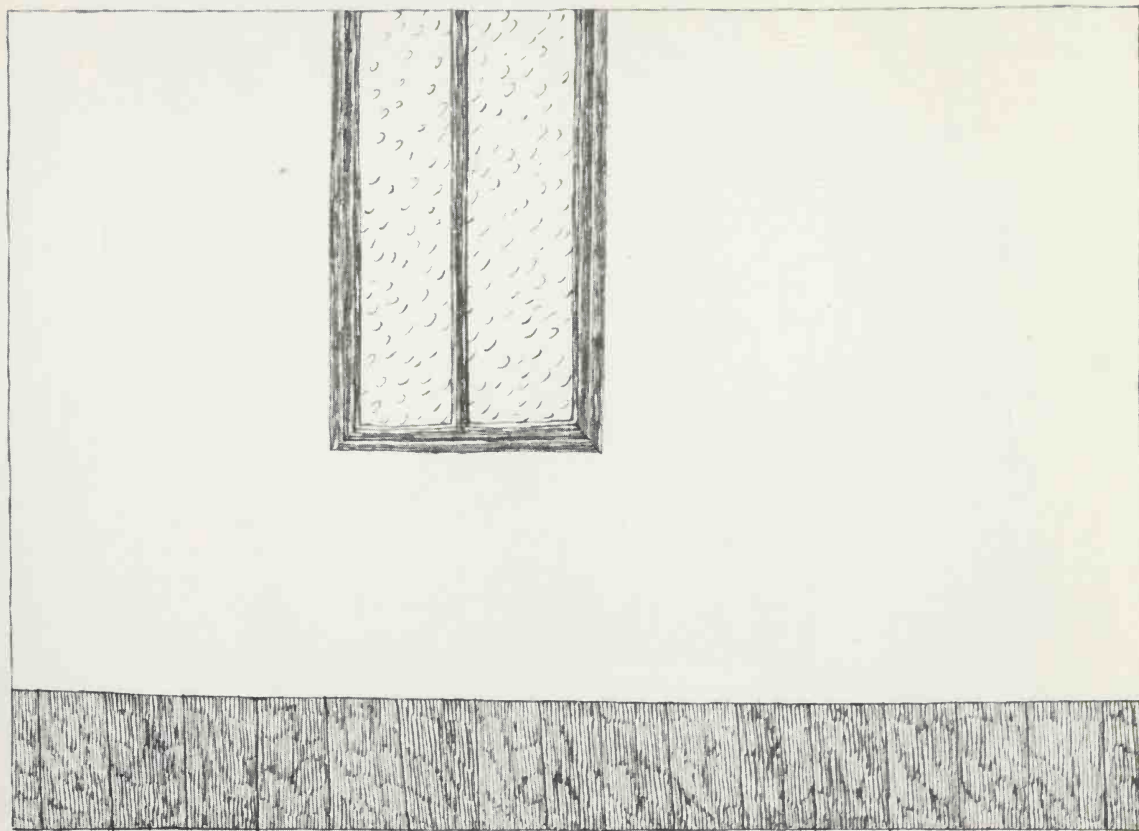


*Jane settled herself on the sofa with a novelette in a yellow paper cover.*



*The wind rose and the snow came down harder.*



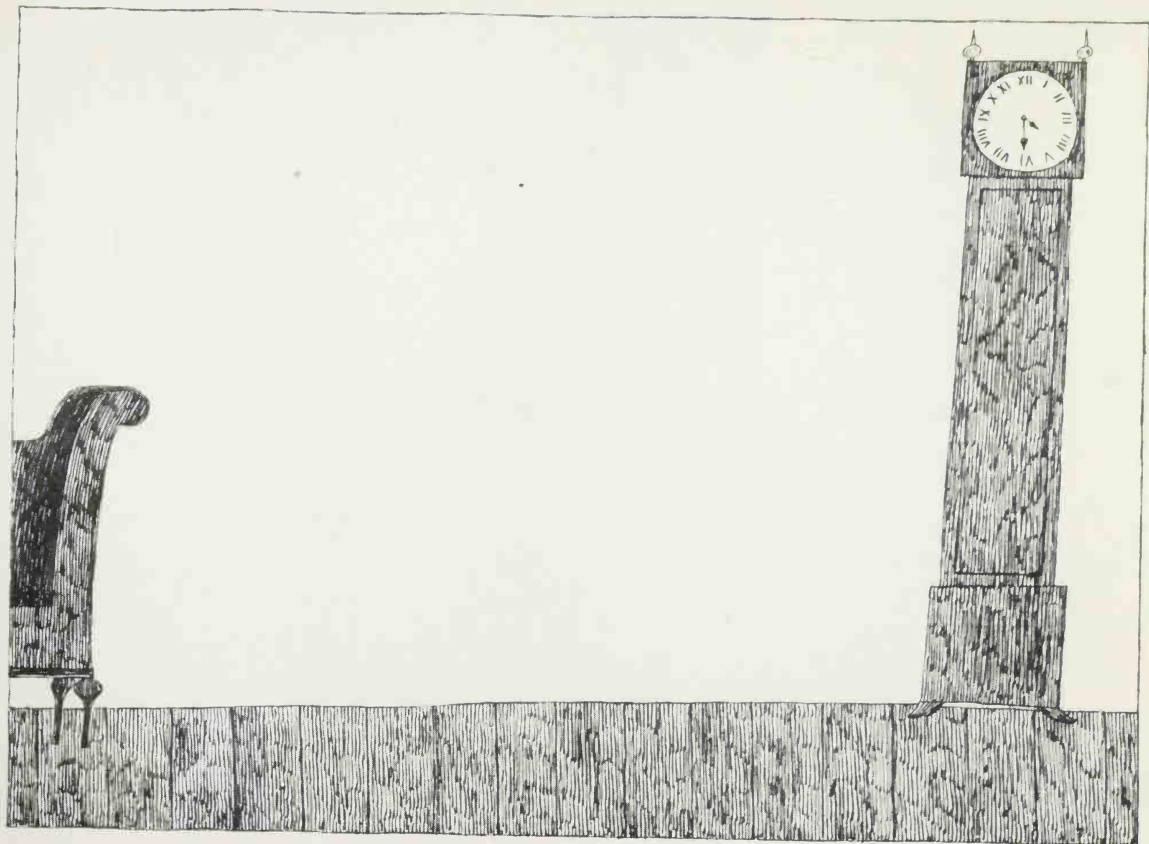


*Jane lay enthralled by the perils the heroine was subjected to.*



*The clock struck for the first time that day; she started up  
from the midst of a trainwreck.*



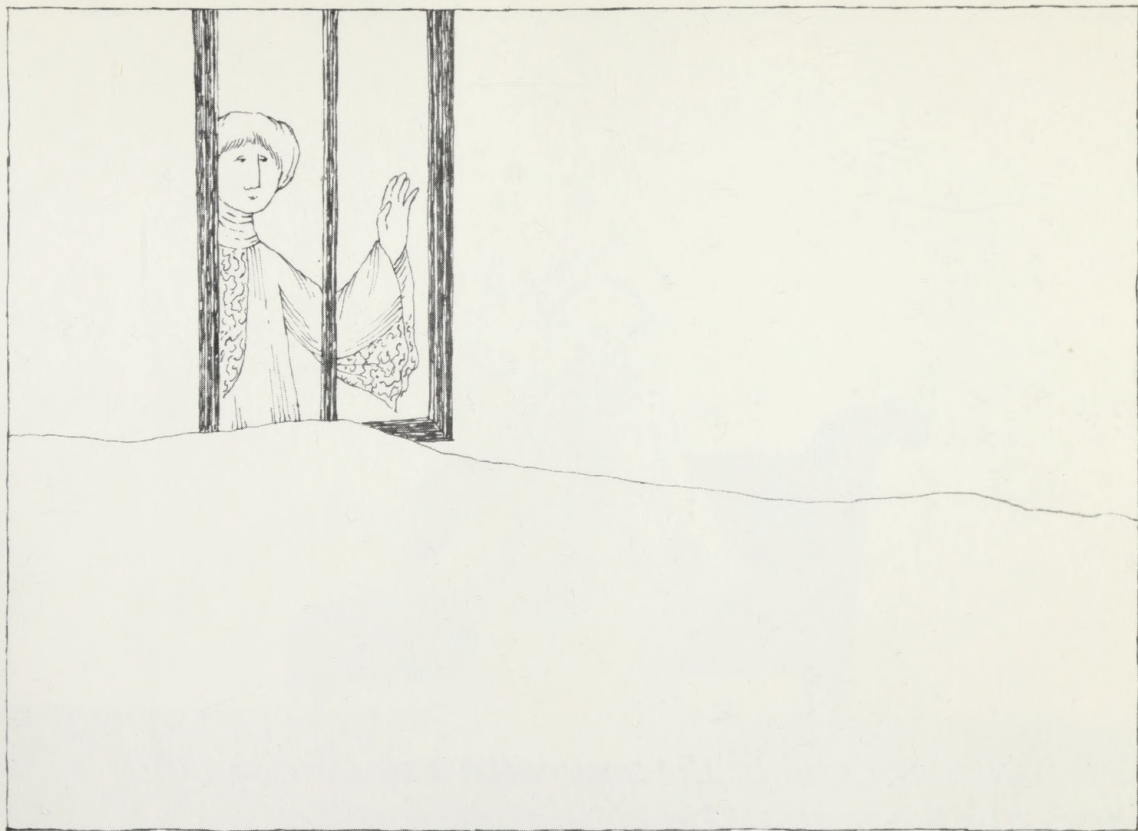


*'I must go and shop for dinner' she said, drawn to the window  
by the curious glare.*



*The snow was far too deep for her to go to the village.*

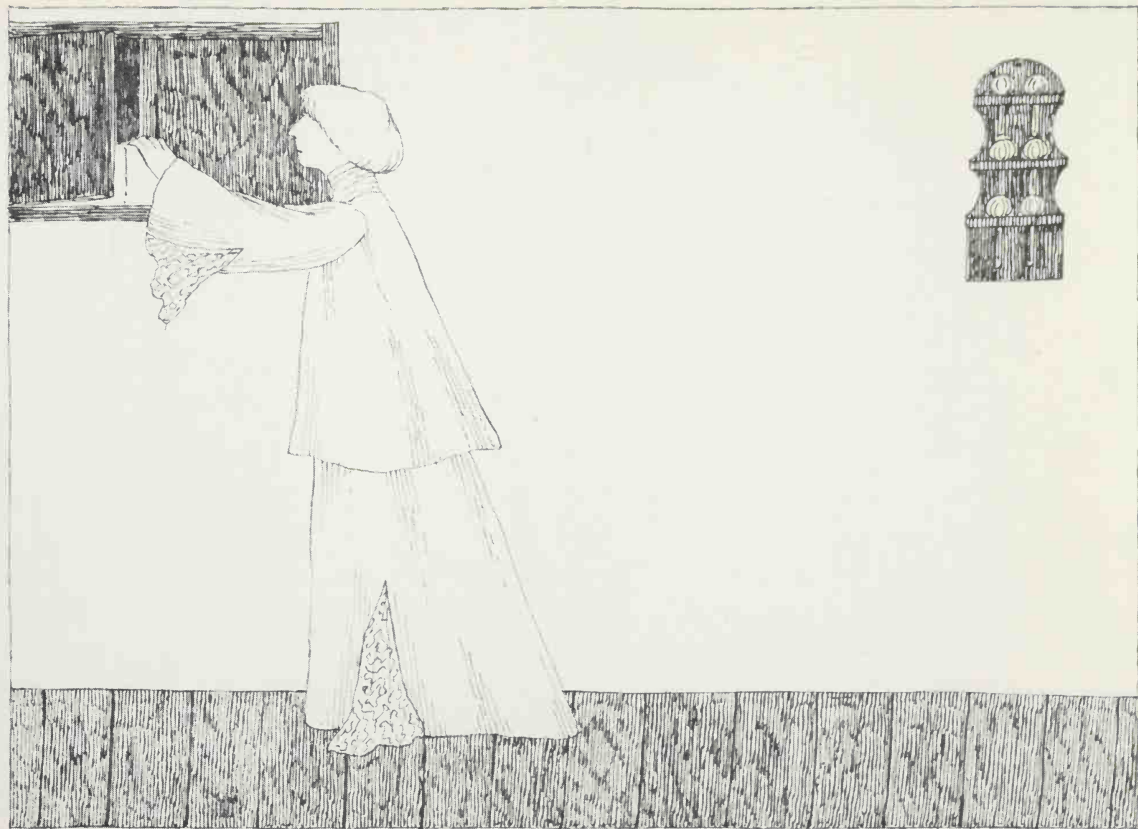




*She read to the end of the novelette and then asked herself 'What shall I do about dinner?'.*



*The kitchen yielded nothing but an unopened box of soda  
crackers in the cupboard.*





*Charles came in and said 'What are we having for dinner?'*



*'Soda crackers,' she said 'but I'll make a delicious white  
sauce to go over them'.*

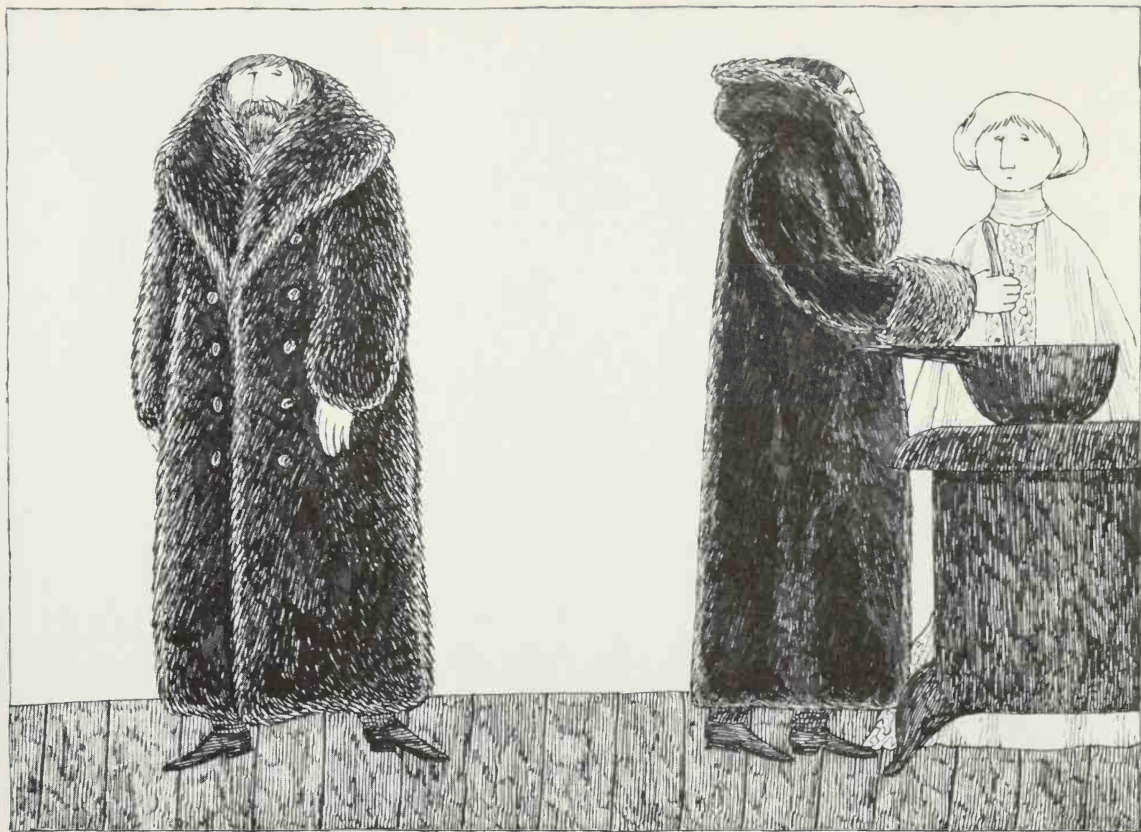


*She took flour and water, and mixed some of each  
together on the stove.*



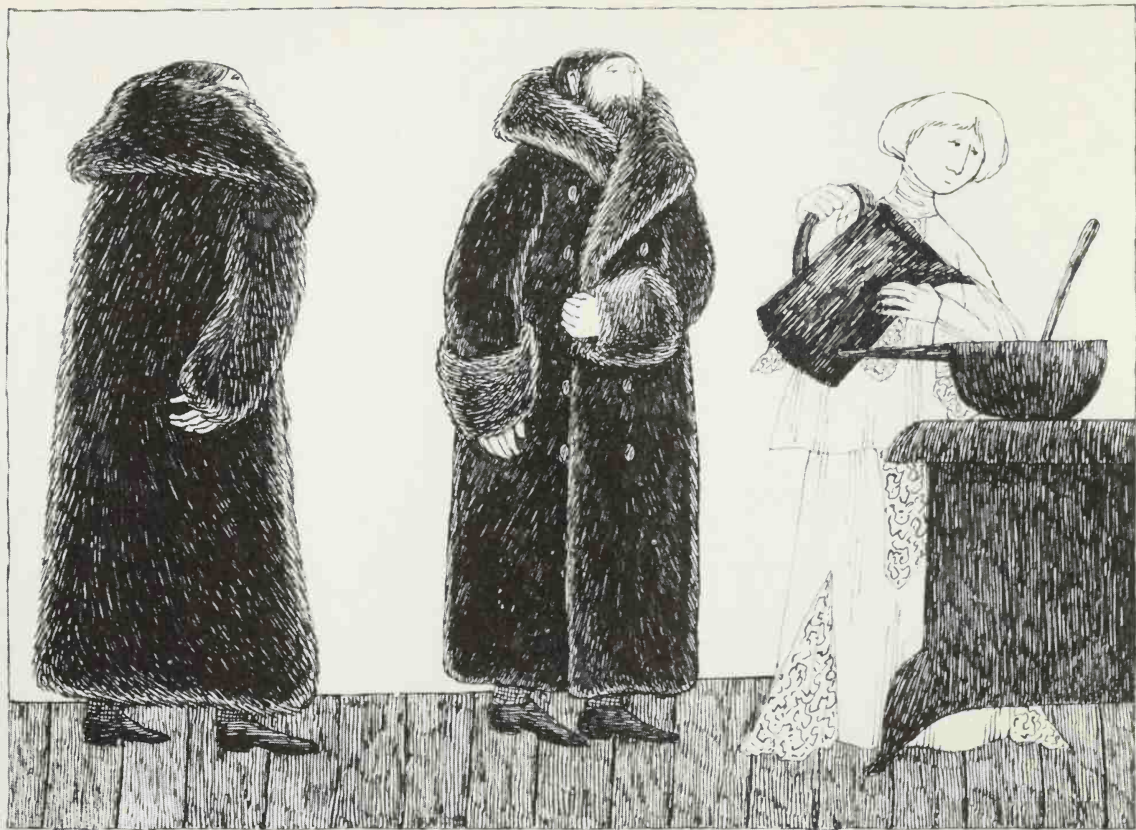


*George came in, stirred the sauce about, and said 'It's too thick'.*



*Jane added a quantity of water.*







*Anne came in as George was tasting it.*



*She took the ladle from him and said 'It's too thin'.*





*Jane added an amount of flour.*





*William came in as Anne was sampling it again.*





*He stuck his finger in it and said 'It's lumpy'.*





*Jane poured in water to dissolve the lumps, so that it was too thin once again.*



*Shedumped in flour, so that it became a second time  
too thick.*





*This went on until there was so much white sauce, it filled every available receptacle.*



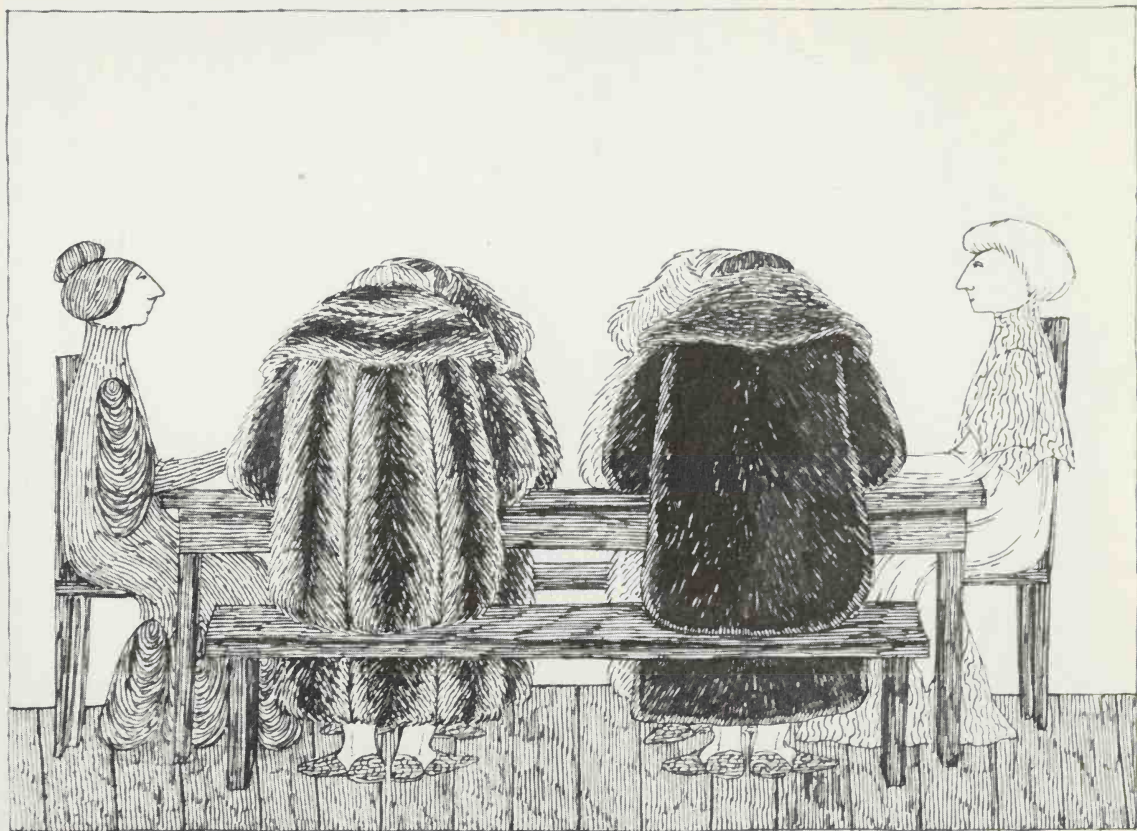


*It was still lumpy, but they sat down to dinner  
notwithstanding.*



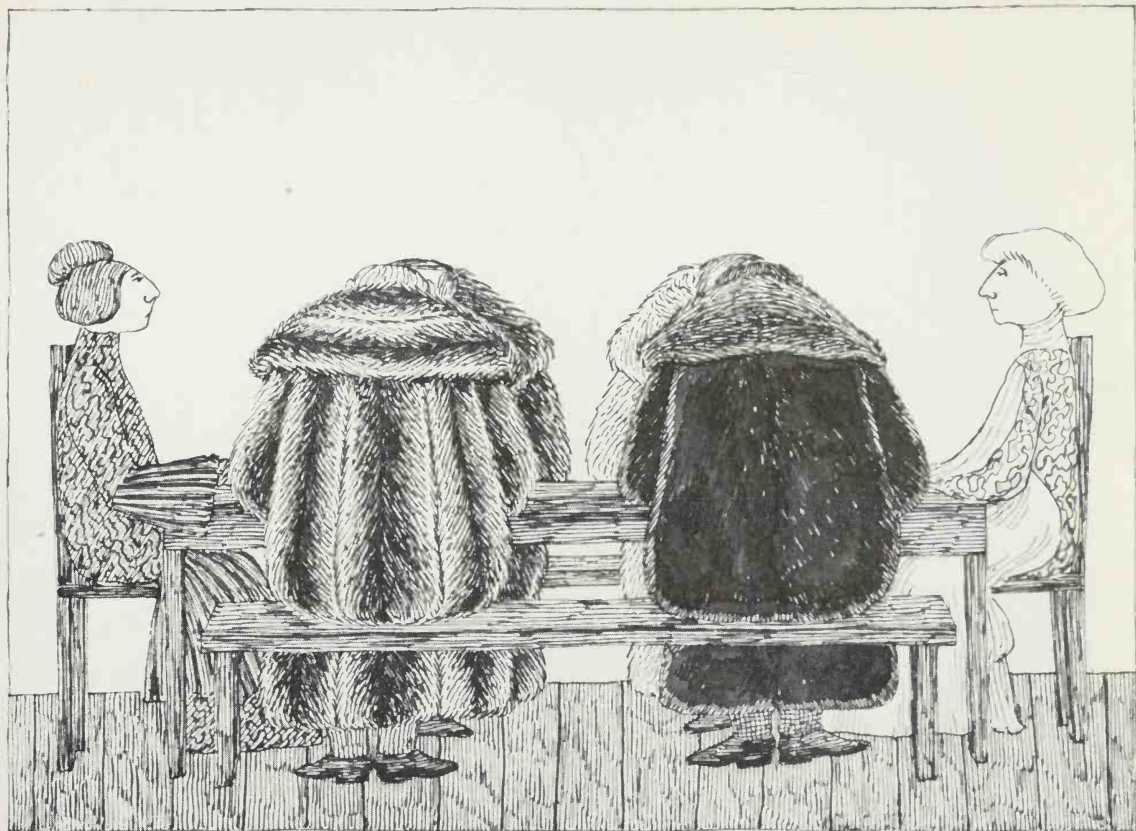
*In the ensuing weeks white sauce appeared at least once, and often two or three times, at every meal, even breakfast.*







*The last of the sauce covered some ill-mashed turnips.*



*Just after the meal concluded Henry suddenly died.*



*It was Christmas Eve as it happened.*





*Jane, Anne, George, and William painted all the  
ornaments a dull black.*



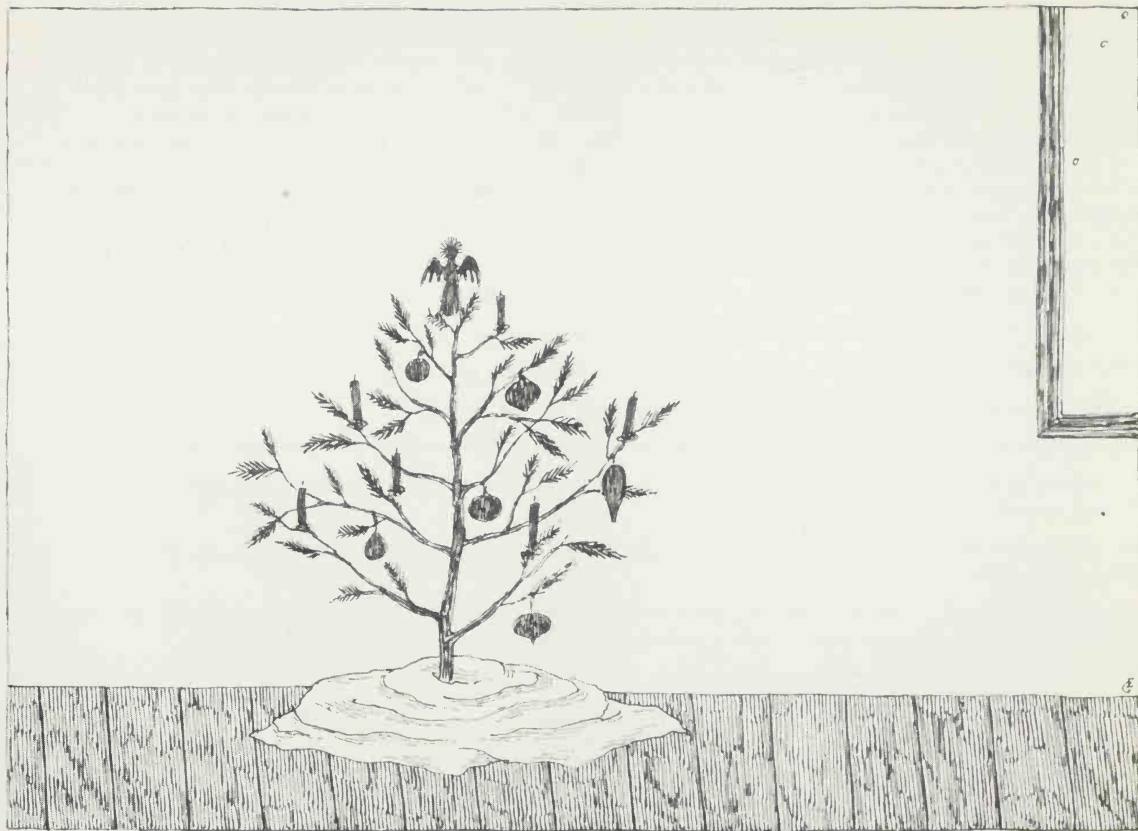
*Charles went to the village for black candles.*







*Snow was falling again as they finished trimming the tree.*



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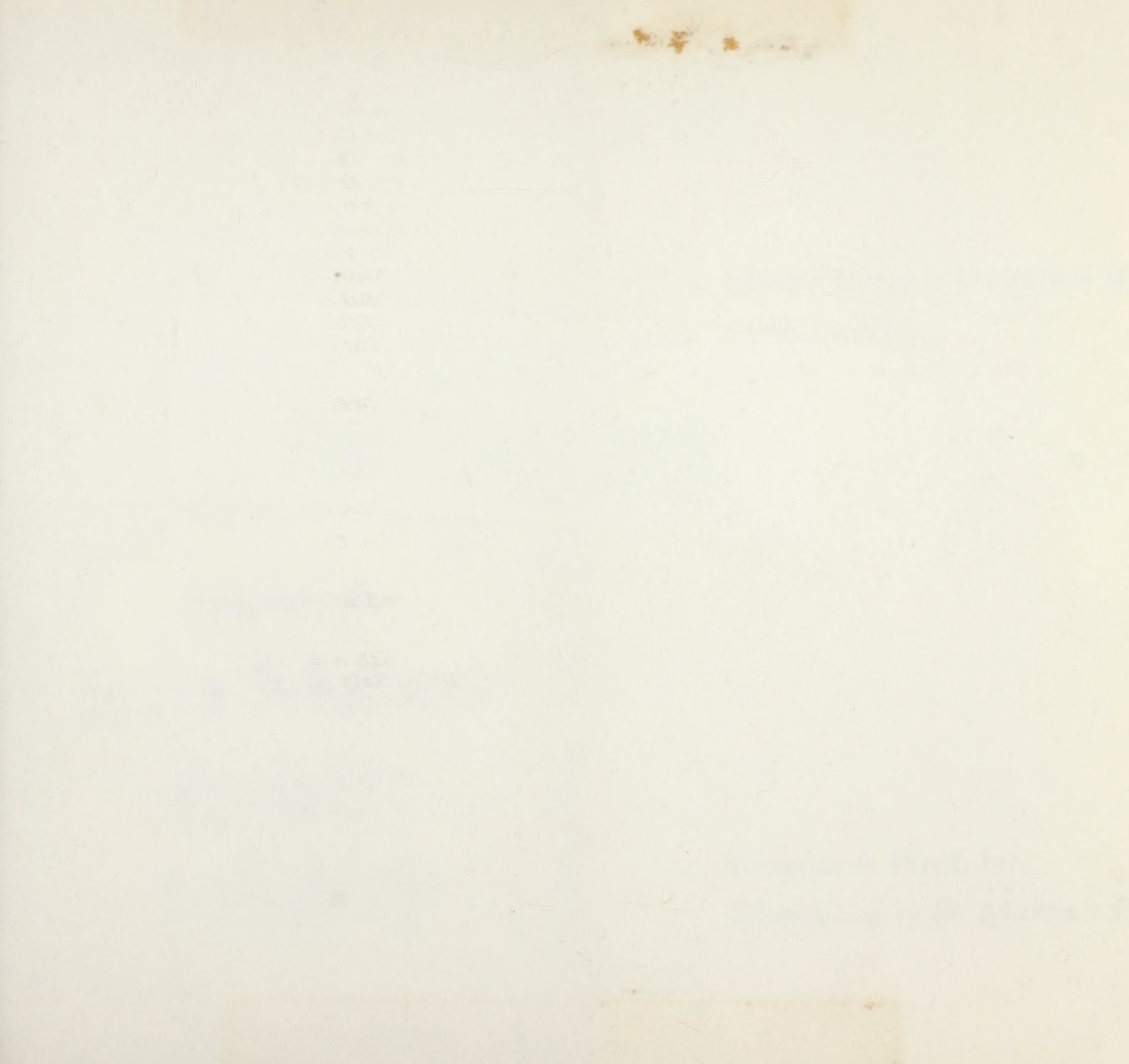
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