

Let's Haunt a House

A Talk-Along Coloring Story Book



Children Participate by Providing Rhyming Answers
and Coloring the Pages

Written and Illustrated by
Dick Punnett

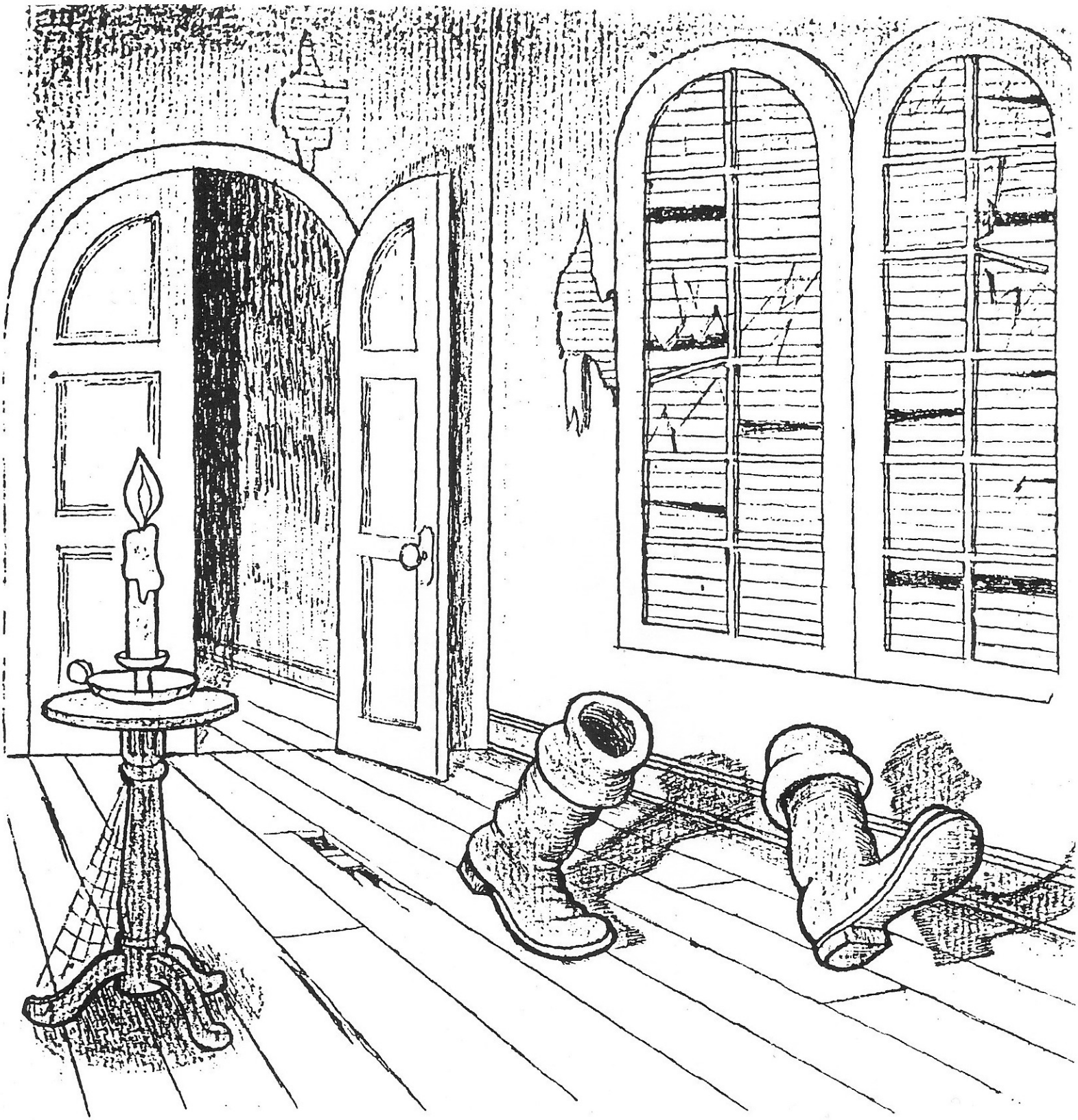
**To All My Great-Grand Nieces,
and Great-Grand Nephews:**

**Audrey, Ava, Caroline, Claire, Elliott,
Elyas, Griffin, Hank, Huck, Jackson, Natalie,
Nathan, Noah, Olivia Rose, Oren, Random,
Riley, Sebastian, Sophia, and Wyatt.**

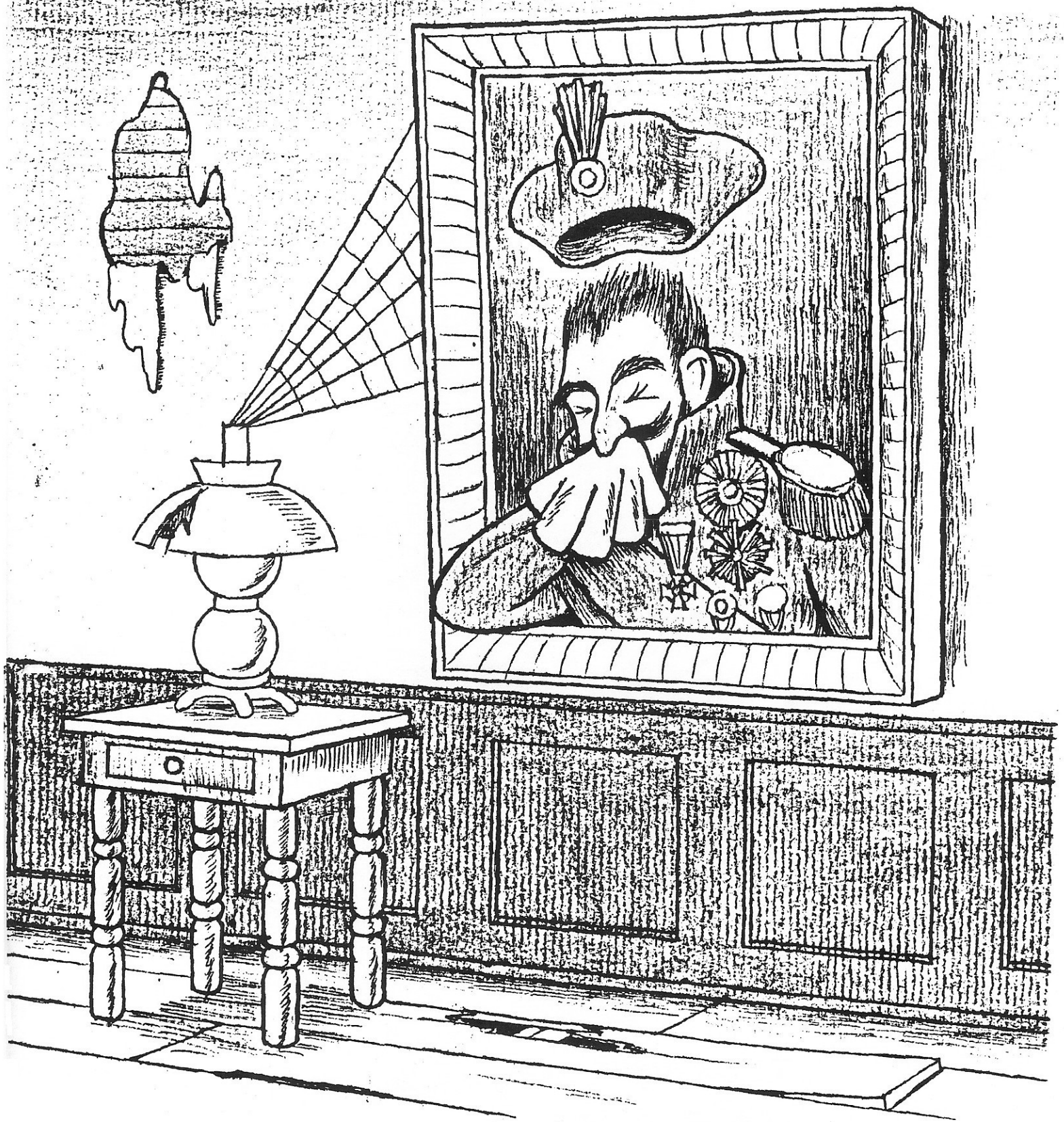
*I want you to know before we start
our story has a speaking part.
When you see the dots . . .
try guessing the word.
That is the time for YOU to be heard.*



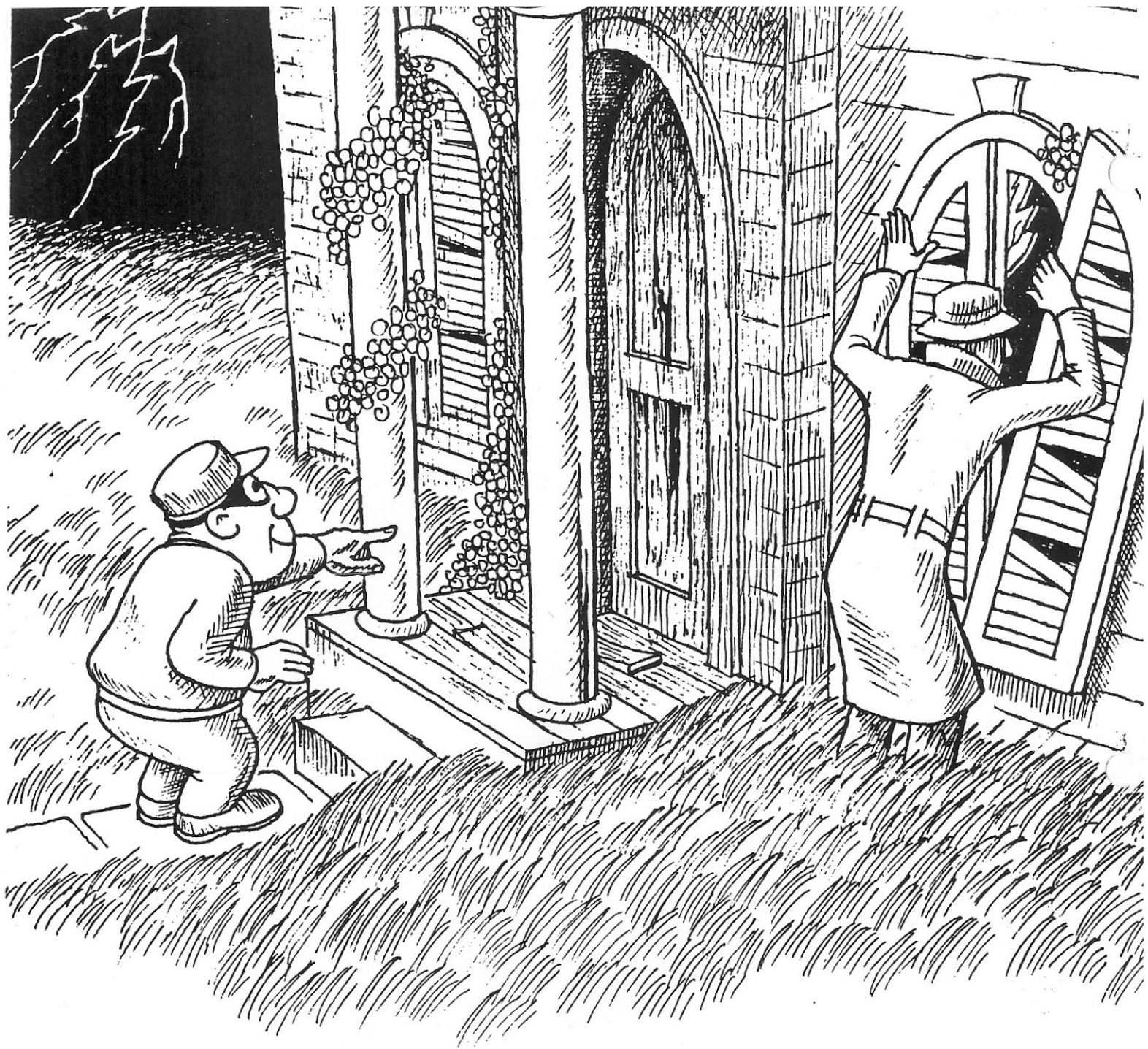
Say, how would you like to be a ghost
In a haunted house on a stormy coast?
The whole spooky place would belong to you.
Think of the scary things you could do!



At your command a candle will light,
And empty boots will walk through the night.
Tell a door to open and it will obey.
EVERYTHING will do whatever you say!



A picture on the wall will suddenly sneeze!
Yes
It's YOUR house to haunt, anyway you please!



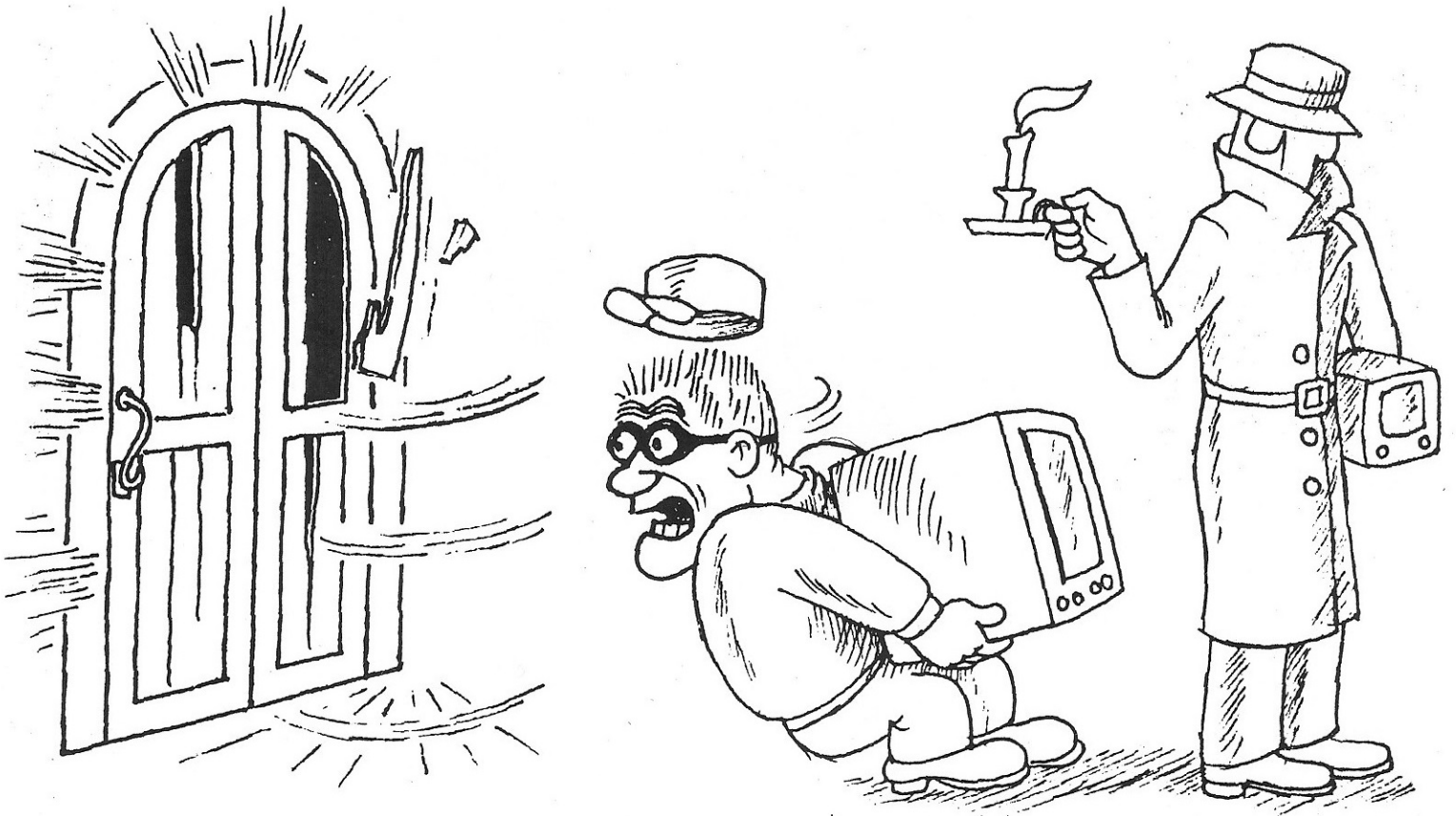
But wait! Who are those men prowling outside?
They're the *wanted robbers*, O'Toole and McBride!
They like your house, and I have a feeling
They'll use the place to hide what they're stealing!



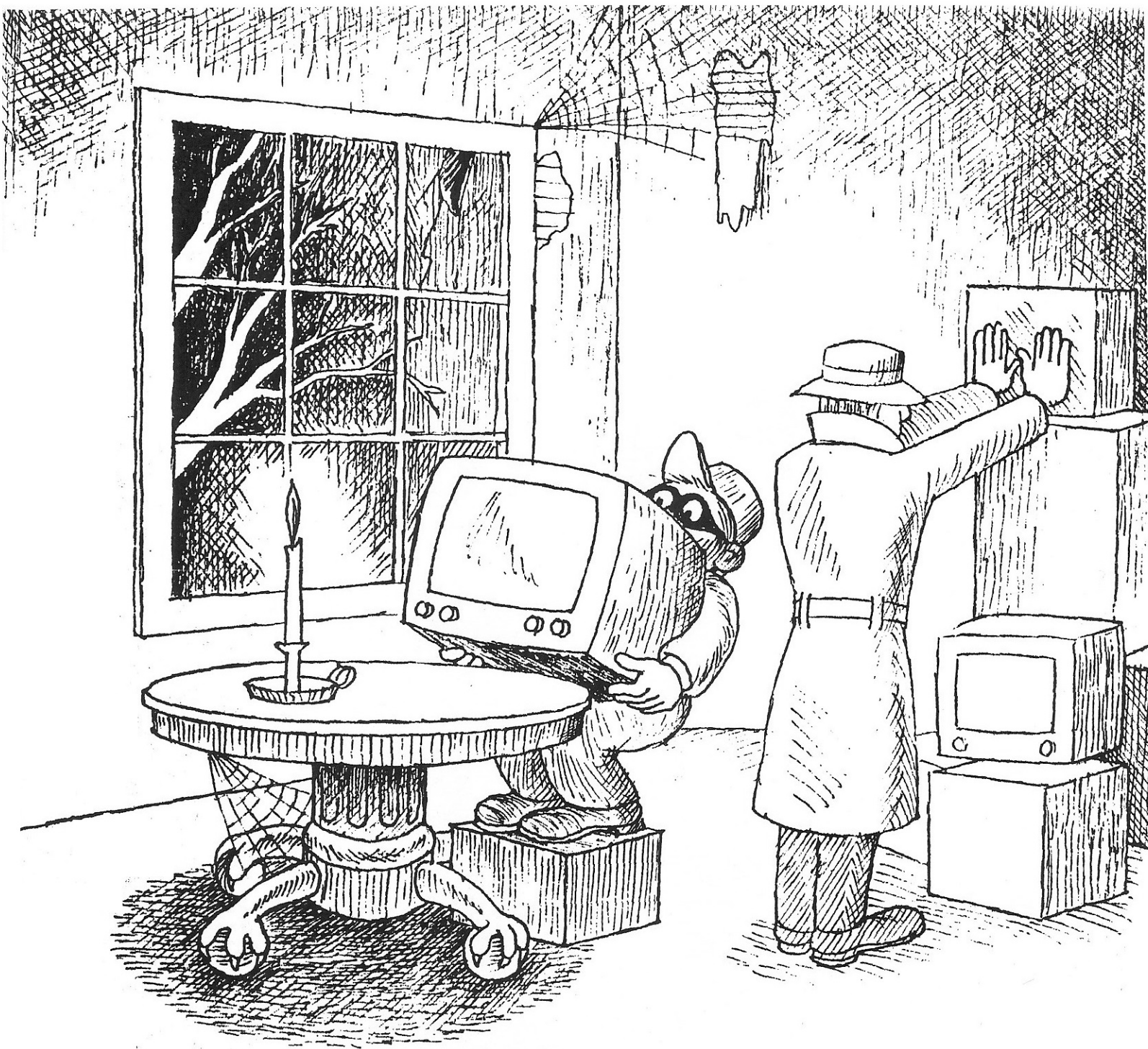
Look!

You see what I mean? We mustn't delay.
It is time to haunt and scare them away!
Are you ready to start? I know I am.
Let's shut the door hard; so tell it to

slam



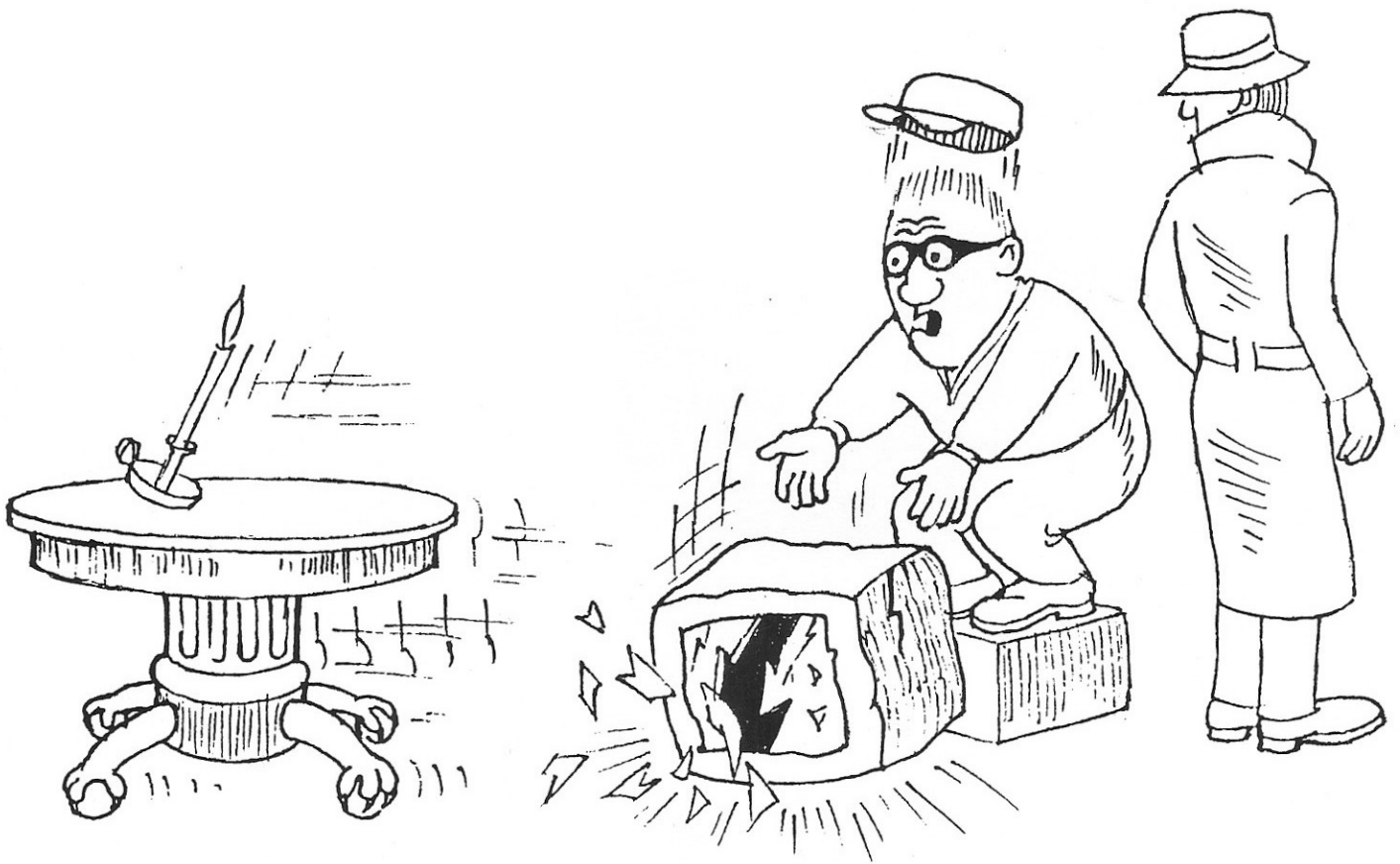
"Who's there?" cried McBride, VERY ill at ease.
"Relax," said O'Toole, "It was just a breeze."



Well!

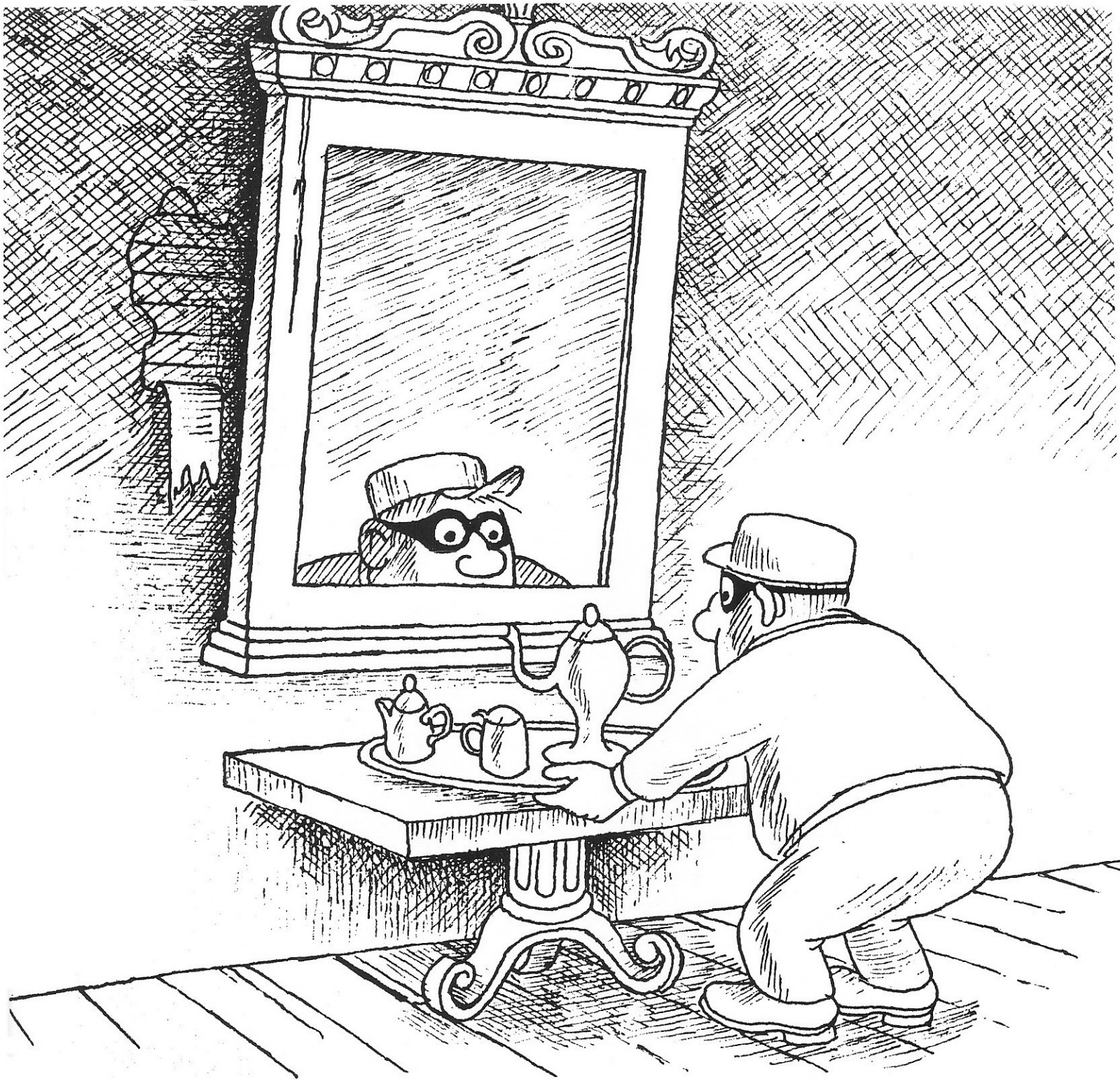
Let's keep going and haunt some more.
Let's do a haunt that they CAN'T ignore!
Now see that table? Let's move it aside.
So all you do is tell it to

slide



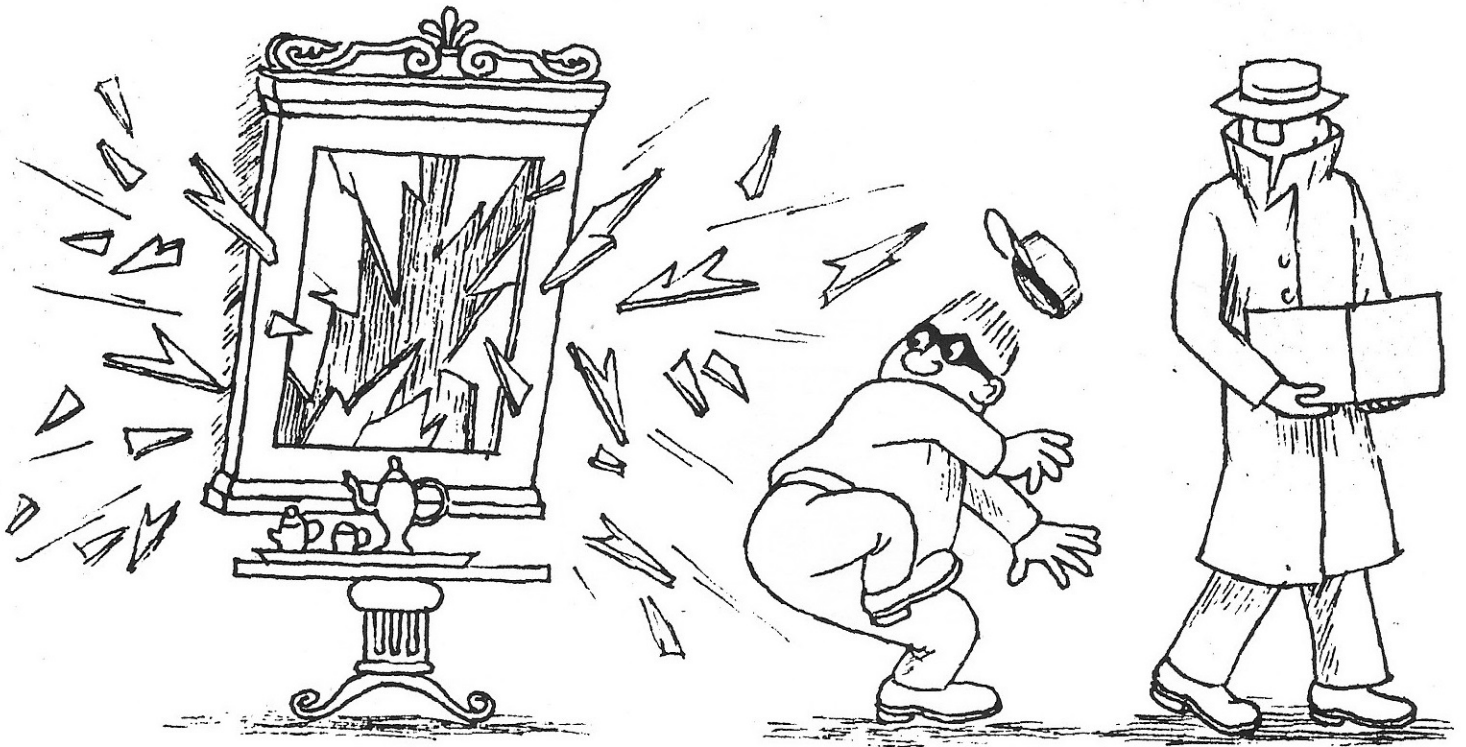
"I've never," cried McBride, "seen THAT before!"

"Relax," said O'Toole, "It's a sloping floor."



Now here's McBride with MORE stolen stuff.
We've got to stop it -- enough is enough!
Do you see where he put the silver platter?
Let's break that mirror; so tell it to

shatter

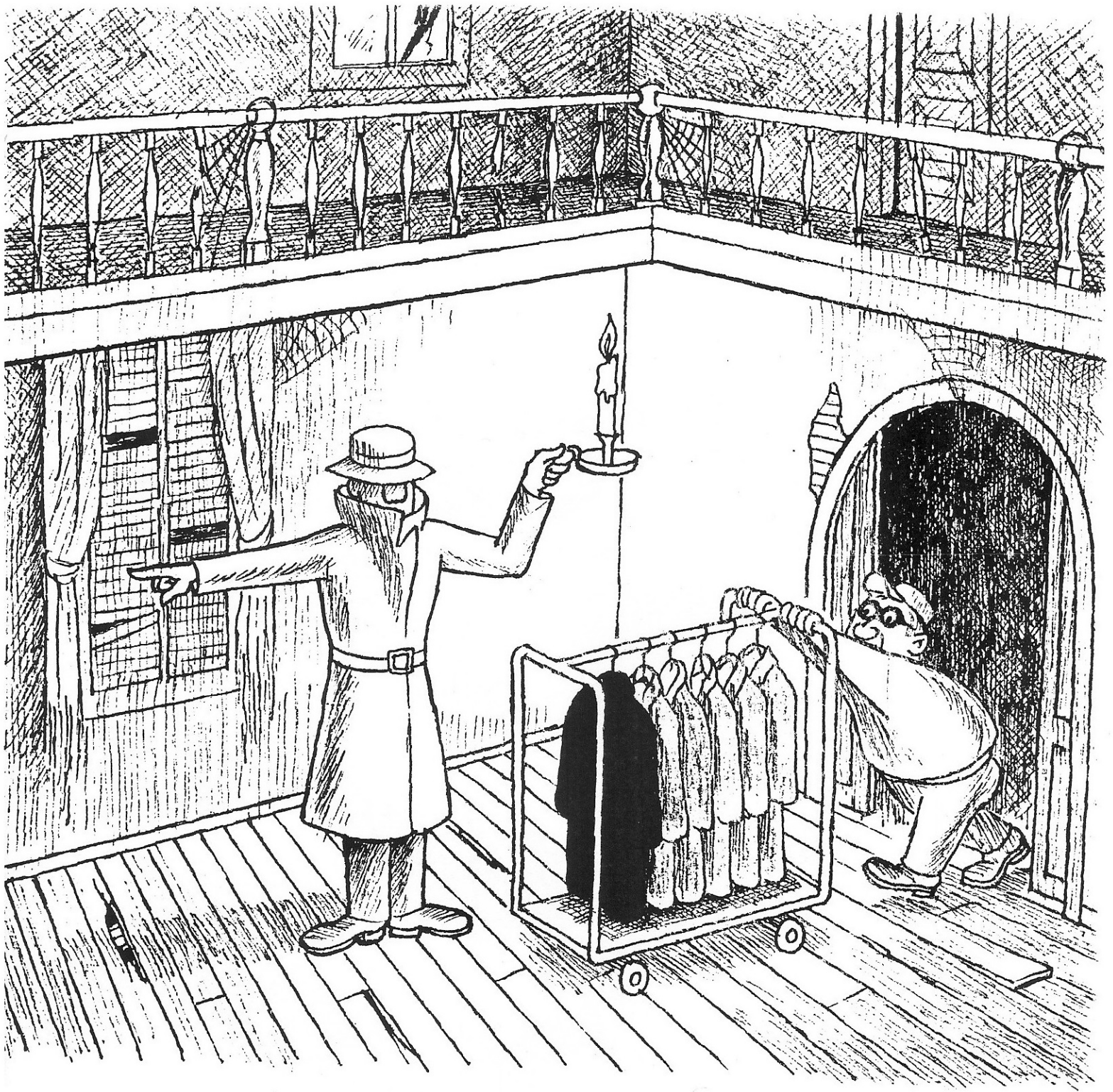


"Look out!" yelled McBride, quickly jumping back.
"Relax," said O'Toole, "Thunder made it crack."



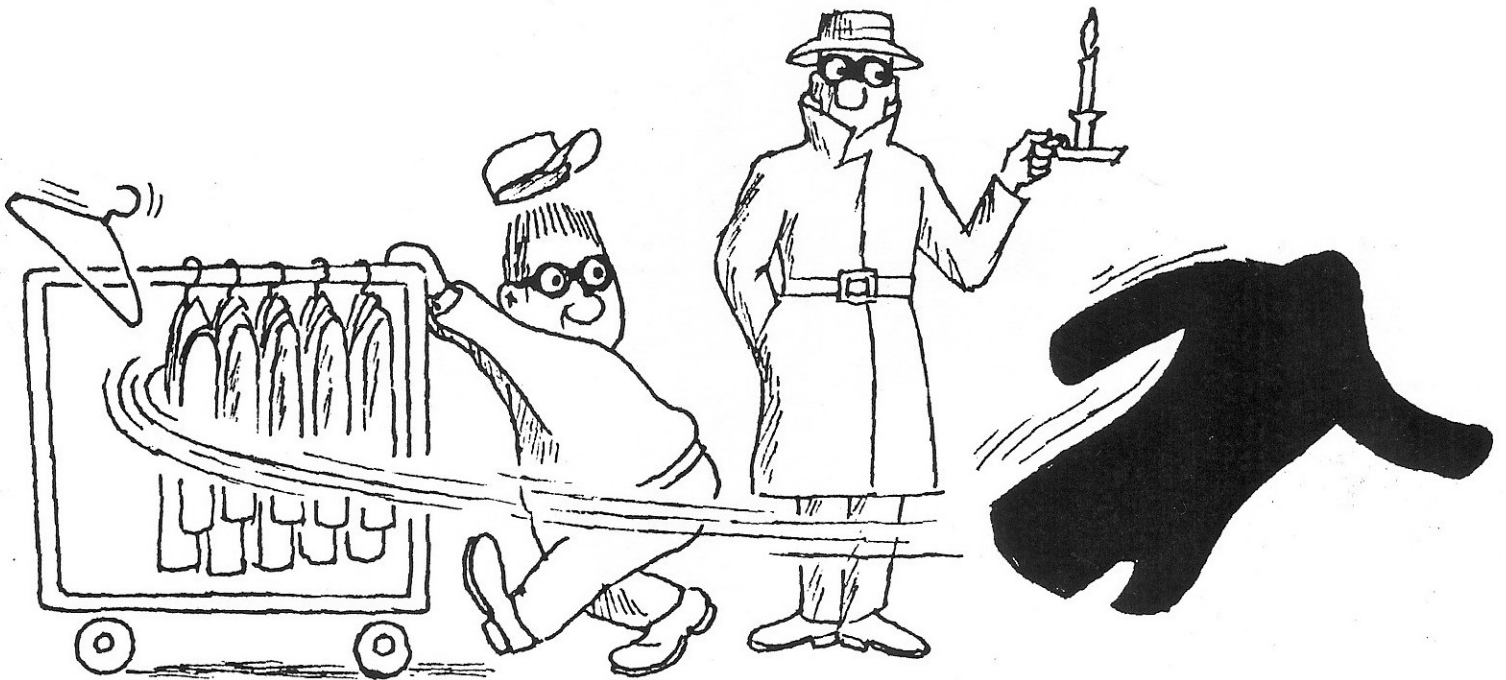
Hmm!

I guess we'll have to try something new,
Something dangerous! That's what we'll do.
See that armor standing in the hall?
The ax leans forward; so tell it to

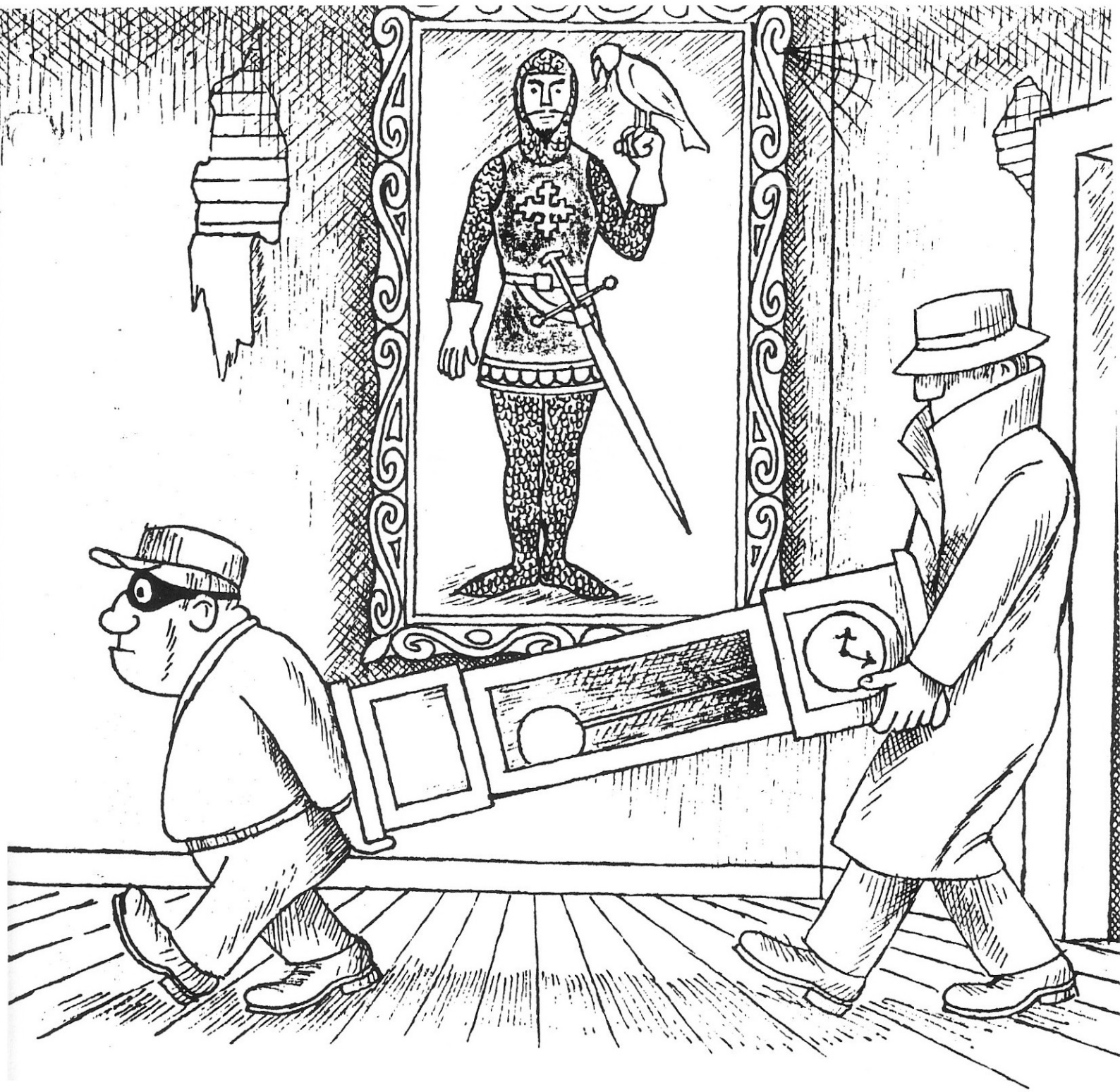


Well, even THAT haunt wasn't scary enough.
O'Toole is so cool, he makes haunting tough.
But you're getting better, bit by bit,
And one thing to learn is NEVER to quit.
Look at that rack. Do you see a dark coat?
You must tell that coat to rise up and

float

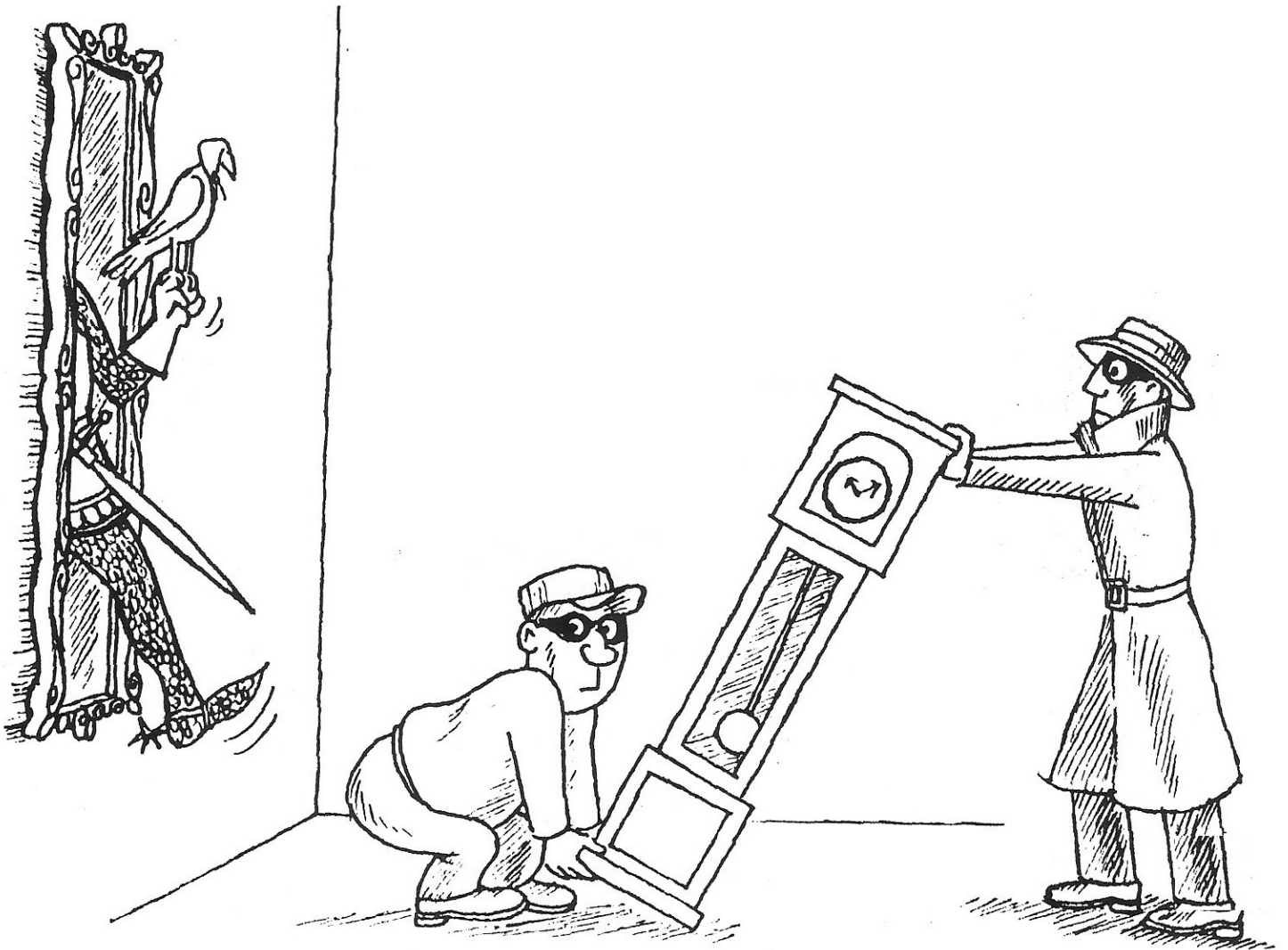


"Spooky!" cried McBride, and O'Toole gave a nod.
"I'll admit," said O'Toole, "that is a bit odd."



That's very good. Now do something drastic,
Something quite weird -- something fantastic!
See that painting of a knight with a hawk?
You must tell the knight to step out and

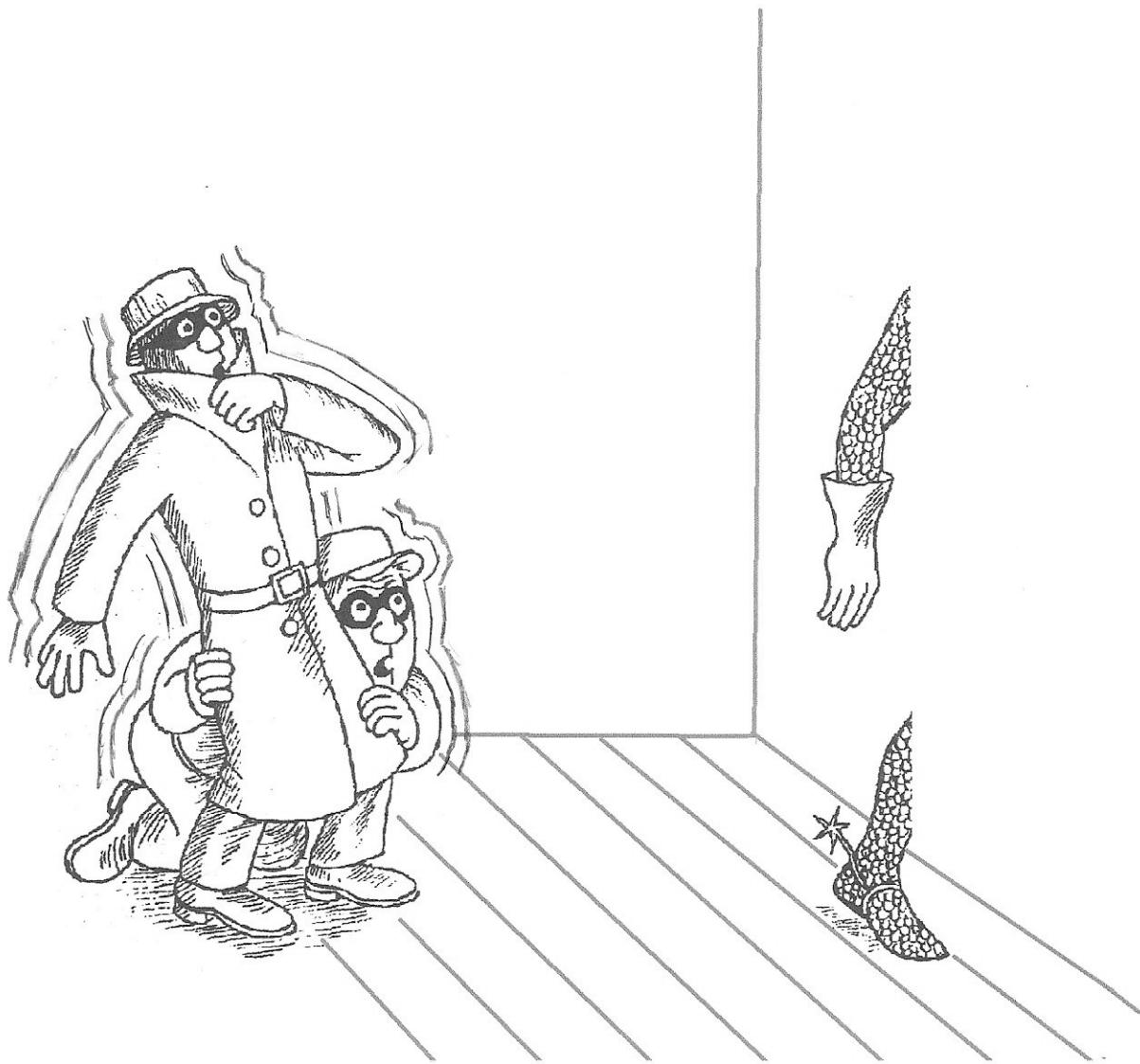
walk

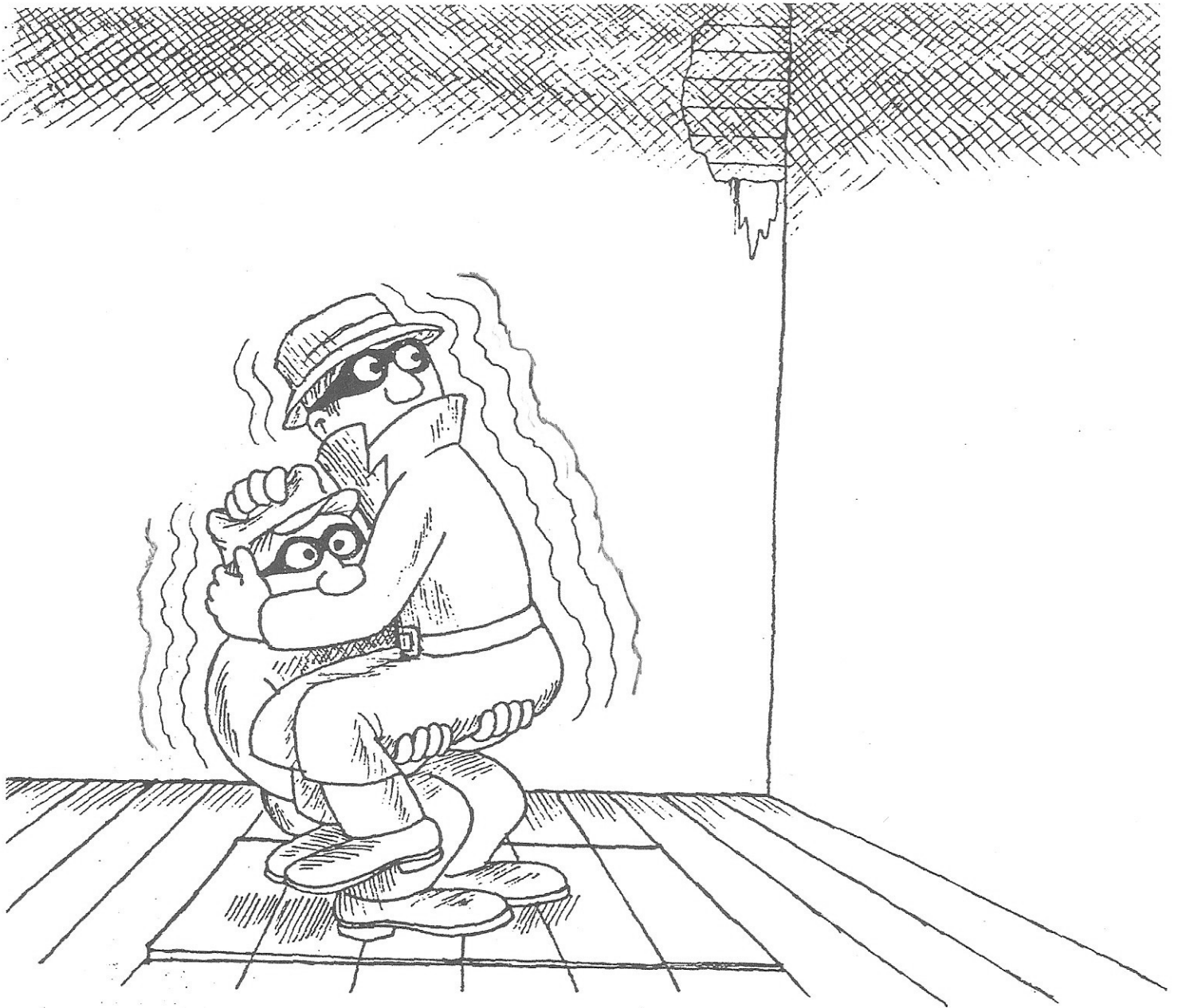




Your haunting is the best I've ever heard.
They are BOTH so scared they can't say a word!
Now tell the knight, in a voice loud and clear,
To walk through the wall and

disappear

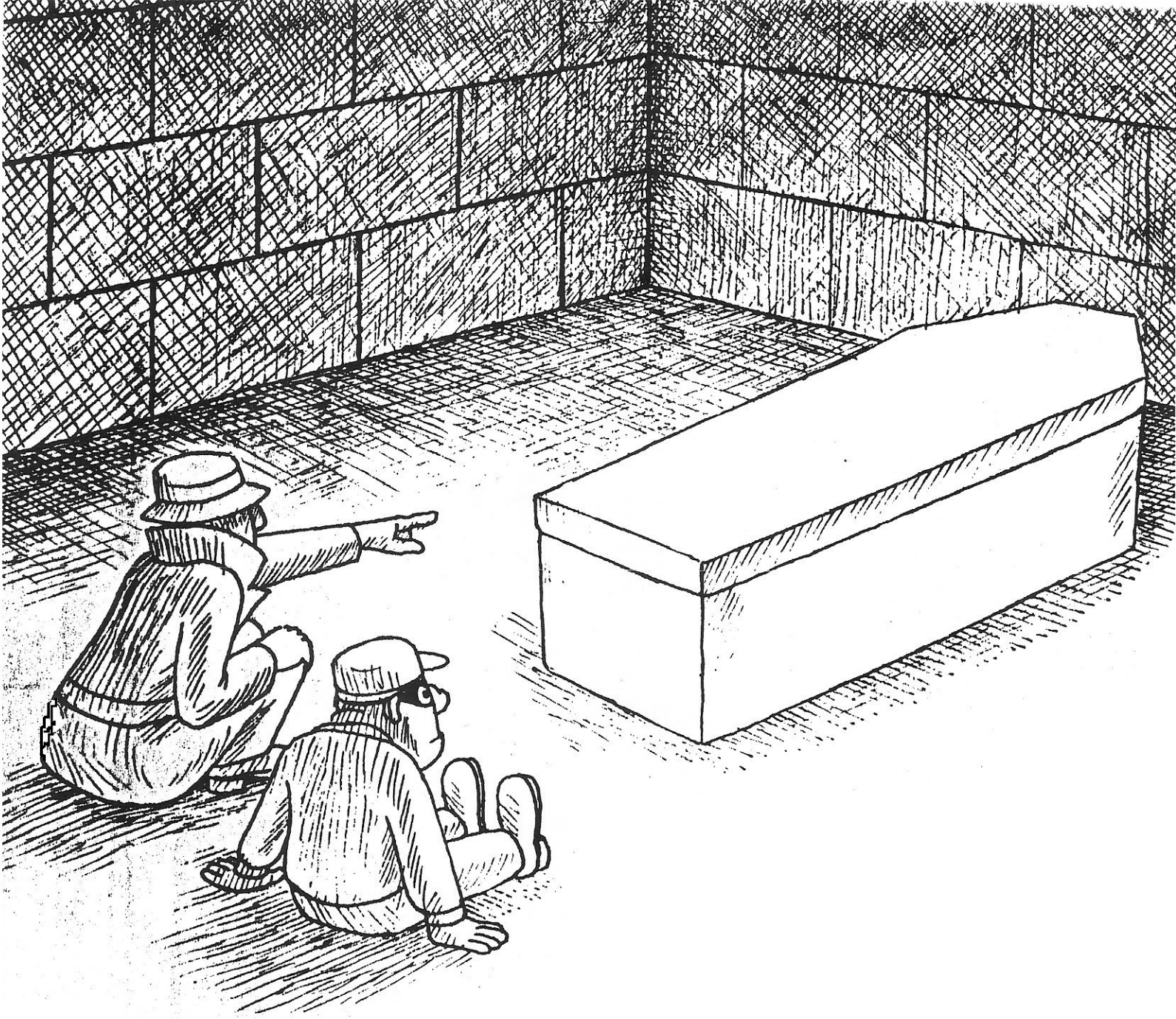




Now look very close down at the floor.
The robbers stand on a secret trap door.
Keep on haunting; it's no time to stop.
Tell the trap door to unlatch and

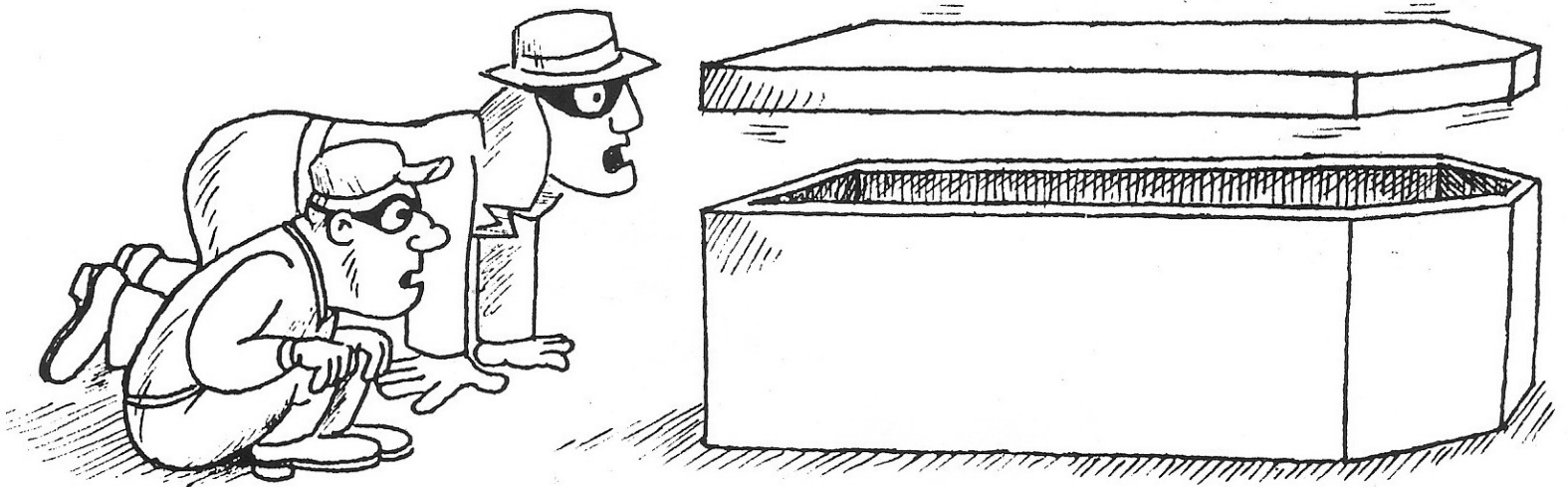
drop

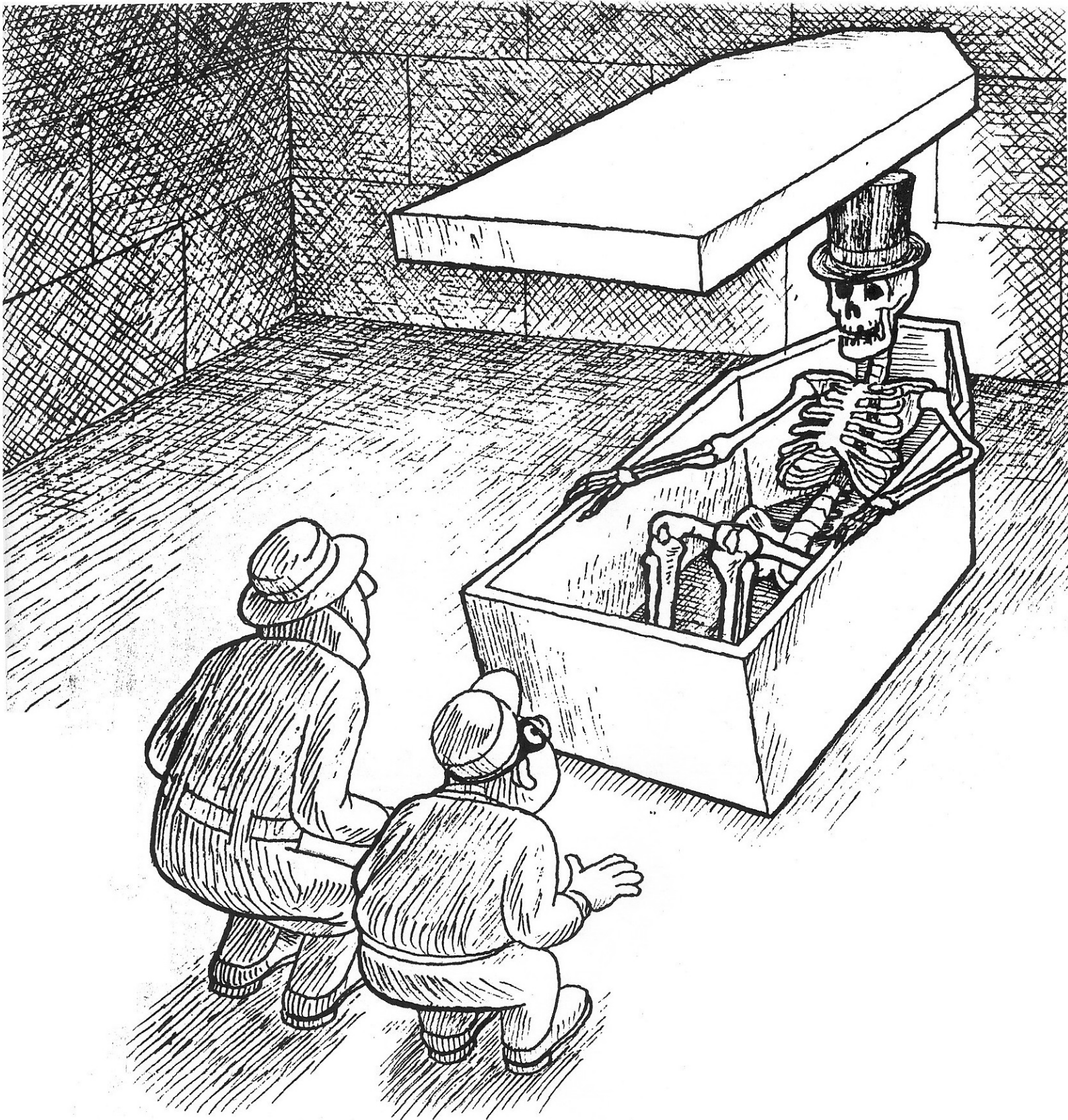




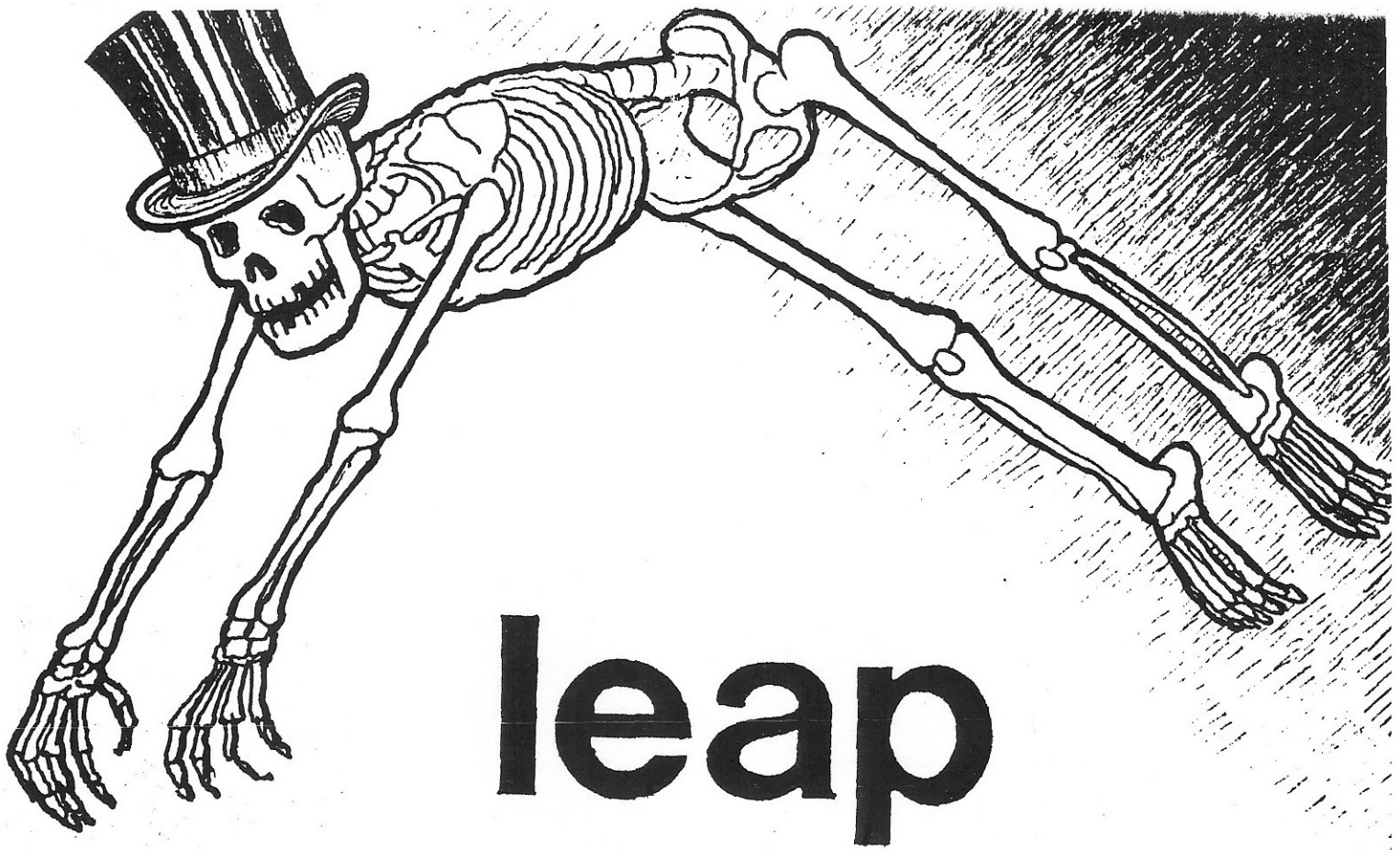
Before them lies a coffin of stone,
So let's make them feel they are not alone.
Yes, let's give them both ANOTHER surprise.
Let's lift the lid; so tell it to

rise



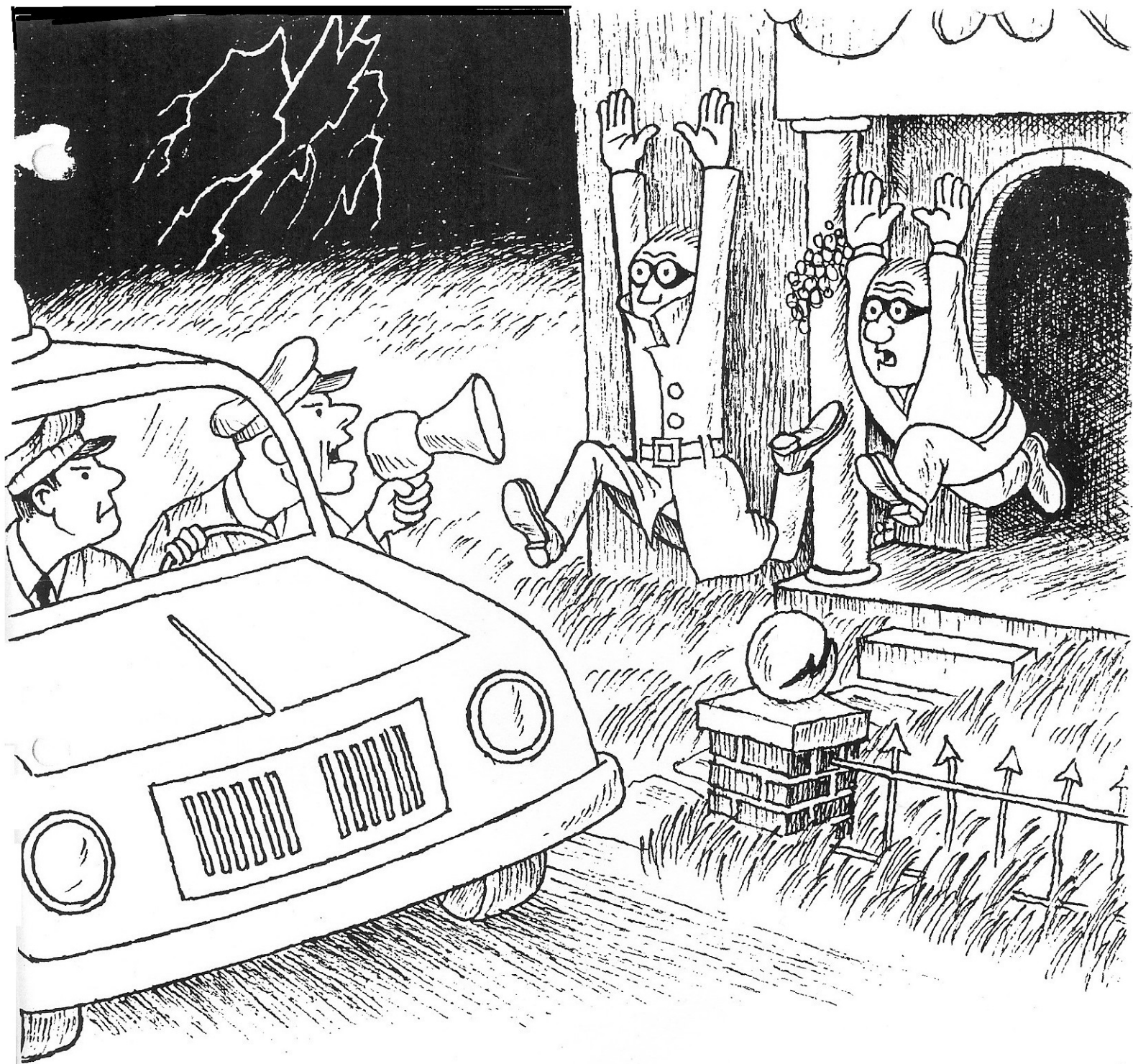


You've SCARED them stiff, without a doubt,
And ONE more haunt will chase them out!
The skeleton causes their skin to creep;
So tell it to crouch and suddenly

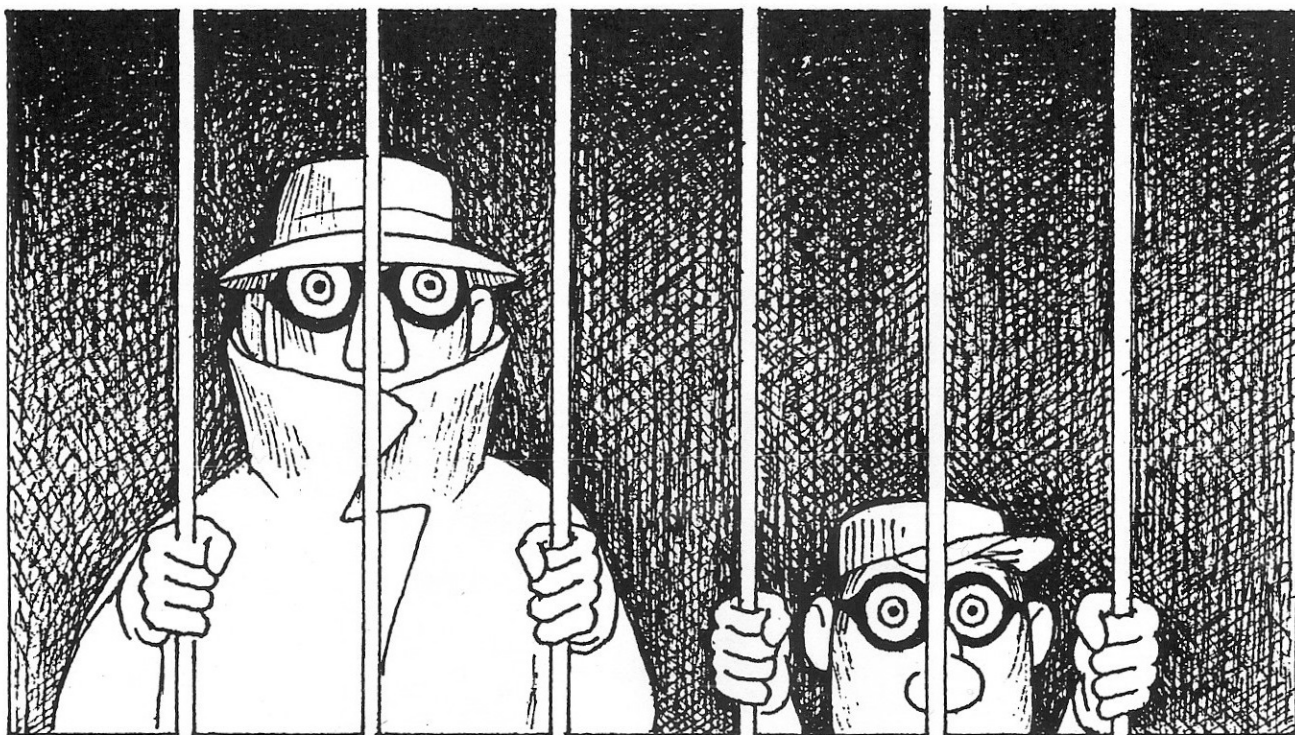


leap





My! What a wonderful job you have done.
You've scared them out -- just look at them run!
"HALT!" cried the police who were driving by.
"STOP where you are and reach for the sky!"



So,
Because YOU learned to haunt so fast,
O'Toole and McBride are caught -- AT LAST!

BOOKS BY DICK PUNNETT

TALK-ALONG STORY BOOKS

Name Lizzy's Colors
Name Patty's Pets
Help Jumbo Escape
Help Dress Priscilla
Count the Possums

TALK-ALONG COLORING STORY BOOKS

Help Bruce Goose Fly South
Let's Haunt a House
Help Mister Turkel Change His Shape

DOUBLE-RHYME STORY BOOKS

Does Anyone Have a Spare Bear?
Our Brat Cat
Peek-A-Boo Sue

DOUBLE-RHYME COLORING STORY BOOK

Our Duck Jack Quack

COLORING STORY BOOKS

Freddy The Feet
My Magic Ball of Fur
Tim Buck-Too

About the Author:

Author/illustrator Dick Punnett grew up in Penfield, New York, and graduated from Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. For over 35 years he has delighted children of preschool to 7 years of age with books that have made learning fun. His series, TALK-ALONG, was published in 1982 and was the first interactive books introduced into the schools. They were best sellers because they taught basic concepts in a very original and clever way, and all in rhyme. He wrote another series called DOUBLE-RHYME, and over the years he has added to both series and also written single story books. Of the 15 books he has authored, seven of them are also illustrated by him. Because he spent a number of years as a writer-cartoonist for a Hollywood animation studio, his illustrations have a special appeal for children. They are perky, funny and expressive.