

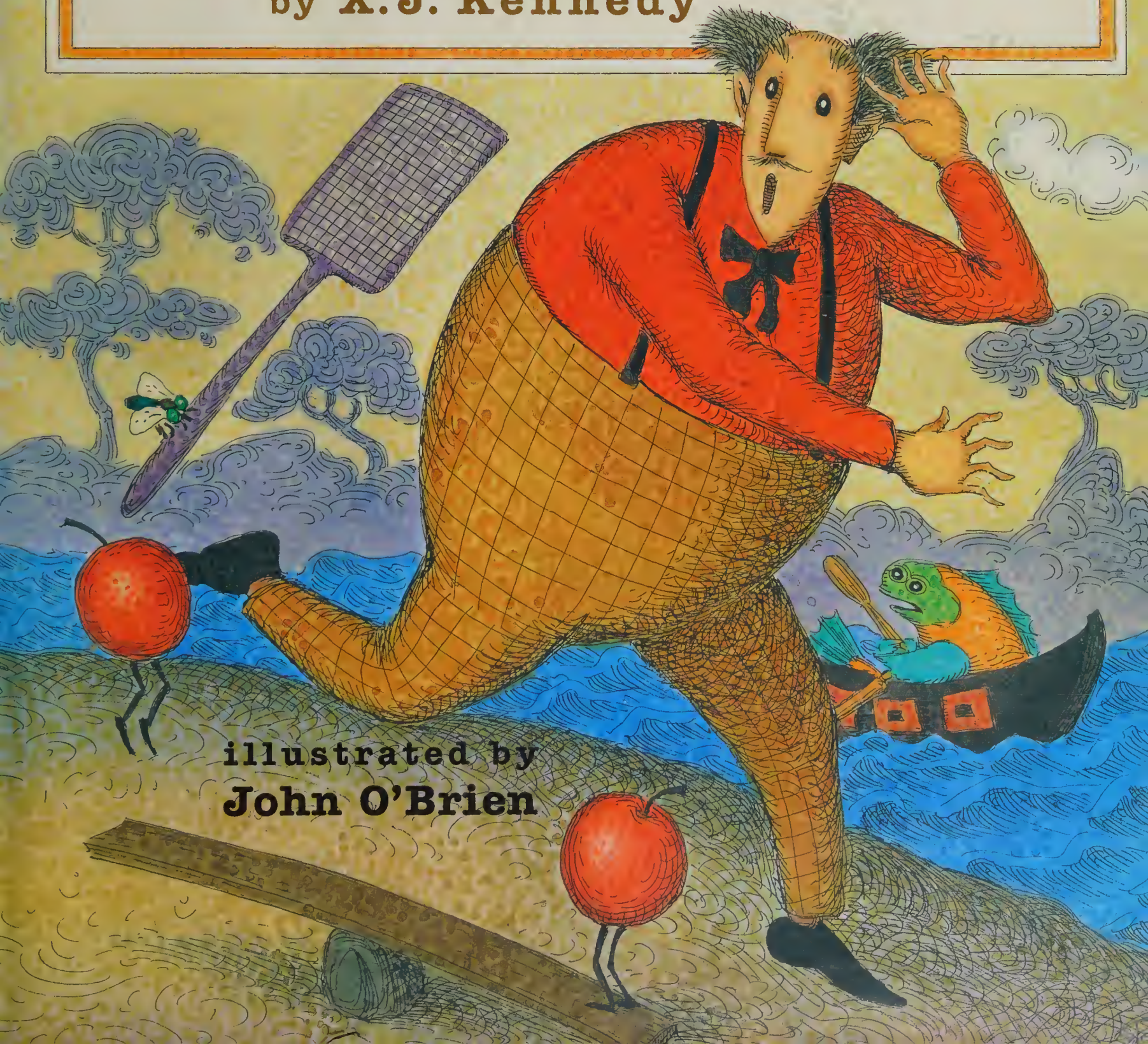


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Uncle Switch

LOONY LIMERICKS

by X.J. Kennedy



illustrated by
John O'Brien

\$15.00 US

\$20.00 CAN

Ages 5 - 9

Uncle Switch never

does anything the way other folks do. For example:

*Uncle Switch, wearing whiskers
and fur,
Is determined to practice his purr
And solicits advice
On how best to catch mice
From a cat he addresses as "Sir."*

In this collection of truly loony limericks, X. J. Kennedy, the widely known and much-loved poet and light versifier, gives his imagination free rein to create absurd, upside-down situations that will tickle the funny bones of all who read or hear them.

Together with *The New Yorker* cartoonist John O'Brien's equally lunatic full-color illustrations that make visible and enhance the zany, quirky doings of Uncle Switch, this is a book sure to have young readers and their elders in stitches.



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DATE DUE

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DEMCO, INC. 38-2931



Uncle Switch

LOONY LIMERICKS



Other books by X. J. Kennedy

The Beasts of Bethlehem
illustrated by Michael McCurdy

Brats
illustrated by James Watts

Drat These Brats!
illustrated by James Watts

The Forgetful Wishing Well:
Poems for Young People
illustrated by Monica Incisa

Fresh Brats
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Ghastlies, Goops & Pincushions:
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Uncle Switch

LOONY LIMERICKS

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X. J. Kennedy



illustrated by
John O'Brien

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25 YEARS • 1972-1997

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New York, New York 10020

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an eccentric who does everything topsy-turvy.

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To Marilyn Marlow

—X. J. K.

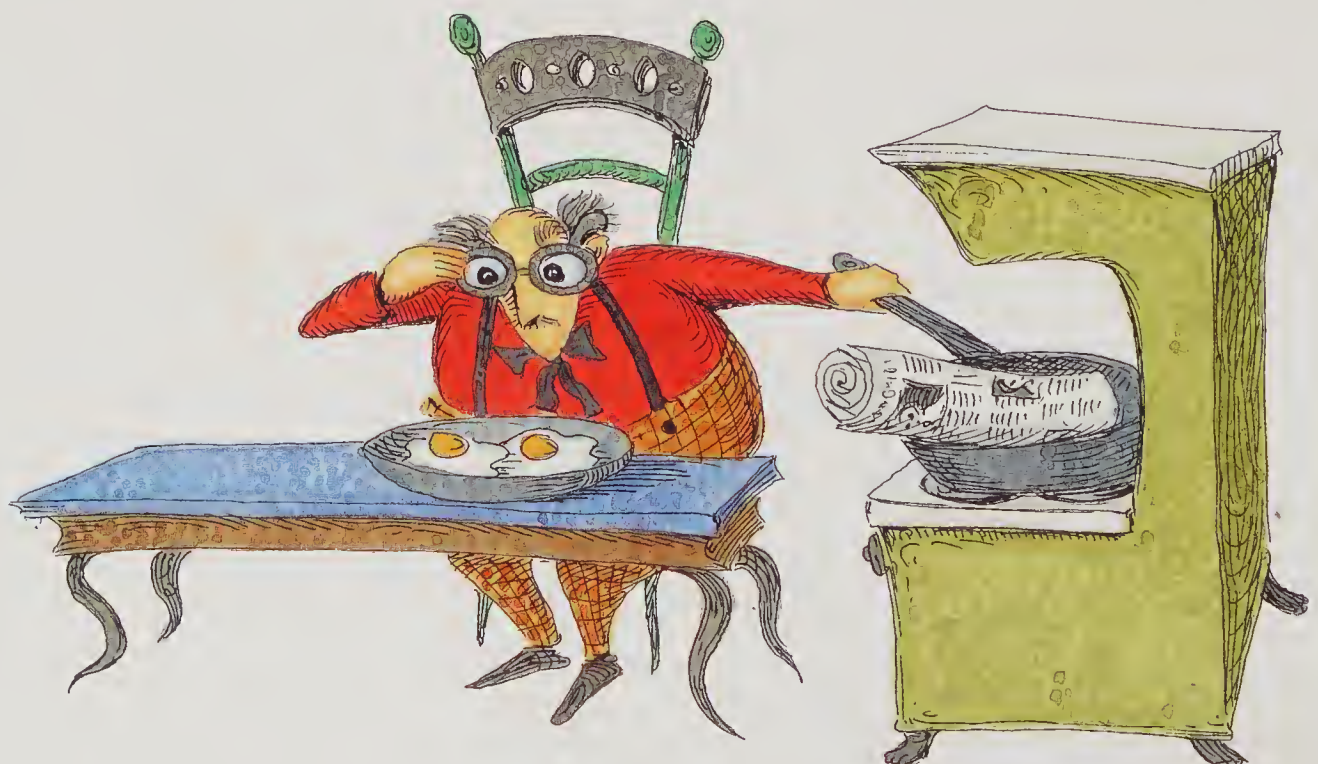


To my father's granddaughter, Tess

—J. O.



Crack of dawn. Uncle Switch milks the pup,
Walks the Jersey cow, sloshes a cup
Full of hot exercise,
Reads two fresh eggs, and fries
All the morning news sunny side up.





Other mornings, this turned-around man
Downs a jug of milk, pours raisin bran,
Toasts and butters his hair,
Breaks an egg on his chair,
And goes scrambling about in the pan.

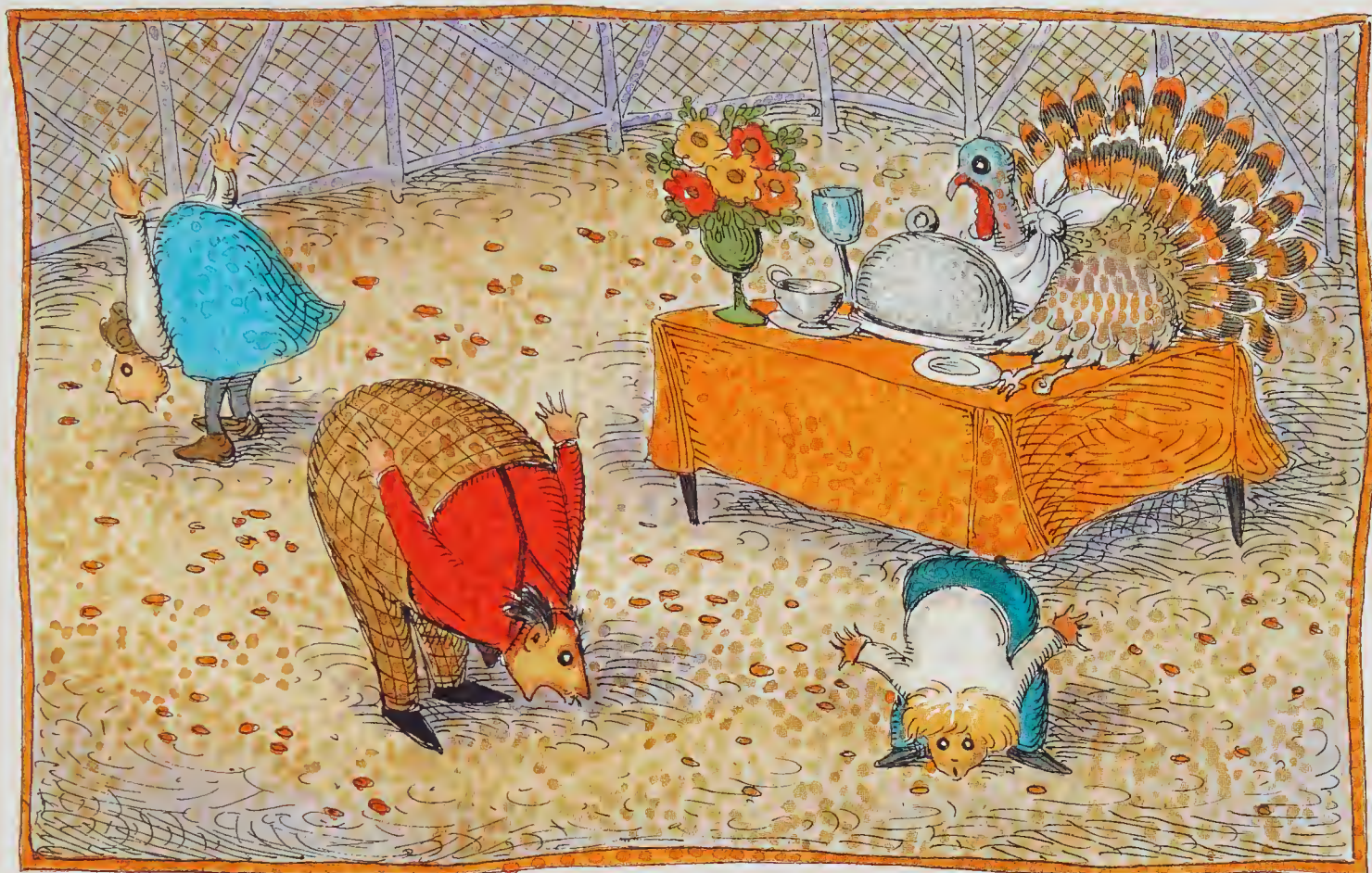


My, how well Uncle Switch fixed the clock's
Little problem! It now sits and rocks
In his favorite chair
While with hands in midair
Uncle points and cuckoos and tick-tocks.



The most beautiful music I know
Is what Uncle makes, solemn and slow,
When a big violin
Tucks him under its chin
And then scrapes his bare chest with its bow.



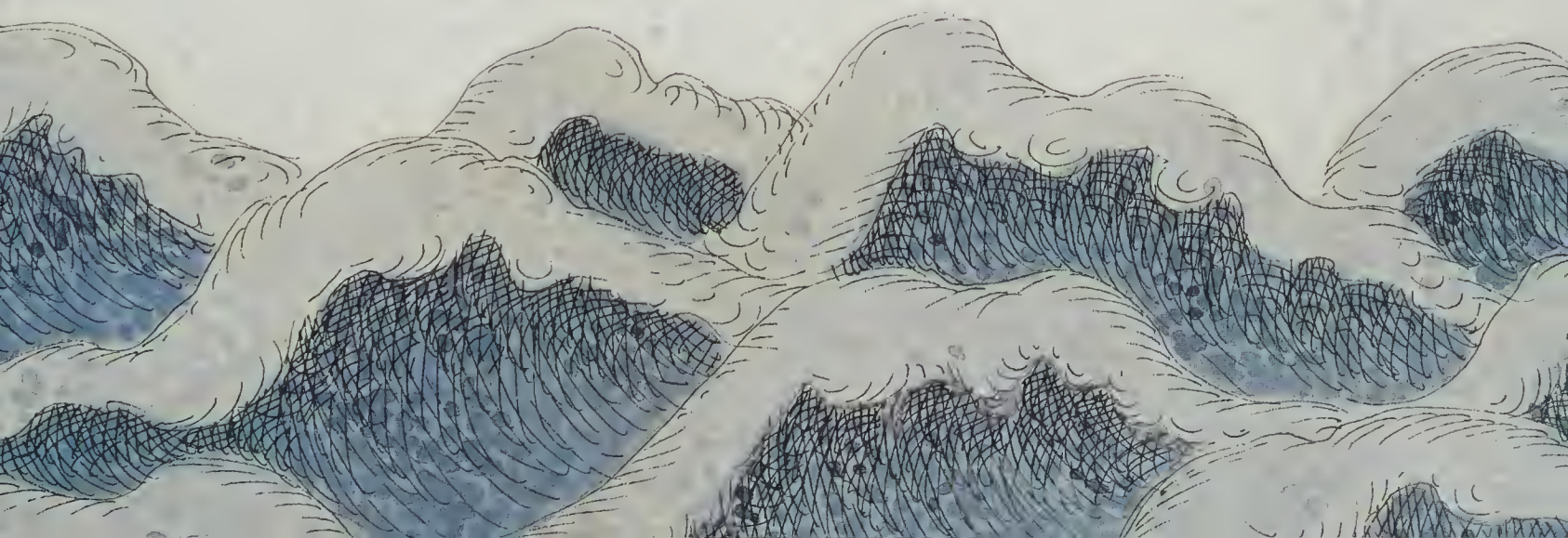


Uncle Switch cooks a sumptuous feed,
But his Thanksgiving's different indeed,
For the turkey instead
Of us people gets fed
While we all run around pecking seed.





Uncle Switch, as he swam in the brook,
Rashly swallowed a worm on a hook,
But the fillet of sole
Who was holding the pole
Declared, "Shucks, he's too dinky to cook."

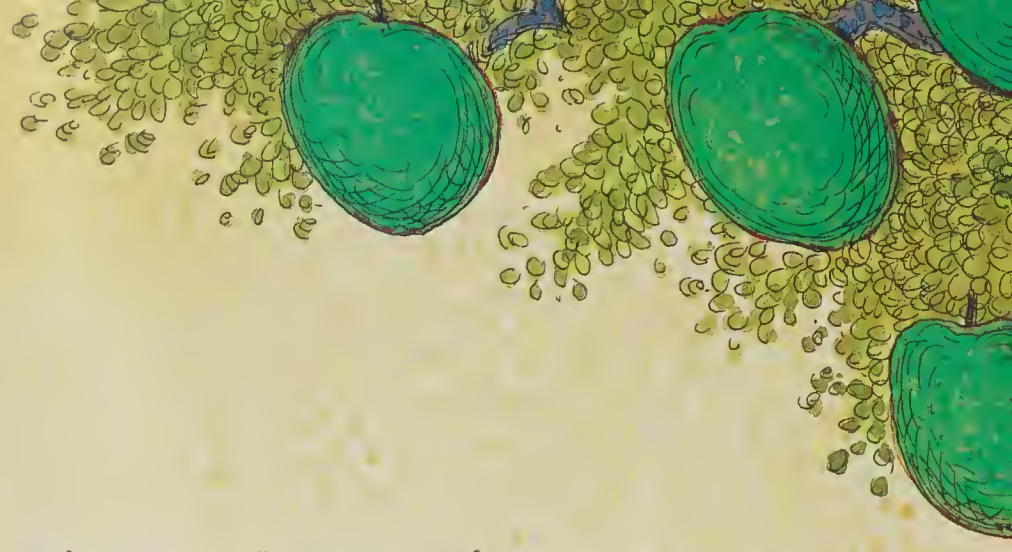


Uncle Switch, wearing whiskers and fur,
Is determined to practice his purr
And solicits advice
On how best to catch mice
From a cat he addresses as "Sir."





And whenever a house mouse he sees,
Lets it scamper off free as the breeze
While with deafening SNAP
He sits down on a trap
And, imprisoned there, nibbles on cheese.



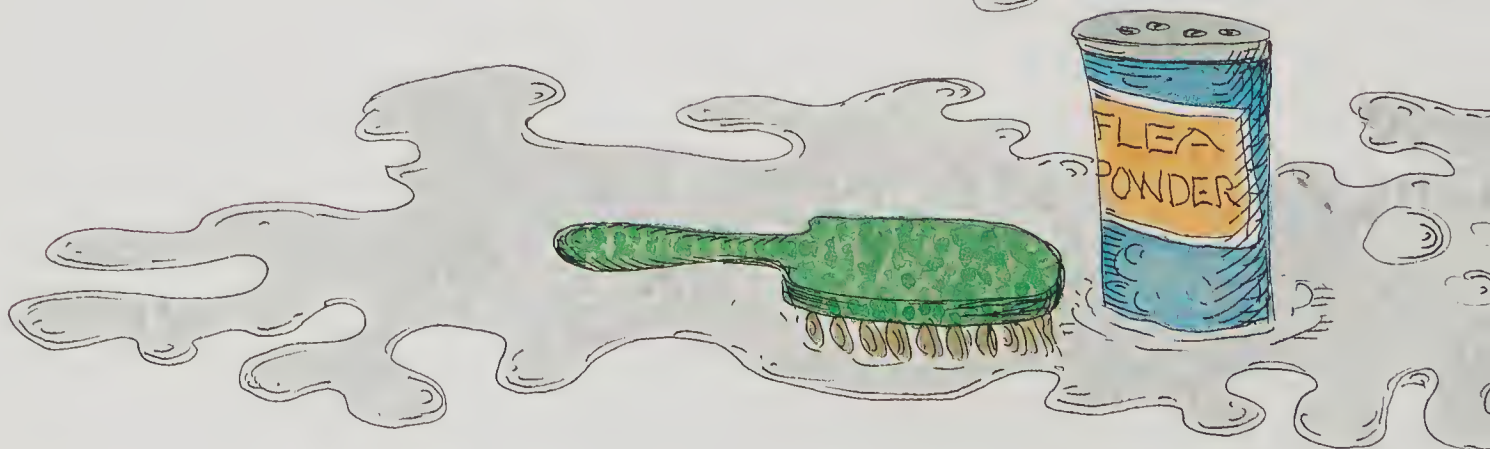
Uncle Switch has this tree whose routine
Is as mixed up as any I've seen:
Apples ripe, red, and round
Jump right up off the ground,
Fasten fast to a branch, and turn green.







Howland Hound can write stories and sketch,
Draw with crayons and paint, sculpt, and etch,
And across Mucky Crick
He keeps throwing a stick
Which he's teaching his master to fetch.





**“Bath time, Howland! Begin, if you please!”—
Uncle’s hound dog gets down on his knees
And dunks Unk in the tub
For a good sudsy scrub,
Then applies some white powder for fleas.**



On the football field, watch Uncle shine
For the other team, not his and mine.

While we spectators stare,
He's tossed—whee!—through the air
And thuds down on the thirty-yard line.





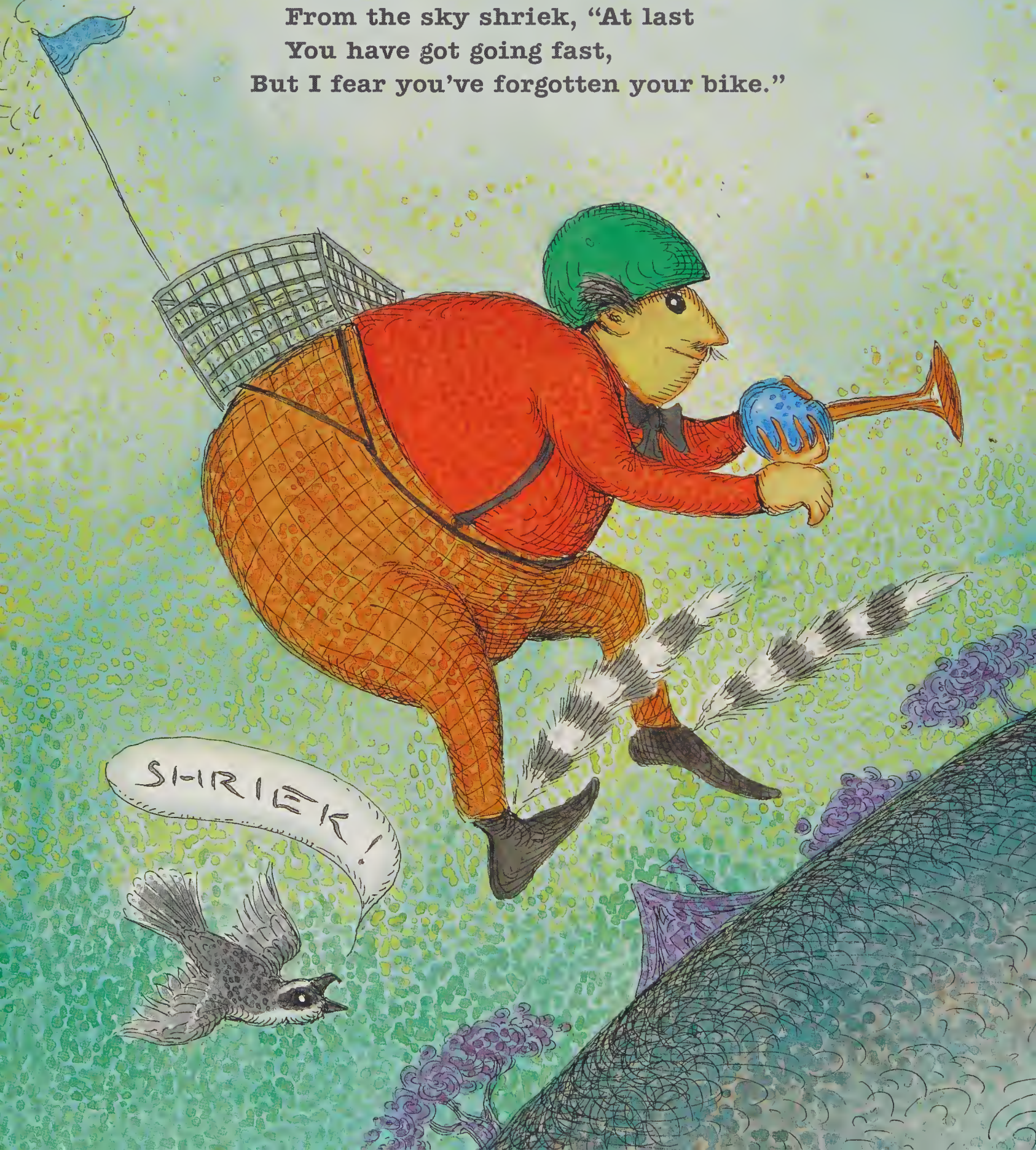
**When a thirsty mosquito in flight
Whistles down in the dead of the night
To our uncle's sleep couch,
The poor insect cries, "Ouch!"
And starts scratching an Uncle Switch bite.**





**Uncle Switch grumbles, "Every time I
Take a swat at that bluebottle fly,
The smart little rotter
Grabs ahold of the swatter
And he bops me KERSMACK in the eye."**

Pedaling lickety-split down the pike
(In reverse, of course), Unk hears a shriek
From the sky shriek, "At last
You have got going fast,
But I fear you've forgotten your bike."





**As a sitter, is anyone droller
Than our Unk? When he sits Bonnie Bowler,
All the neighbors cry, "Yipe!
Baby's puffing a pipe!
There she goes, pushing Switch in her stroller!"**



Uncle Switch, at the beach for a swim,
Never jumps in. Instead, it's his whim
On his blanket to lie
Till the tide rises high—
He insists that the sea come to him.



What our Uncle Switch best likes to do
Is trade places with apes in the zoo.

On a swaying trapeze
He sits searching for fleas,
Peels bananas, and chitters at you.





Uncle says, "What an awful impasse!
All my cows claim their diet lacks class.
Well, I won't be a meanie,
I'll serve 'em linguini
And grab me a mouthful of grass."





When, by munching hard, Uncle gets through
Mowing meadowgrass—hear the man moo!—
He exclaims with a snort,
“Shucks, I’ve cut it too short!”—
So he sticks it all back on with glue.





When his frog Freddy sings, Uncle croaks,
And he blubbers when told funny jokes.
Peeling onions, he laughs,
And he snaps photographs
Of his camera to send to its folks.





Uncle Switch always follows a firm
Rule for feeding the birds: With a squirm
He'll squeeze into their nest,
Openmouthed as the rest,
Till the mom robin brings him a worm.



WHAT REVIEWERS HAVE SAID ABOUT

X. J. Kennedy's

Brats

illustrated by James Watts

★"Fear of producing children similar to those described in a collection of forty-two untitled poems could just possibly set the birthrate back for years. The assortment of zany mischief makers . . . will provoke giggles of envy from the young and a shudder of apprehension from parents and teachers. . . . Sheer, outrageous naughtiness."

—*The Horn Book* (starred review)

Fresh Brats

illustrated by James Watts

★"Kennedy's new collection of short, snappy poems depicting bratty kids proves just as fresh and funny as the original. . . . Kids are in for a treat."

—*Booklist* (starred review)

Drat These Brats!

illustrated by James Watts

Parenting magazine
Reading-Magic Award, 1993

◆"They're back—Lil and papa's dental drill, Brent in the cement, Trish with a jellyfish—along with 40 other little terrors. . . . Some come to bad ends . . . but most just raise hell and laughter in these short poems marked by clever rhymes, extravagant alliteration, and goofy puns. . . . Gleeful mayhem."

—*Kirkus Reviews* (pointer review)

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Jacket illustration copyright © 1997 by John O'Brien

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