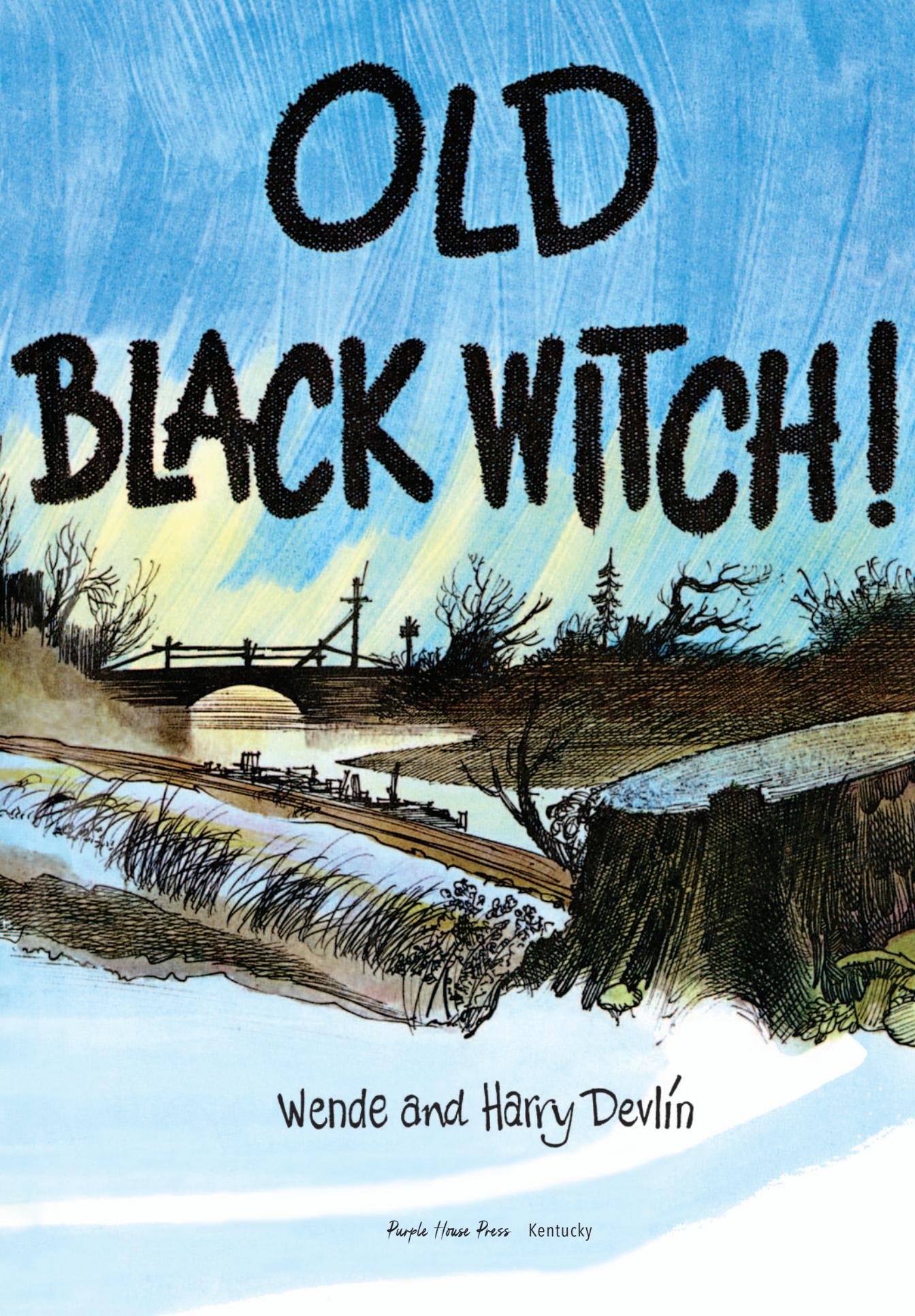


OLD BLACK WITCH!



wende
and
Harry Devlin

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Purple House Press Kentucky

To
Kathryn Elizabeth Devlin



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Summary: Nicky and his mother's effort to turn an old New England house into a tearoom are hampered by the old witch who haunts the place, until they learn how well she cooks.

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Nicky and his mother had made a long trip to New England. They didn't have much money, and they wanted to buy an old house to turn into a tearoom. Nicky's mother had in mind a special kind of house

for the tearoom. She thought it should be old and warm and cosy.

They looked and looked for such a house. At last, they found a man who said he had just the right house for a tearoom. He said it was old and warm and cosy. He really thought it was old and broken-down and dreadful. Nicky and his mother were too tired even to think. They bought the house.

When all the papers were signed, they went out to the house. Nicky's mother opened the squeaky, old door with the rusty key.

The sun had gone down, and the house was dark and chilly. Nicky began to build a fire in the big fireplace. The fire did not start very easily, and puffs of smoke soon filled the room.



Suddenly, SQUAWK! THUMP! And down from the chimney fell a big, black mess. It was covered with cobwebs and made

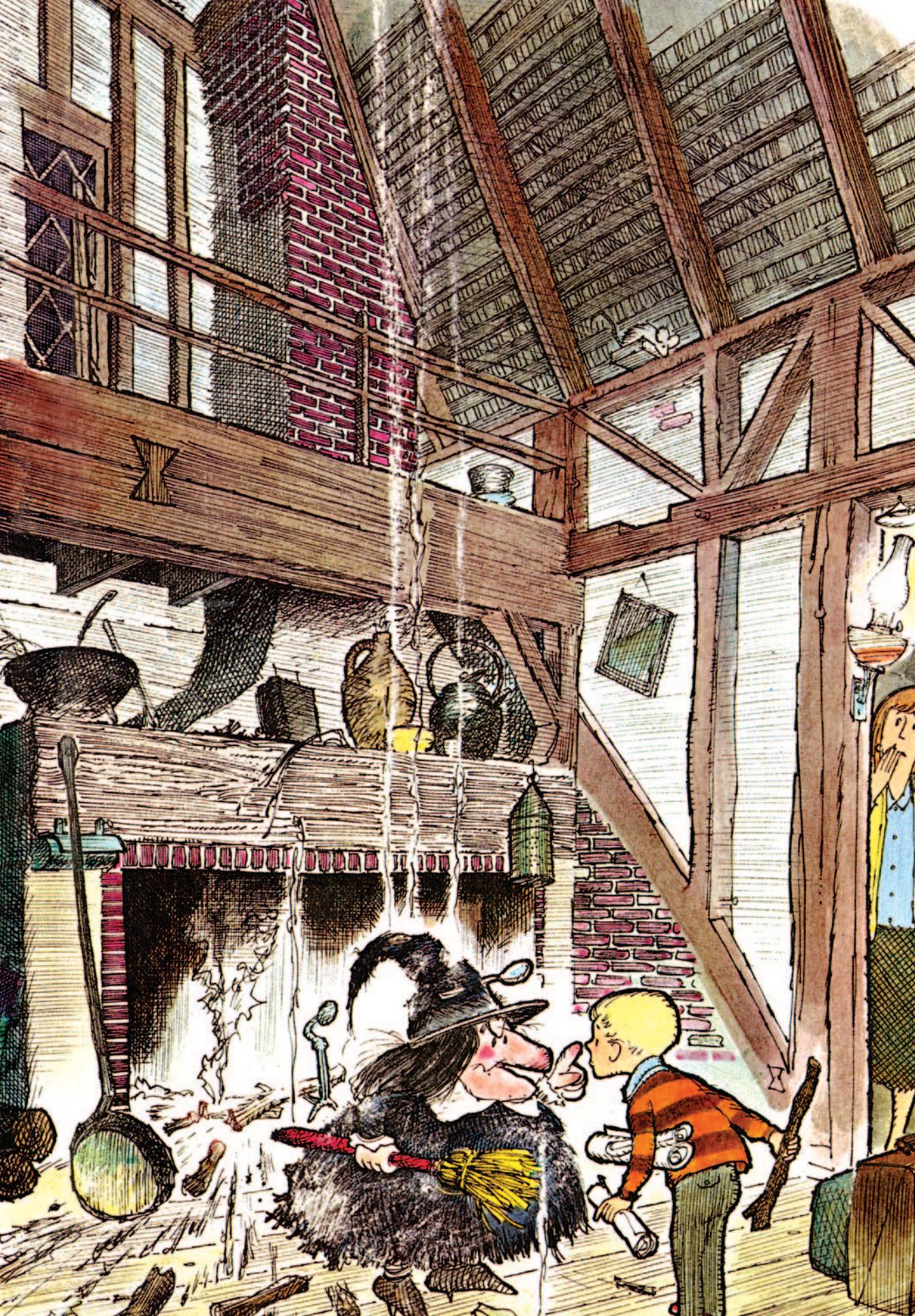
terrible sounds. It stumbled out of the fireplace into the room. From its long, pointed hat to its long, pointed shoes, it was covered with ashes. It was a fright. It was furious. And it was an old black witch.

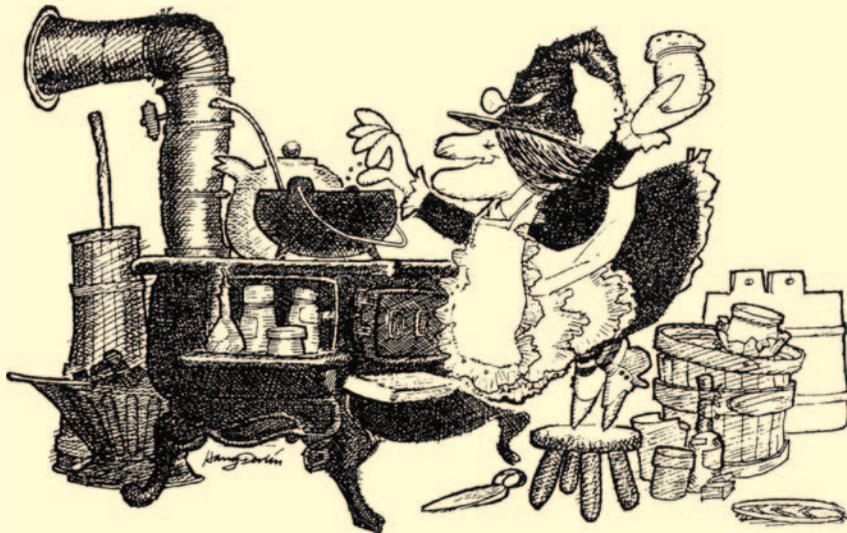
Old Black Witch glared into Nicky's face.

"Who told you to build a fire in my fireplace?" she shouted, stamping around and shaking her broom. "Jumping Jehosaphat! You've scorched my blasted broomstick!"

"This is our fireplace and our house because we bought it," Nicky said politely. "And what are you doing in our chimney?"

Old Black Witch had expected to see the boy scream in fright and climb the closest curtain. Now, she looked hard into Nicky's face. She pointed a long, crooked finger at the tip of Nicky's nose.





BEWITCHING BLUEBERRY PANCAKES

- 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ cups flour
- 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoons baking powder
- 3 tablespoons granulated sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 egg, beaten
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup milk
- 3 tablespoons melted fat or oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup washed blueberries

As you stir in the blueberries (this is the magic part) say three times:

*Gobble dee gook
With a wooden spoon,
The laugh of a toad
At the height of the moon!*

Pour on a hot griddle and watch.

You can make things disappear just like Old Black Witch. Put three pancakes in front of any hungry girl or boy and watch them go!



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