

UNCLE EDDIE'S MOUSTACHE

TWELVE POEMS FOR CHILDREN BY BERTOLT BRECHT
ENGLISH BY MURIEL RUKEYSER
PICTURES BY URSULA KIRCHBERG



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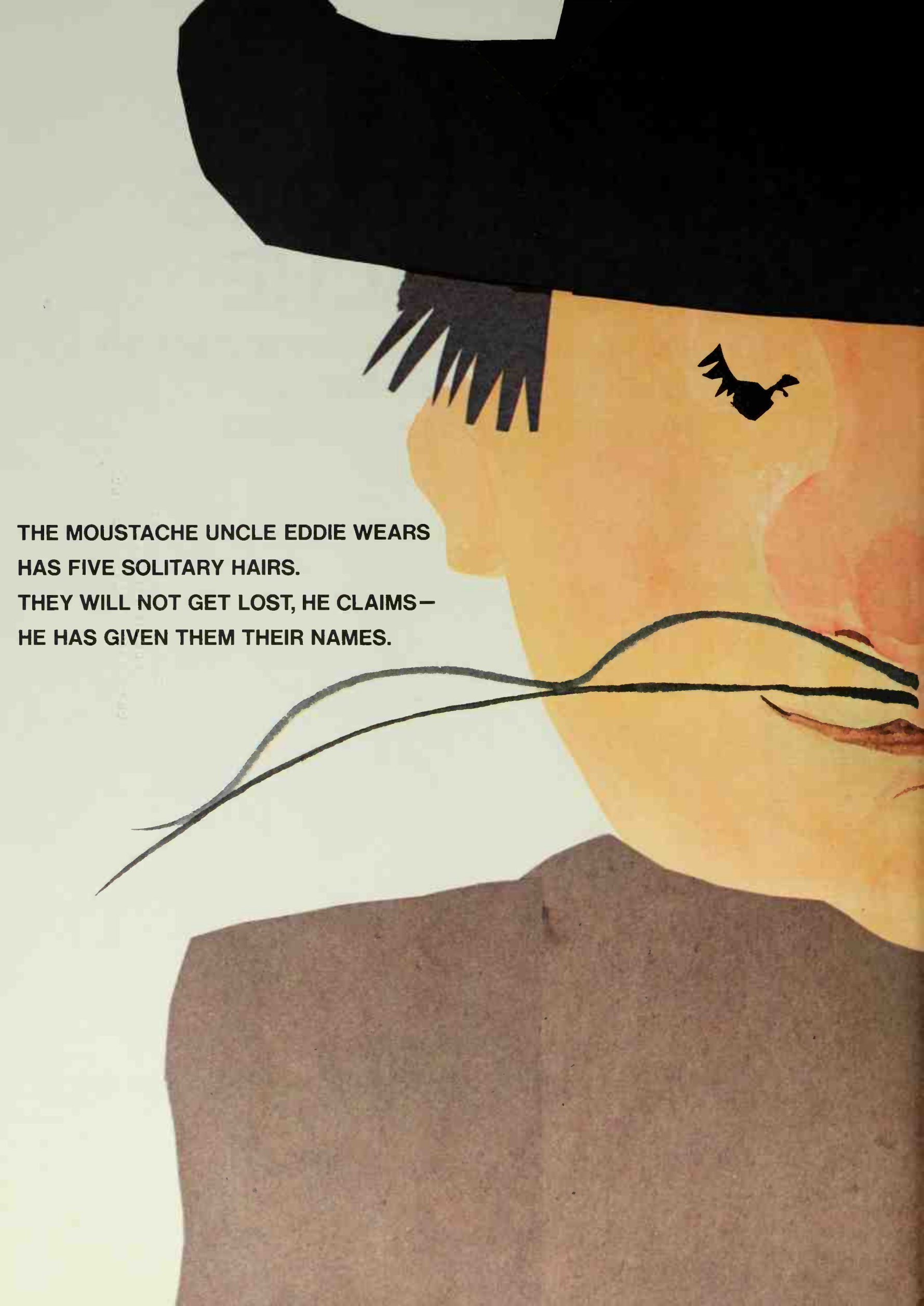
PICTURES BY URSULA KIRCHBERG

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THE MOUSTACHE UNCLE EDDIE WEARS
HAS FIVE SOLITARY HAIRS.
THEY WILL NOT GET LOST, HE CLAIMS—
HE HAS GIVEN THEM THEIR NAMES.

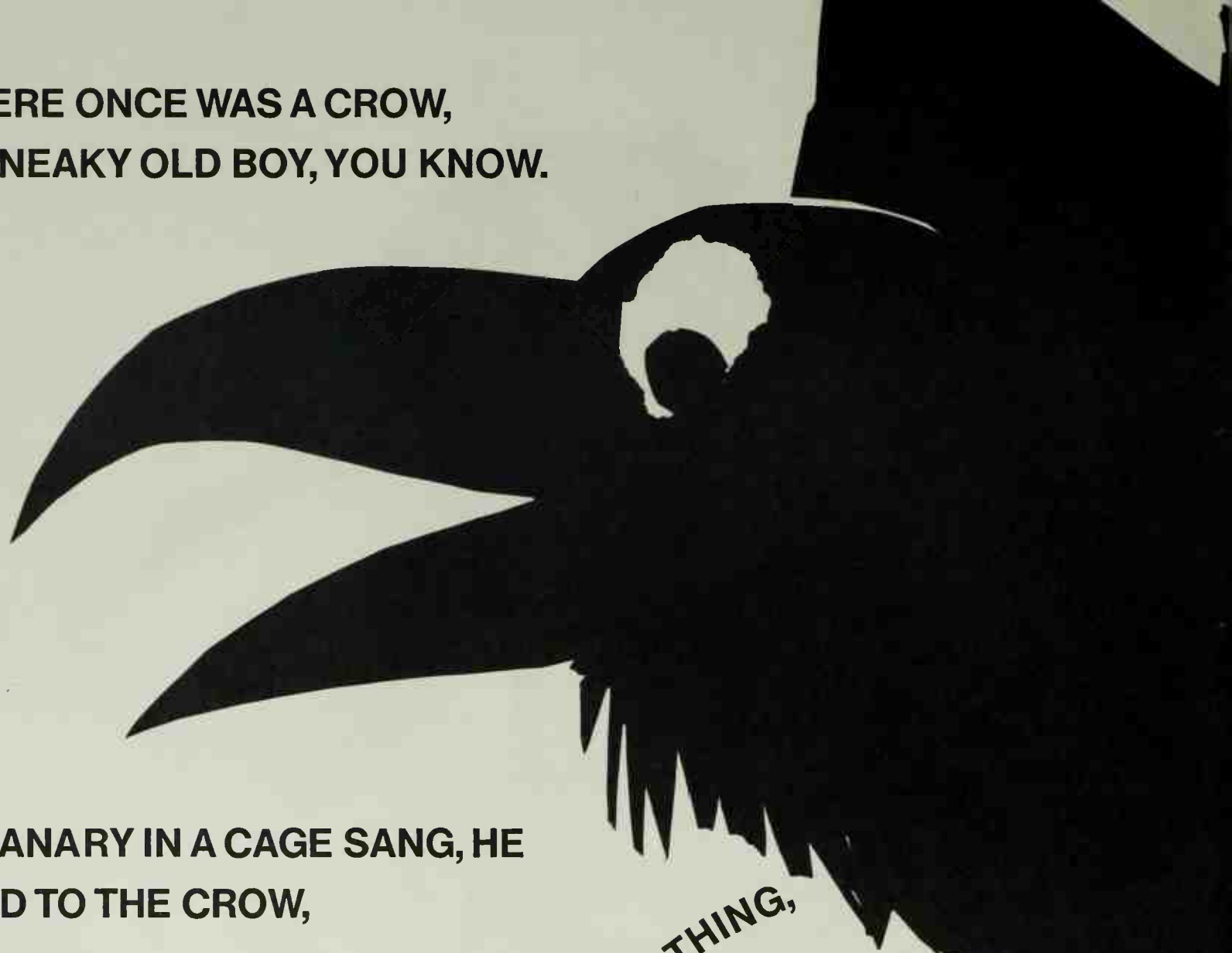
THEY ARE CALLED TIM AND JACK
AND BILL AND PAUL AND MACK.
MACK IS SLIGHTLY SICKLY,
TIM IS DIRTY AND HE'S TICKLY.



**LITTLE MARY WENT HIGH UP
TERRIFIED OF WHAT? A PUP.
THE PUP, HE'S TERRIFIED OF MARY.
HER YELLING'S REALLY VERY SCARY.**



THERE ONCE WAS A CROW,
A SNEAKY OLD BOY, YOU KNOW.



A CANARY IN A CAGE SANG, HE
SAID TO THE CROW,

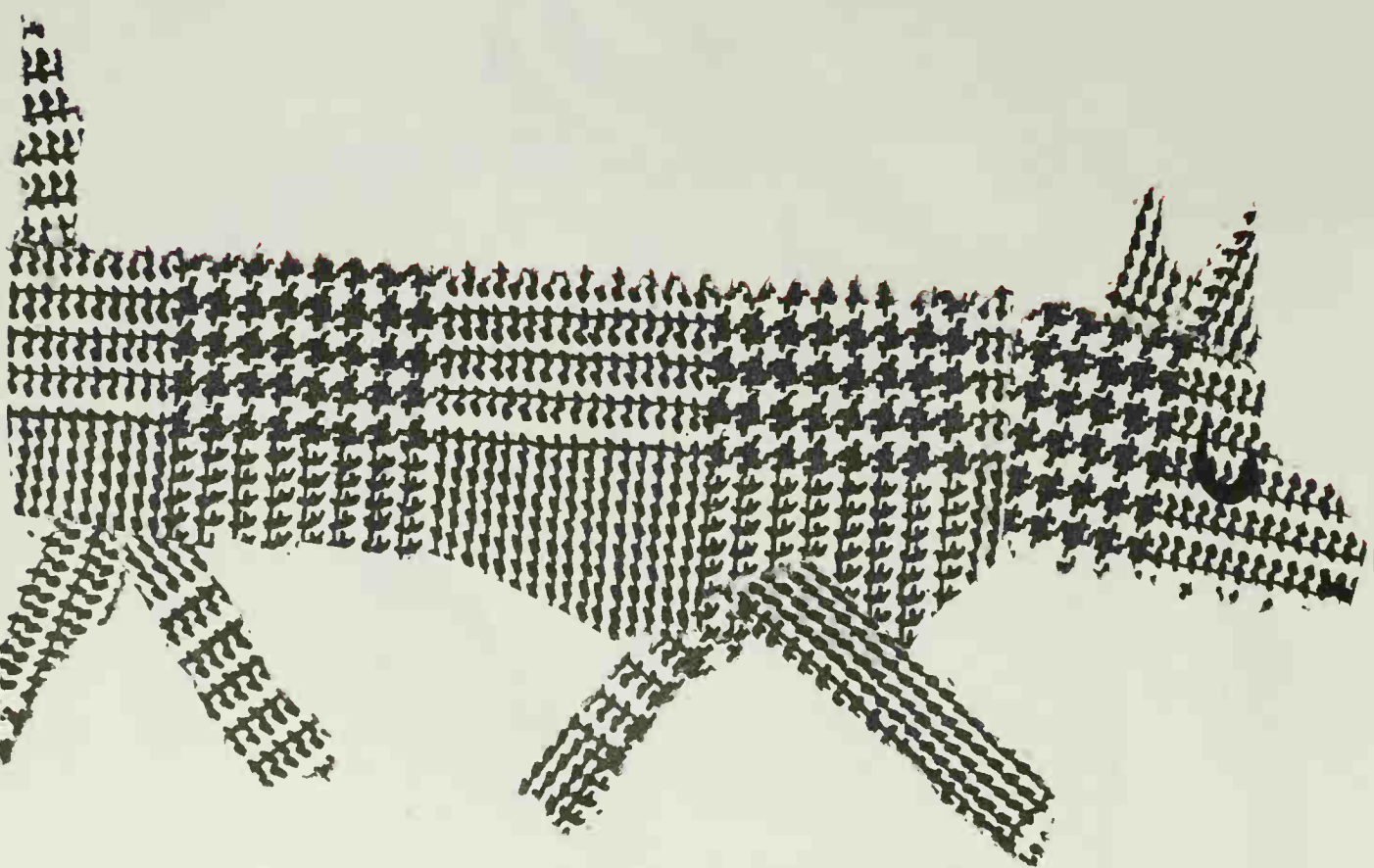
"POOR THING,
YOU'RE NOT PART
OF THE WORLD OF ART."





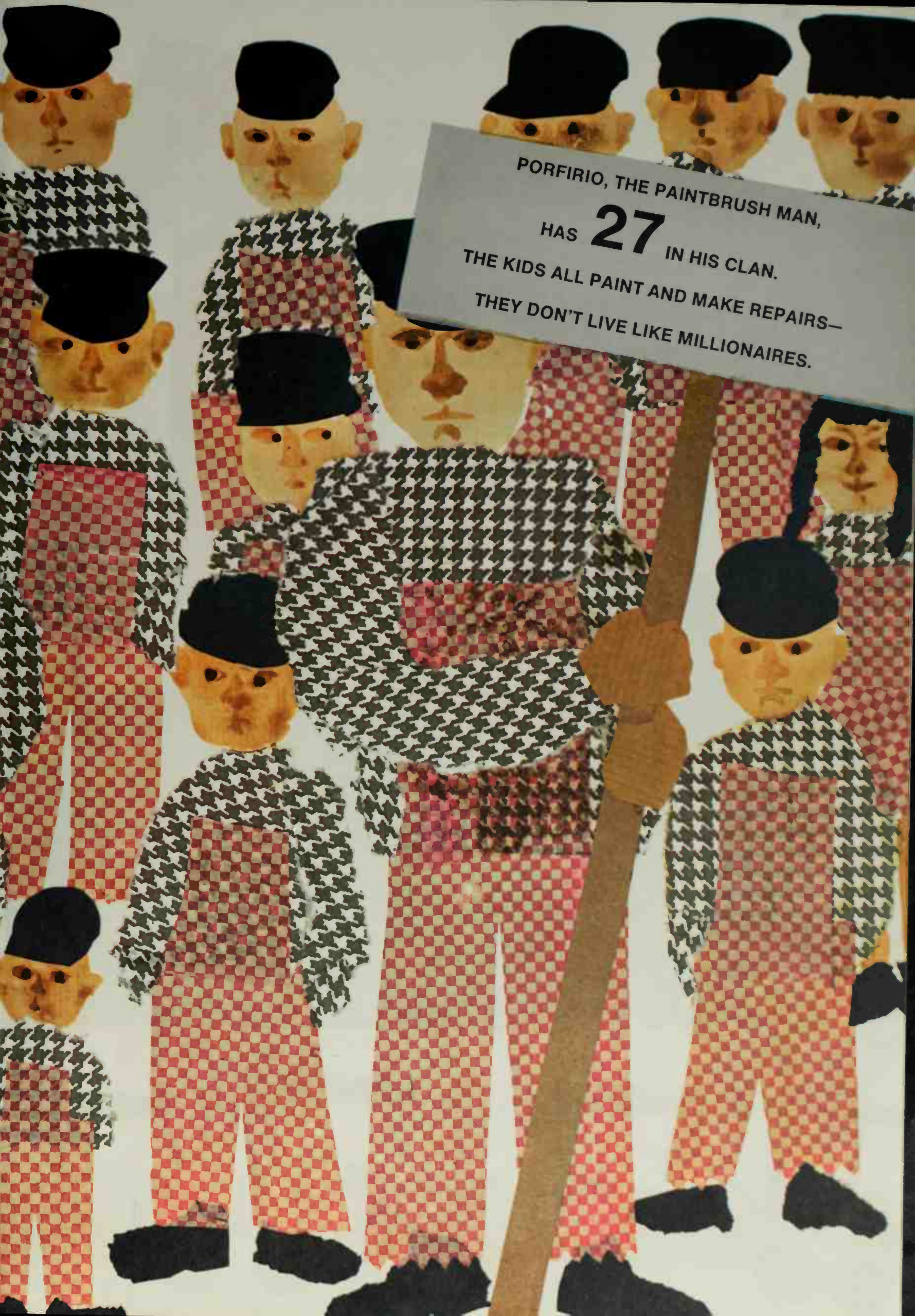
THE CROW SAID FURIOUSLY,
"IF YOU COULDN'T SING,
YOU'D BE FREE
LIKE ME."

A DOG WITH A MOUTH THAT'S MUCH TOO SMALL
CAN HARDLY EAT HIS DINNER AT ALL.
THAT MAKES HIS MASTER A HAPPY MAN,
SEEING THE DOG EAT THE LITTLE HE CAN.
FULL OF MEANNESS, FOOD, AND GLEE,
HE SAYS, "I'VE FOUND THE HOUND FOR ME."





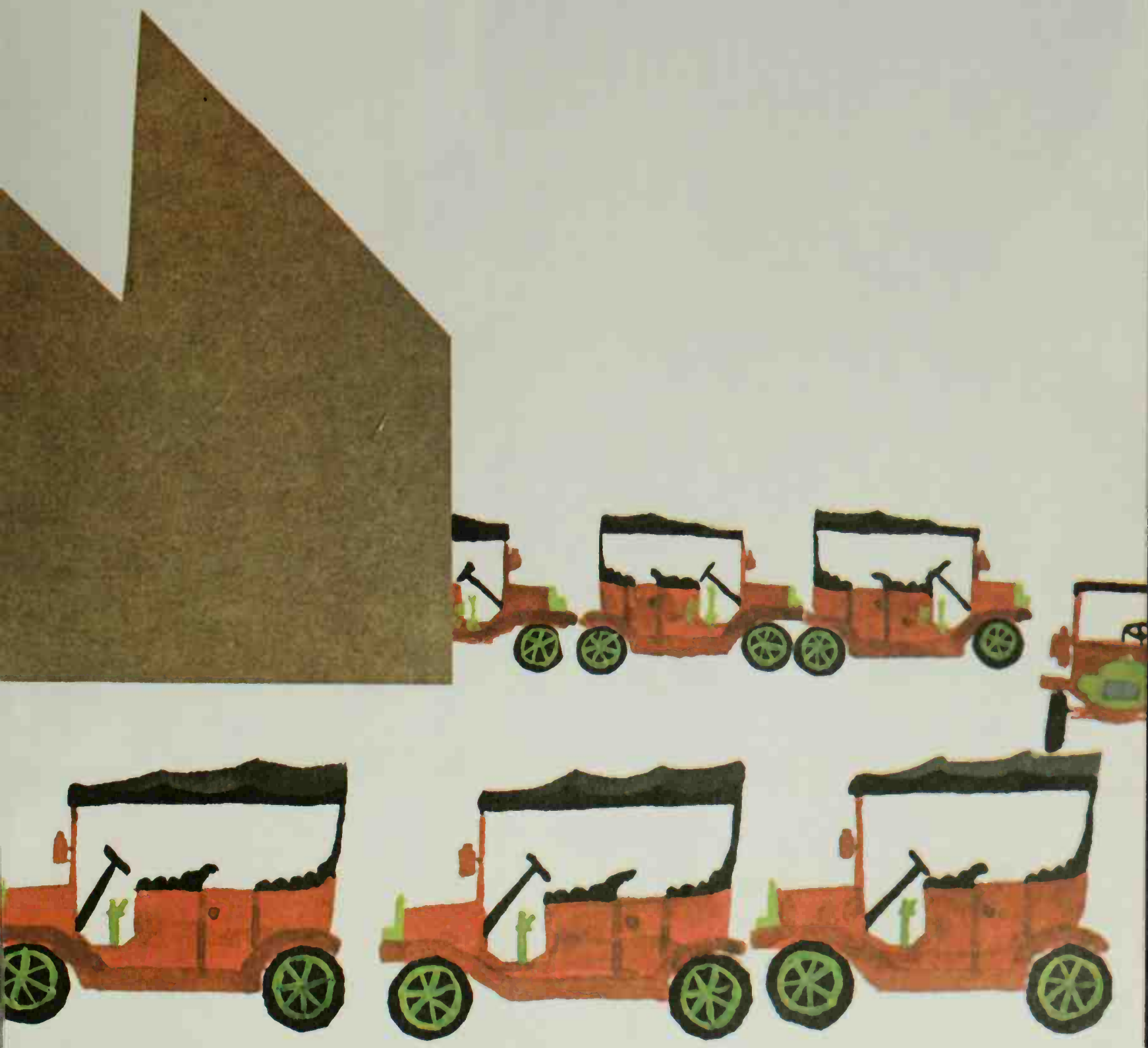




PORFIRIO, THE PAINTBRUSH MAN,
HAS **27** IN HIS CLAN.
THE KIDS ALL PAINT AND MAKE REPAIRS—
THEY DON'T LIVE LIKE MILLIONAIRES.



**FORD BUILT A CAR, ALL RIGHT,
IT'S NOT EVEN WATERTIGHT.
IT RUNS NOISY, IT WILL STALL,
SOMETIMES IT WON'T RUN AT ALL.**



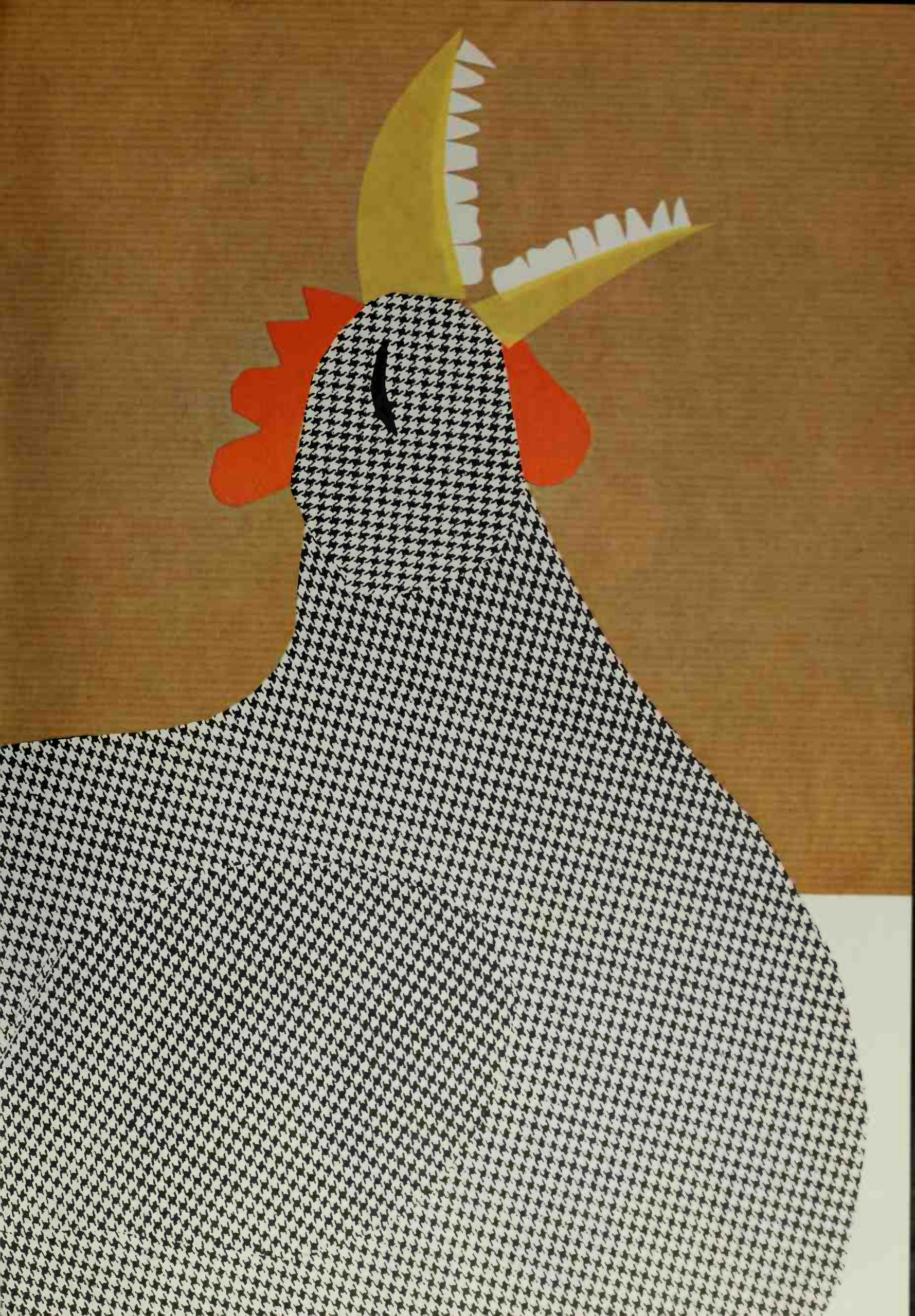




ONE MAN HAS MONEY, ONE MAN IS POOR:
THERE THEY STAND, THEY STARE AND— “SURE,”
THE POOR MAN SAYS, HIS VOICE SOUNDS FUNNY,
“IF I WEREN’T POOR, YOU’D HAVE NO MONEY.”



ONCE THERE WAS A HEN
WHO HAD NOTHING TO DO AGAIN.
SHE JUST YAWNED AND SAT.
BUT WHEN SHE OPENED HER MOUTH LIKE THAT
THE DOG SAID AT THE DOOR, "NO MORE!
YOU HAVEN'T GOT A SINGLE TOOTH
AND THAT'S THE TRUTH!"
THEN CAME THE HEN'S ADVENTURE:
OFF TO THE DENTIST SHE WENT
AND BOUGHT A DENTURE.
ALL CRITICISMS CEASE—
NOW SHE CAN YAWN IN PEACE.



A CAMEL ONE FINE DAY
SAW IN SARAWAK
A MAN WITH A HUMP ON HIS BACK.
HE LOOKED AT THE MAN A LITTLE ASKEW,
AND SAID, "BY THE WAY,
I HAVE TWO."





CO. SCHOOLS

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TWO BOYS CLIMBING UP A LADDER—

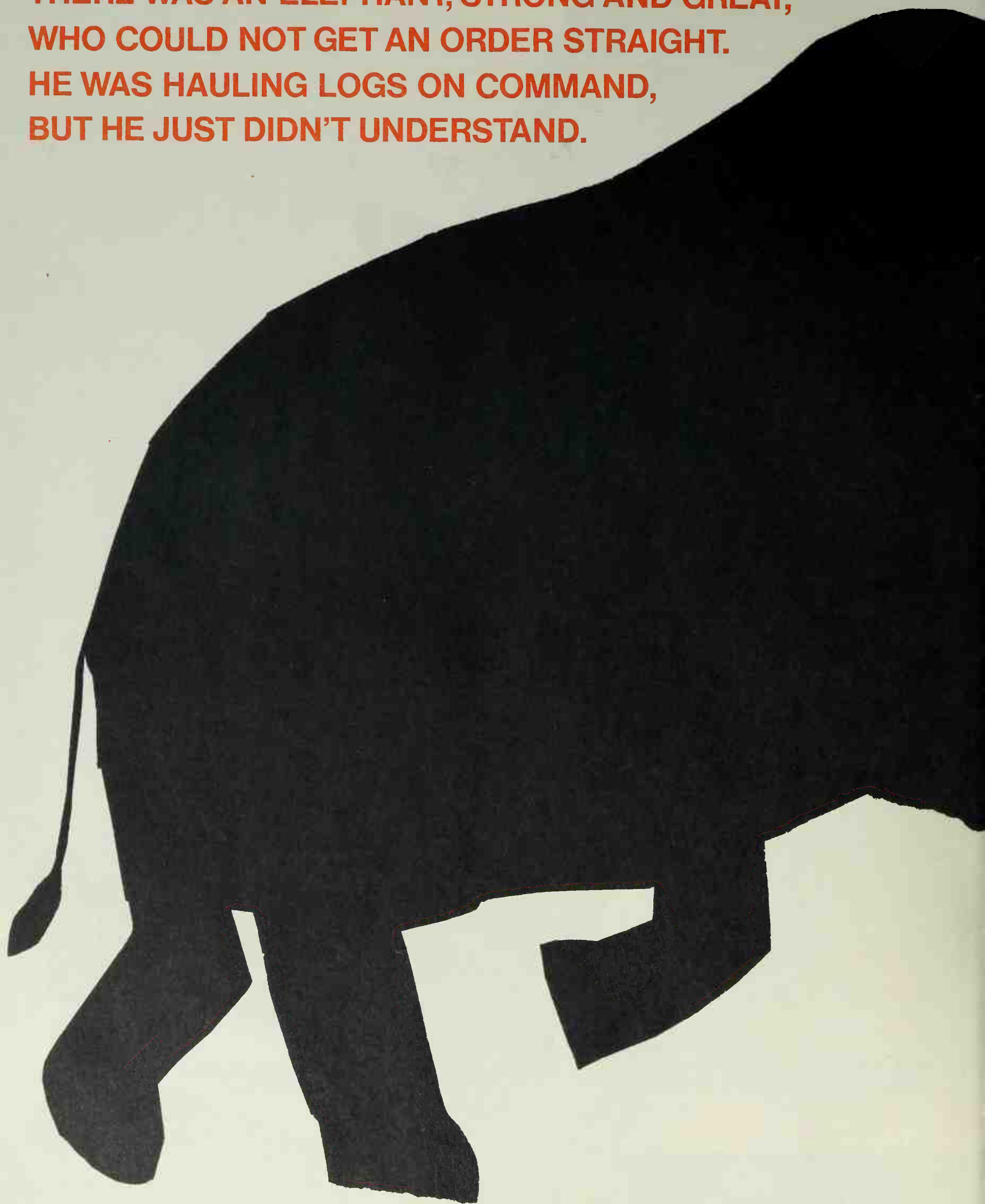
**THE HIGHER ONE IS A LITTLE SMARTER,
THE LOWER ONE IS A LITTLE DUMBER.**

THE LADDER FALLS AND DOWN THEY COME.





THERE WAS AN ELEPHANT, STRONG AND GREAT,
WHO COULD NOT GET AN ORDER STRAIGHT.
HE WAS HAULING LOGS ON COMMAND,
BUT HE JUST DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.



THE WORD CAME—"TWO LOGS"—HE HAULED TWENTY.
HE BROKE HIS LEG, HE BROKE IT PLENTY,
HE BROKE IT THROUGH AND THROUGH.
I CALL THAT DUMB, DON'T YOU?



FOUR-LEAF CLOVER,
LISA FINDS IT ON THE HILL.
IN HER JOY, LISA JUMPS OVER
A DITCH AND FALLS AND BREAKS
HER BEST LEG IN THE SPILL.

THE MIRROR CRACKS IN THE MORNING.
LISA GOES COLD WITH DREAD.
BUT ALL DAY THINGS ARE NICE.
BEFORE SHE GOES TO BED,
FATHER BRINGS RASPBERRY ICE.



THE STORK DOES NOT BRING BABIES,
SEVEN ONLY MEANS LUCK IN A GAME.
IN OUR REPUBLIC THERE IS NO DEVIL
TO TAKE THE BLAME.





BERTOLT BRECHT, renowned German playwright and poet, is best known in this country for his masterpiece, *The Threepenny Opera*.

During World War II, Brecht came to the United States as a refugee from Nazi Germany, and worked in Los Angeles writing film outlines and screenplays. After the war, he returned to live and work in East Berlin, where he died in 1956.

The poems in this book were written over a period of years and were culled from various collections of Brecht's poetry.

MURIEL RUKEYSER, the well-known poet, has to her credit over twenty works including poetry, drama, history, children's books and translations. She has written extensively for radio and television and her poems have appeared in numerous popular magazines.

URSULA KIRCHBERG studied graphic arts in her native Hamburg, Germany, where she has had her own studio since 1961. Her work has been widely exhibited in Europe. In addition to children's books, Ms. Kirchberg has created book jackets, magazine illustrations and posters.