



Hansel and Gretel

Original by Grimm Brothers



Mansel
and
Garetel

Verses and Drawings by
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*Hansel
and Gretel*

On the edge of a big and gloomy wood,
A wee little house with a garden stood,
Where a big old clock, with a noisy chime,
Kept ringing and clanging "Supper-Time,"





So good little Gretel climbed to see,
What lay on the pantry shelf for tea,
While her brother capered around the floor,
And hoped for a cake, and cheese and more.

There isn't a thing," his sister said,
"Excepting a loaf of Granny's bread,
So carry it out beneath the trees,
And we'll have a party there, if you please.

*Hansel
and Gretel*

Beneath the boughs of a chestnut tree,
They laid their bread, and the mugs for tea,
And they tiptoed down a path they knew,
To find a place where strawberries grew.





They heaped little Gretel's basket high,
While the tiny woodland creatures, shy,
Came running out, and tried to say,
That Night was hurrying on her way.

And the chirping birds went fast to sleep,
In the heart of the ancient forest, deep
While the narrow, winding forest track,
Was covered and wrapped in a cloak of black.

And Hansel and Gretel searched around,
For the right way out, while the ringing sound
Of the Fox's bark on the far-off hill,
Pealed loudly around the forest still.

*Hansel
and Gretel*

But Hansel and Gretel were not afraid,
And so on the grass their cloaks they laid,
And planned to sleep in the woods till light,
For good little children don't fear the night,

And the Fairies came, as the children slept,
And there, in the woods their watch they kept.
The foxes stayed on the far-off hill,
And the tiny beasts were hushed and still.

And no harm came to the children good,
As they slept in the dark and gloomy wood,
Till at dawn the Dew Man crept along,
To wake them up with his morning song.



*Hansel
and Gretel*

And Hansel and Gretel rubbed their eyes,
As they heard his cheery call to rise,
And they opened them wide, and gaped to see,
A gingerbread house beneath a tree.



Now, Hansel was hungry,
and Gretel too,
So he said, "I know
just what I'll do,"
And he crept right up to
the gingerbread house,
Between pink hollyhocks,
still as a mouse.

And he broke a piece
of the window-frame,
And another for Gretel,
just the same,
And a cooky fell from the
big green door;
He picked it up, and he
looked for more.

While Gretel crept closer, and there they stood,
And ate and nibbled as much as they could,
Till the door of the tiny gingerbread house,
Opened wide, and a voice cried "Nibble Mous

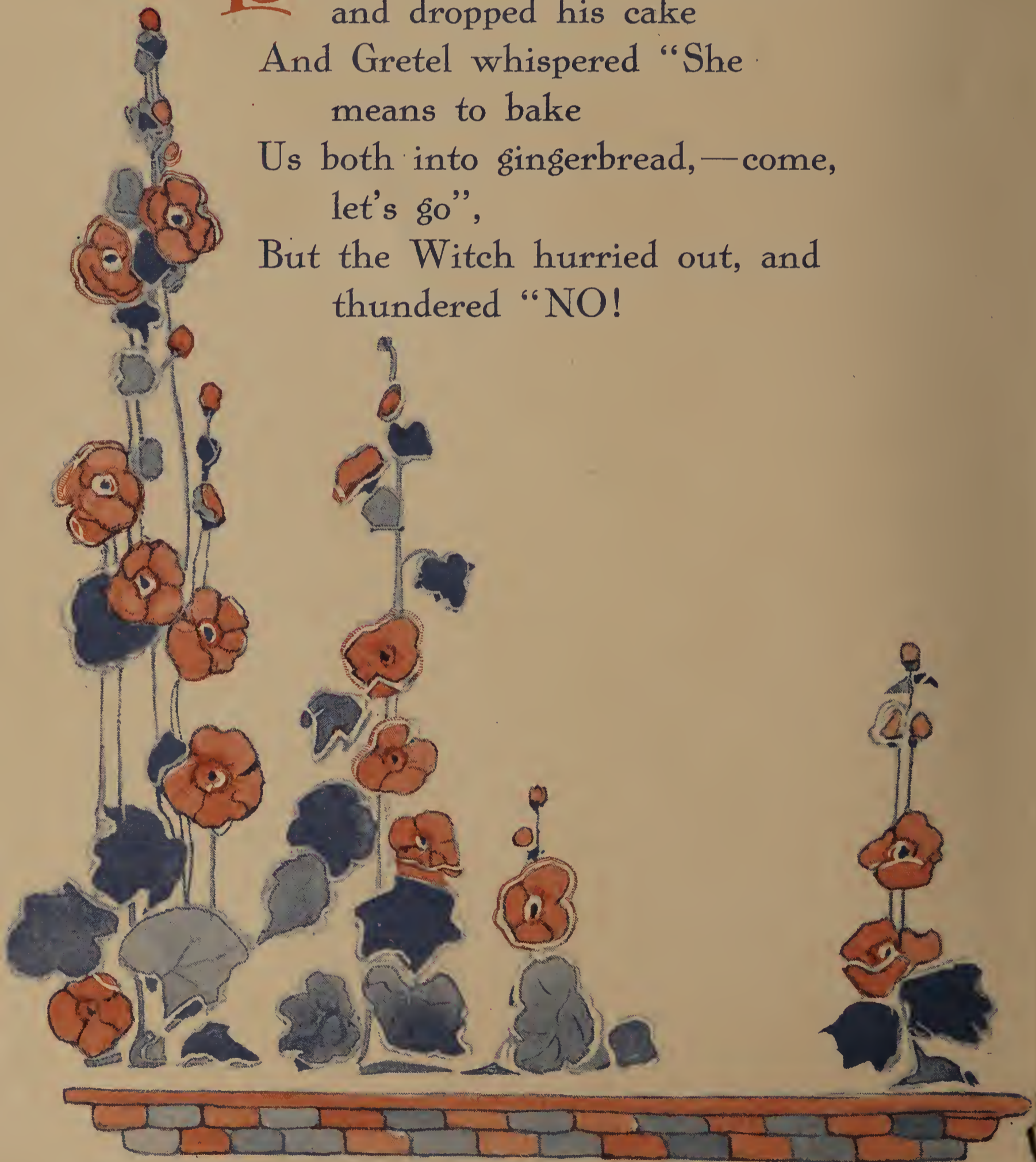
*Hansel
and Gretel*



*Hansel
and Gretel*

Just nibble, and nibble, and nibble some more,
Till you're nice and fat, and then my door,
Will close again and there'll be some more
Nice gingerbread cookies to hang on the door."

Door Hansel looked frightened,
and dropped his cake
And Gretel whispered "She
means to bake
Us both into gingerbread,—come,
let's go",
But the Witch hurried out, and
thundered "NO!"

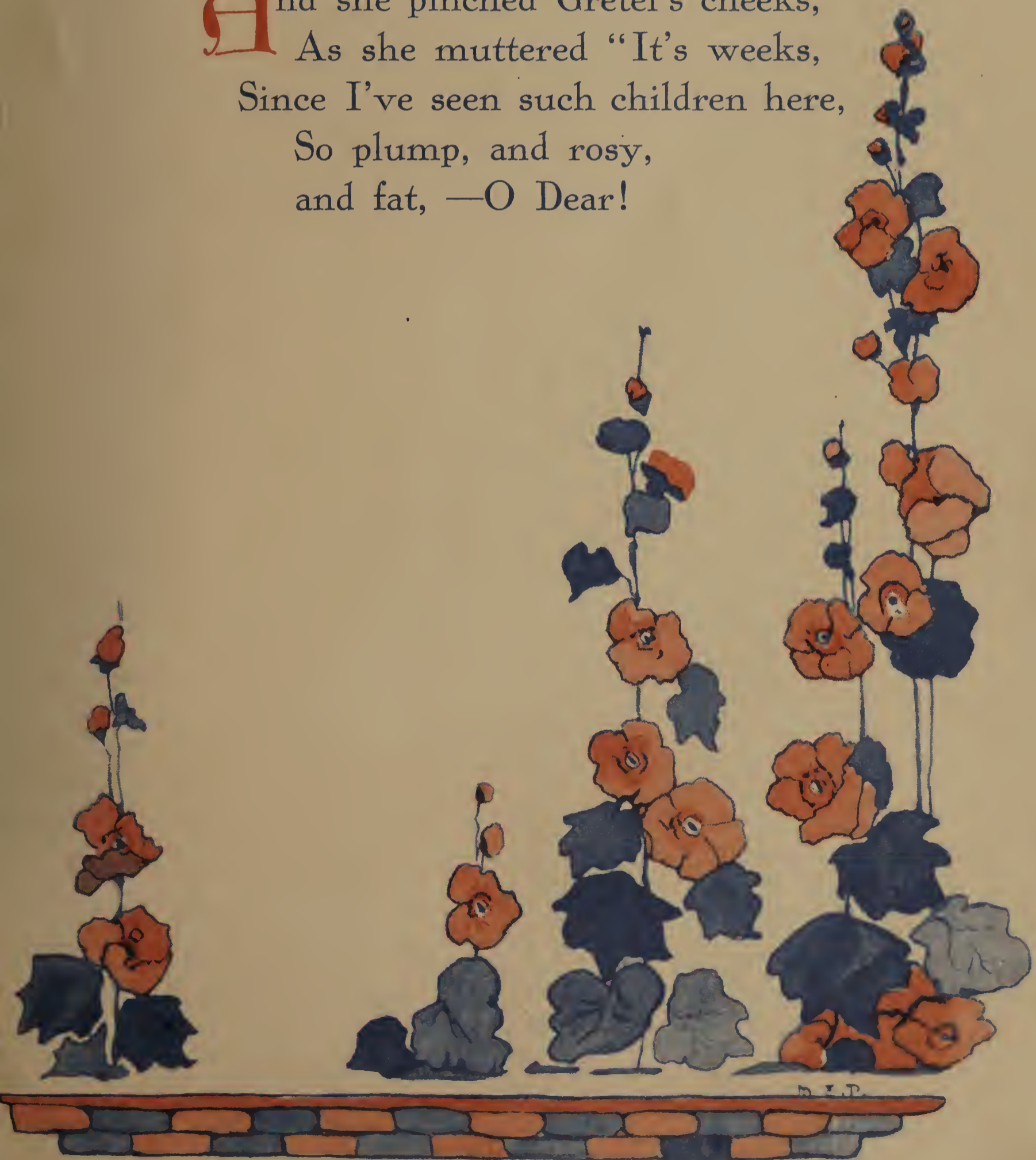


*Hansel
and Gretel*

For I've candy and raisins and cake inside",
And she pulled them both through the door
so wide

And she gave them candy red and white,
And frosted cake, all soft and light.

And she pinched Gretel's cheeks,
As she muttered "It's weeks,
Since I've seen such children here,
So plump, and rosy,
and fat, —O Dear!



*Hansel
and Gretel*



Come over and put this nice big cake,
In the oven, here, for me to bake.”
But Gretel knew what the old Witch meant,
And so she waited until she bent,

*Hansel
and Gretel*

To show little Gretel the proper way,
To place the cake on the oven tray,
And Hansel and Gretel pushed her in,
And closed the door on her awful din.

Now, Gretel knew how to
cook and bake,
And she knew how long the
Witch would take
To change into Gingerbread,
crisp and brown;
Then Hansel and Gretel
took her down.



*Hansel
and Gretel*

And all that was left of the Witch in the wood,
Was a big brown Witch of gingerbread good,
And all the children she ever had baked,
From their gingerbread slumbers now awaked.

And, hand in hand, they danced and sang,
Till the gingerbread house with music rang,
And they found, in a chest all old and green,
The richest treasure that ever was seen.

And there, forever and a day,
They live and eat, and dance and play.
In the gingerbread house, with the Witch's gold,
In the heart of the hoary forest, old.





Mansel
and
Caretel





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