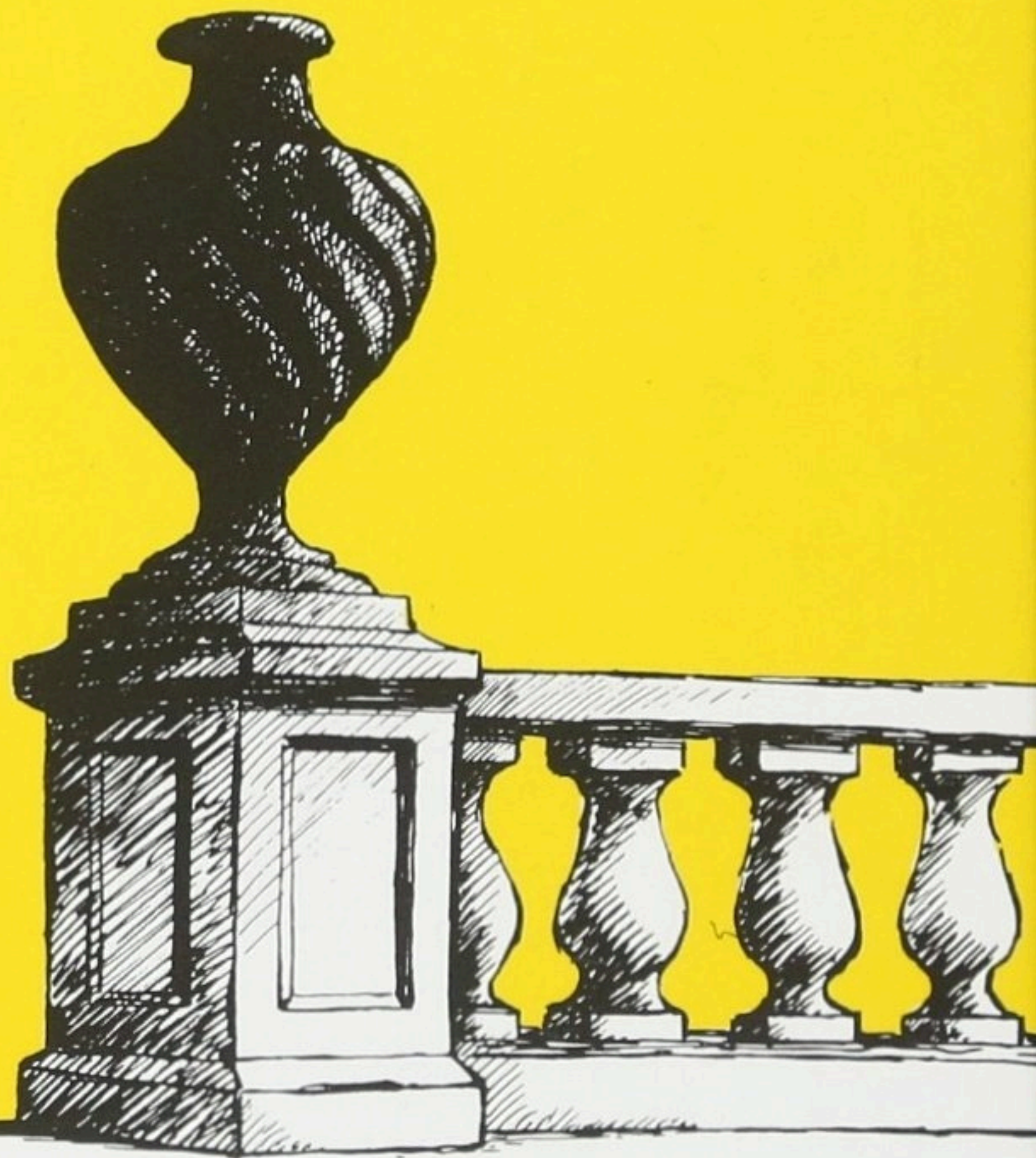


THE DOUBTFUL GUEST

BY EDWARD GOREY







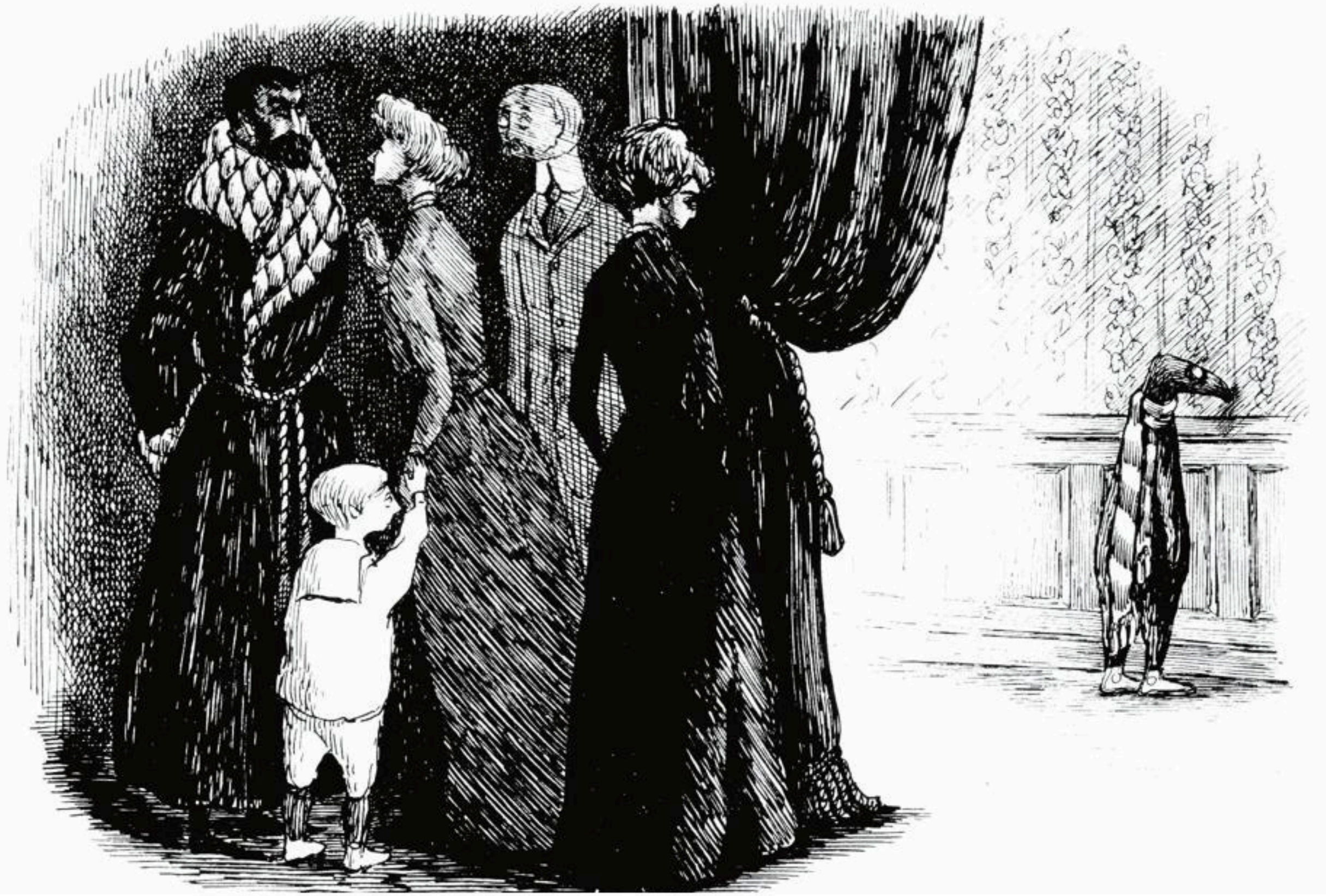


WHEN THEY ANSWERED THE BELL ON THAT WILD WINTER
NIGHT

THERE WAS NO ONE EXPECTED AND NO ONE IN SIGHT.



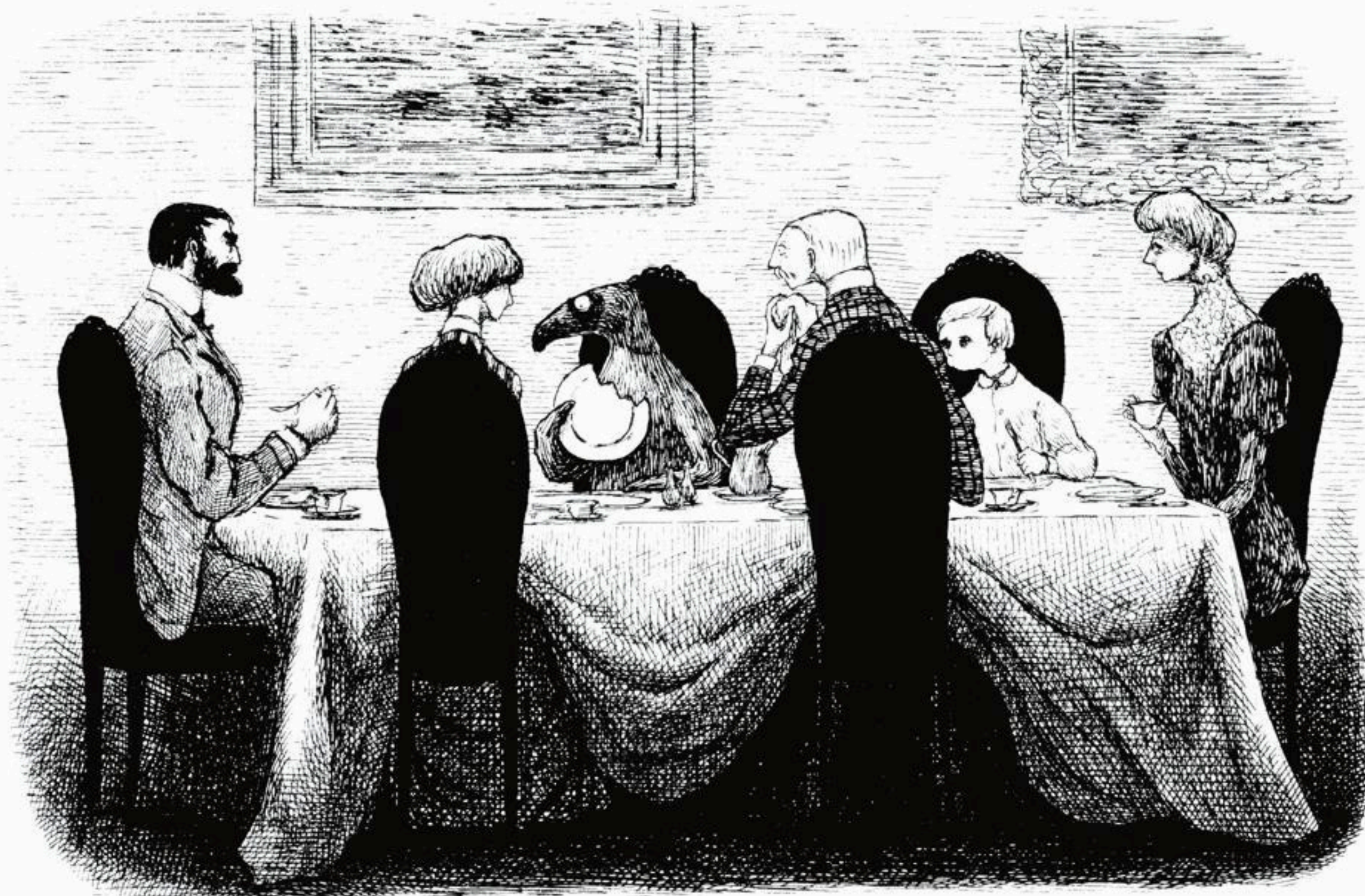
THEN THEY SAW SOMETHING STANDING ON TOP OF A VASE,
IT HAD A STRANGE APPEARANCE AND AN EVEN STRANGER
FACE.



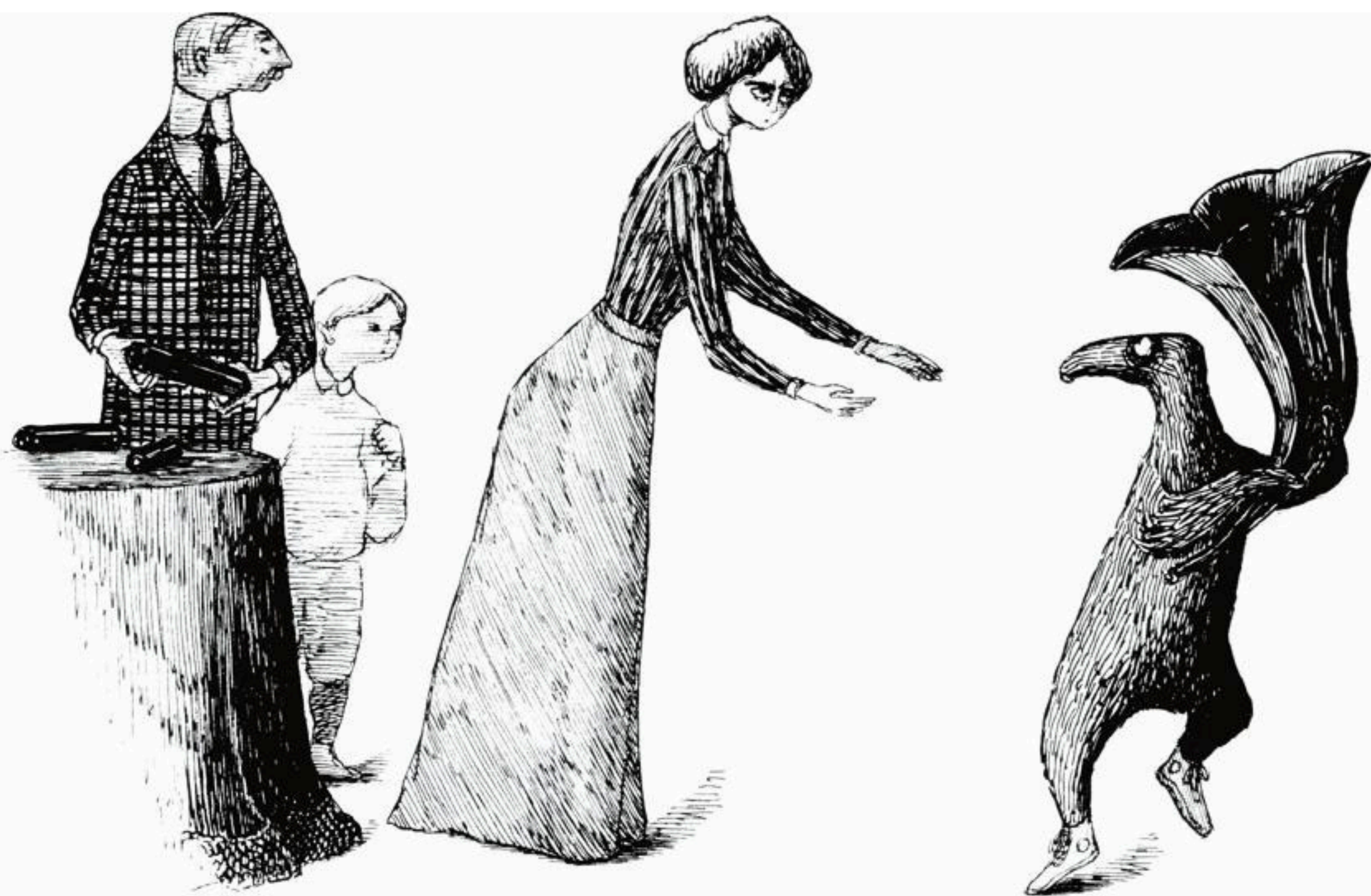
ALL AT ONCE IT JUMPED DOWN AND RUN INTO THE HALL
WHERE IT CHOSE TO REMAIN WITH ITS NOSE TO THE WALL



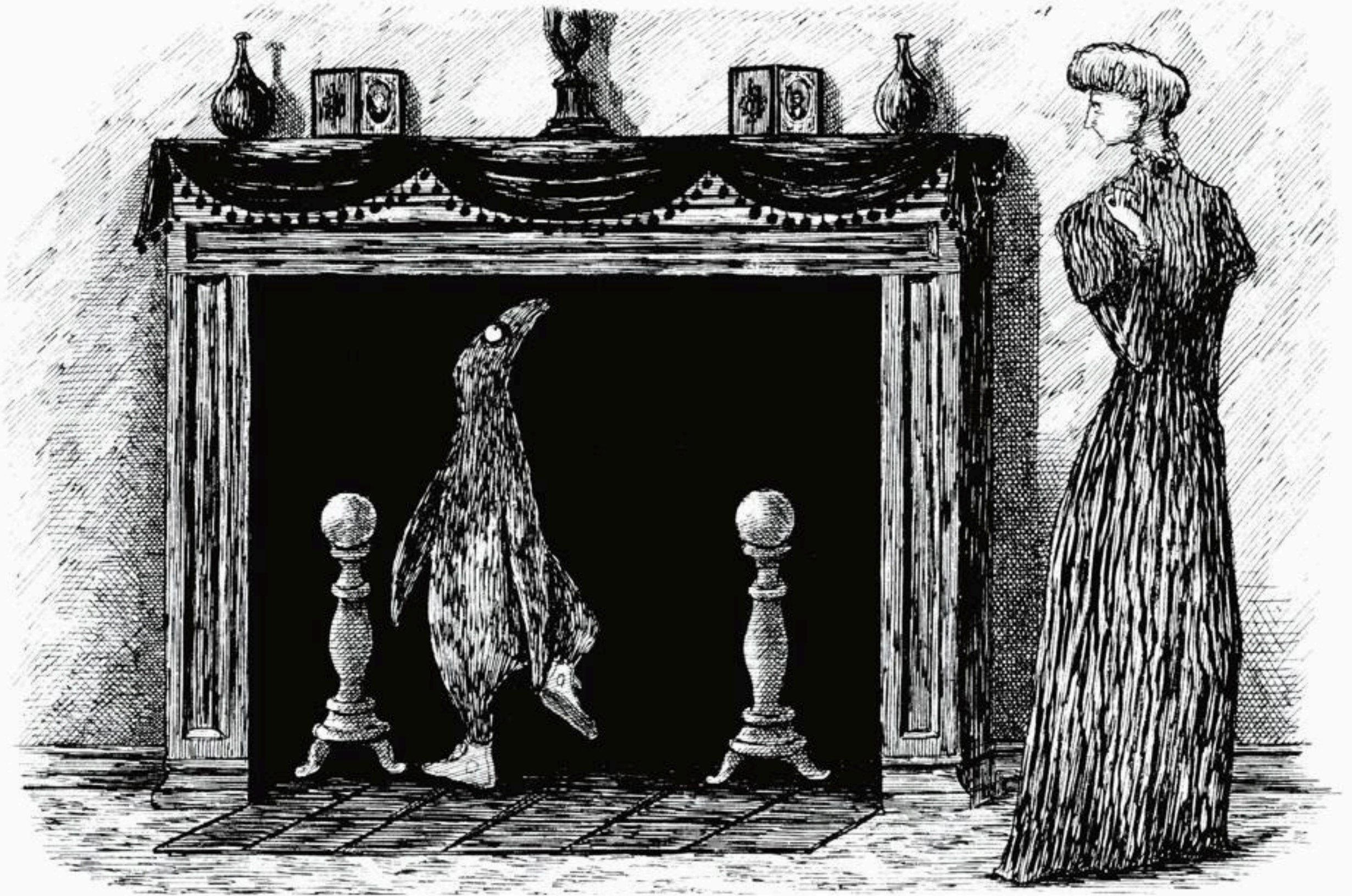
IT WAS SEEMINGLY DEAF TO WHATEVER THEY SAID,
SO AT LAST THEY STOPPED SCREAMING AND WENT OFF TO BED.



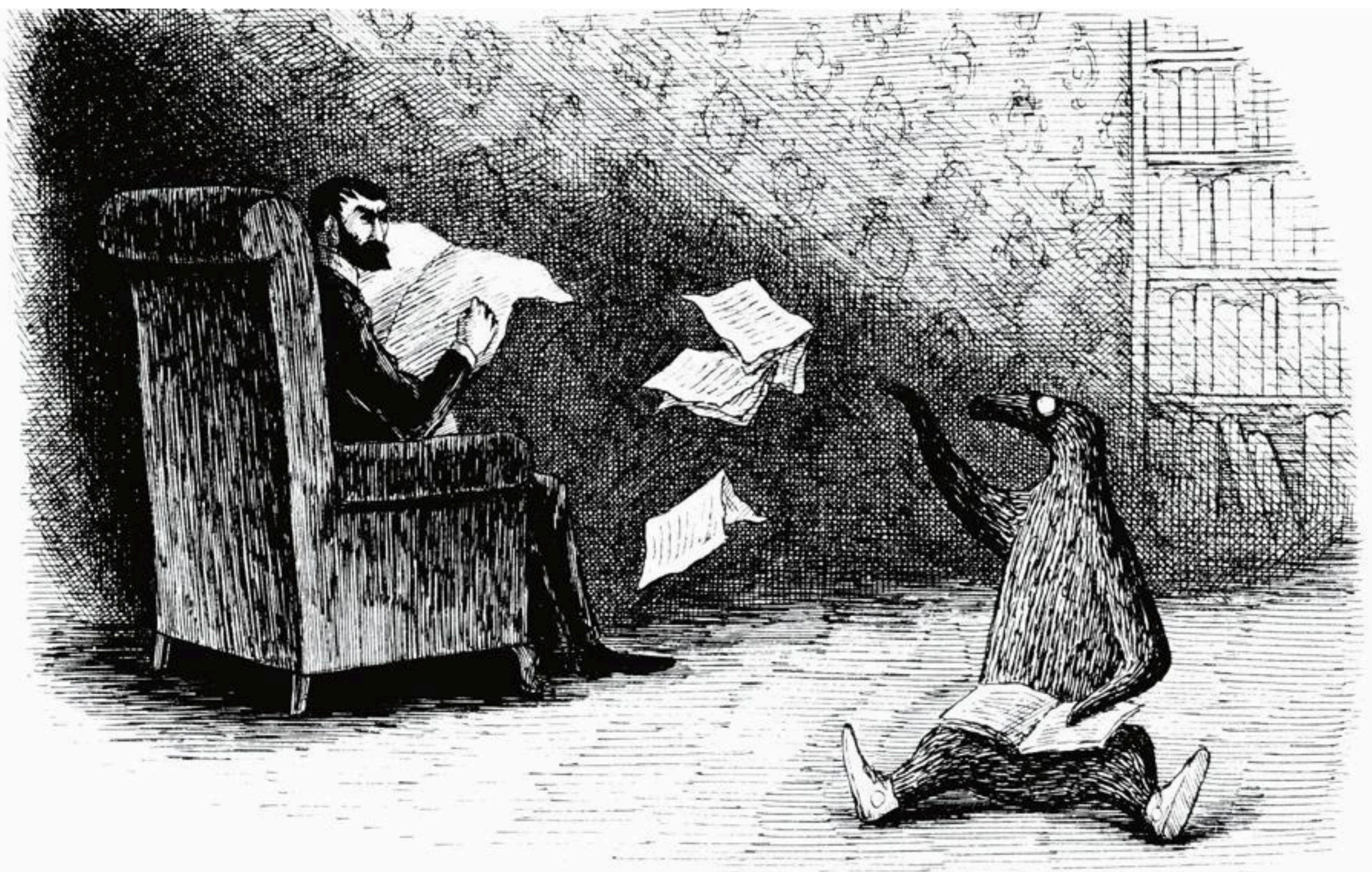
IT JOINED THEM AT BREAKFAST AND PRESENTLY ATE
ALL THE SYRUP AND TOAST, AND A PART OF A PLATE.



IT CUT OFF THE HORN FROM THE NEW GRAMOPHONE
AND COULD NOT BE PERSUADED TO LEAVE IT ALONE

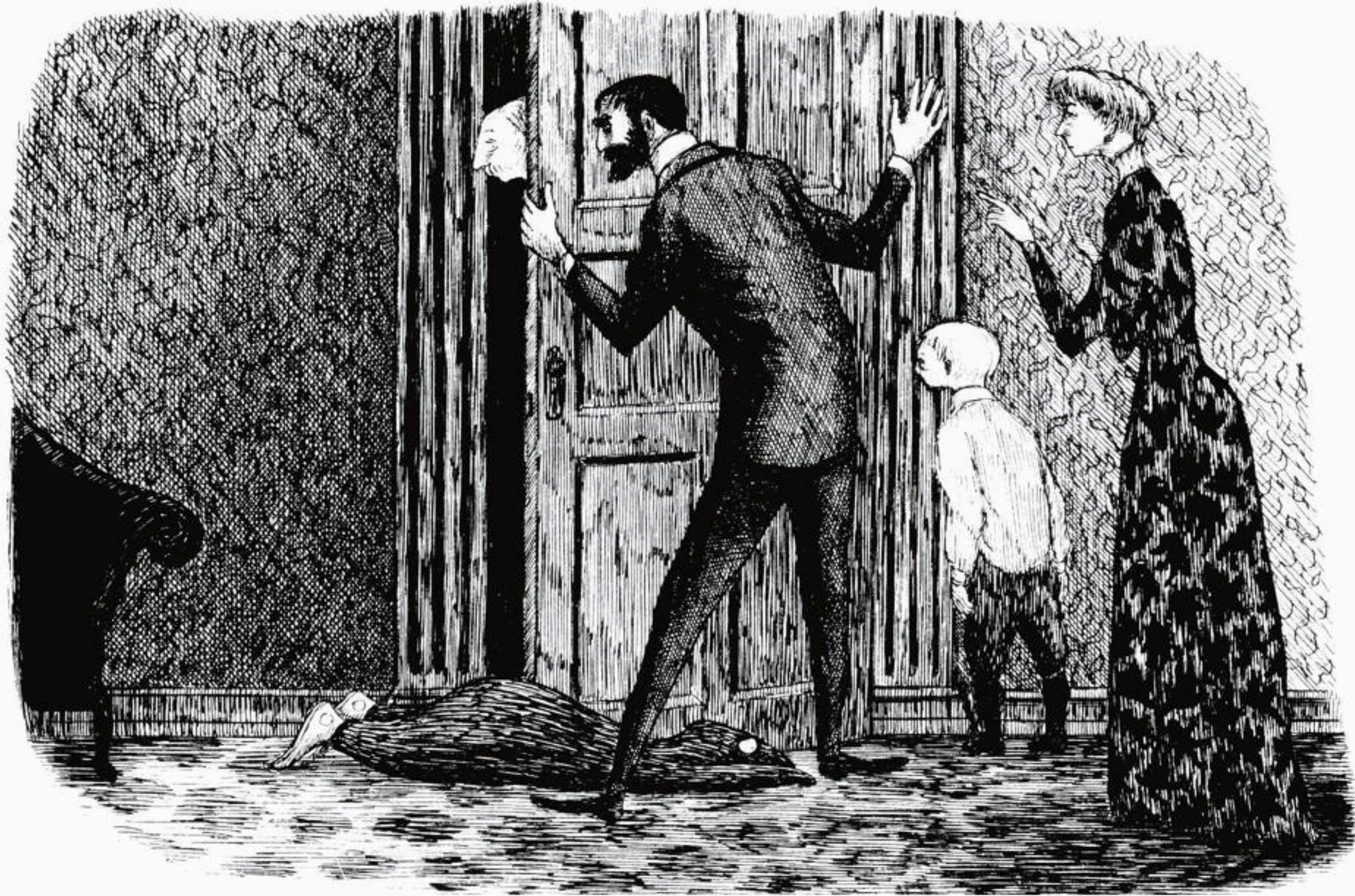


IT DEVELOPED A GREAT LIKING FOR LOOKING UP FLUES.
AND FOR PEELING THE SOLES OFF ITS WHITE CANVAS SHOES.



AT TIMES, IT WOULD TEAR OUT WHOLE CHAPTERS FROM
BOOKS.

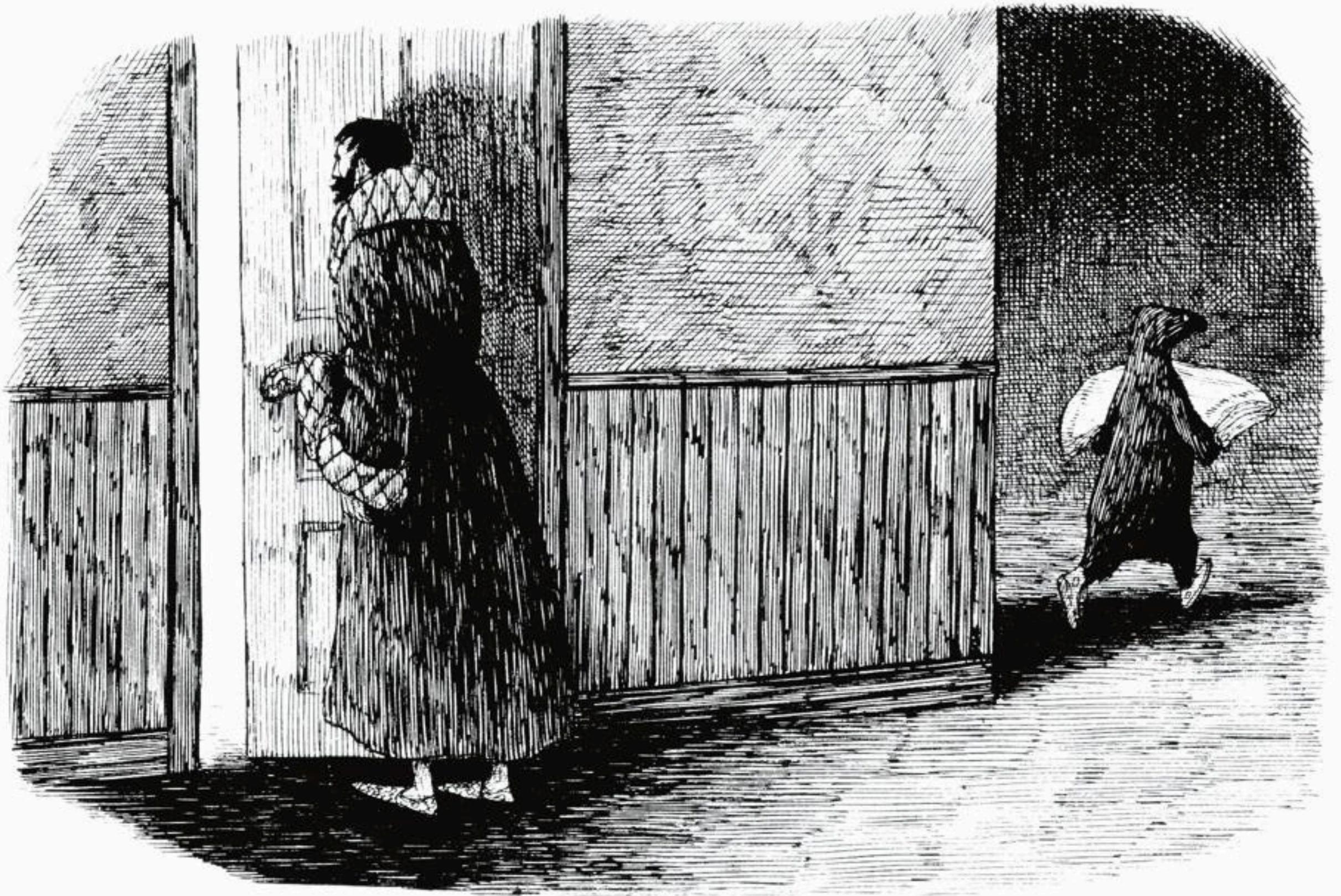
OR PUT EVERY PICTURE IN A ROOM ASKEW ON ITS HOOKS.



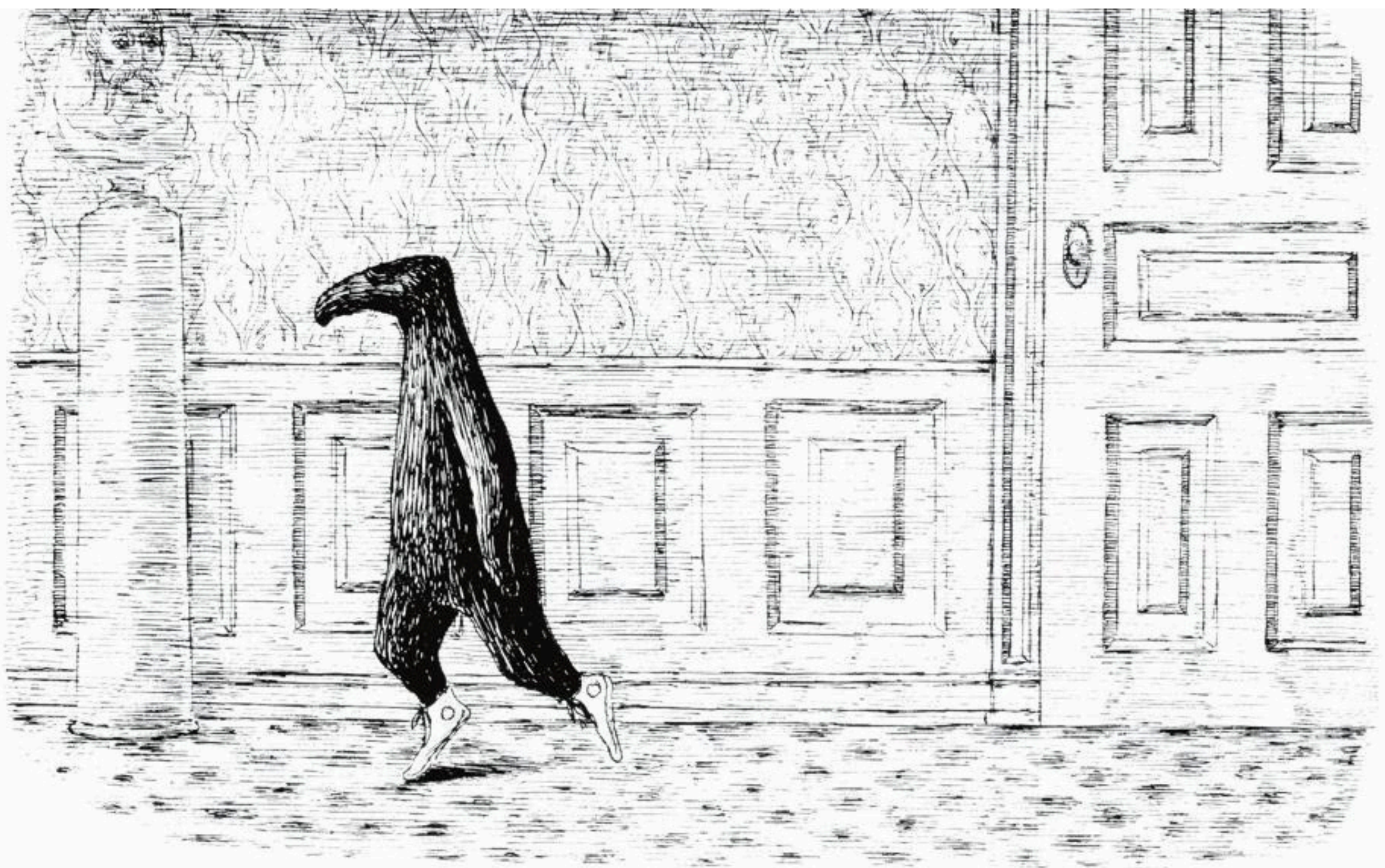
EVERY SUNDAY, IT BROODED AND LAY ON THE FLOOR,
INCONVENIENTLY CLOSE TO THE LIVING ROOM DOOR.



NOW AND THEN, IT WOULD VANISH TO GO ON A STROLL,
BUT AFTER HOURS, BE DISCOVERED HIDING INSIDE A BOWL.



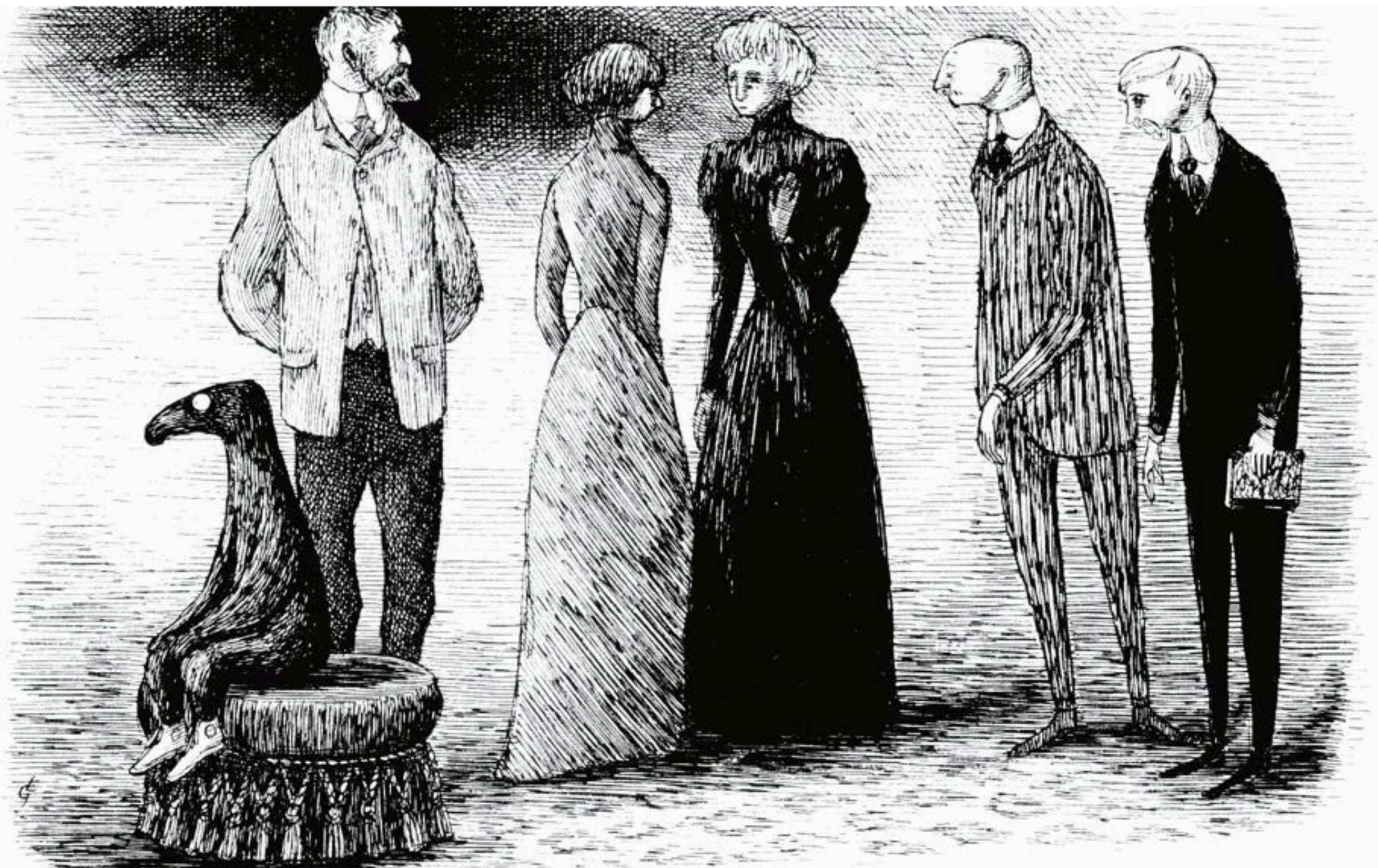
IT OFTEN HAD EPISODES OF BEWILDERING WRATH,
DURING WHICH IT WOULD HIDE THE TOWELS FROM THE BATH.



IN THE NIGHT, THROUGH THE HOUSE IT WOULD CREEP,
IN SPITE OF THE FACT OF ITS BEING ASLEEP.



IT WOULD CARRY OFF OBJECTS OF WHICH IT GREW FOND.
AND PROTECT THEM BY DROPPING THEM INTO THE POND.



IT CAME SEVENTEEN YEARS AGO- AND TO THIS DAY
IT HAS SHOWN NO INTENTION OF GOING AWAY.