

Big Pumpkin

ERICA SILVERMAN • Illustrated by S. D. SCHINDLER



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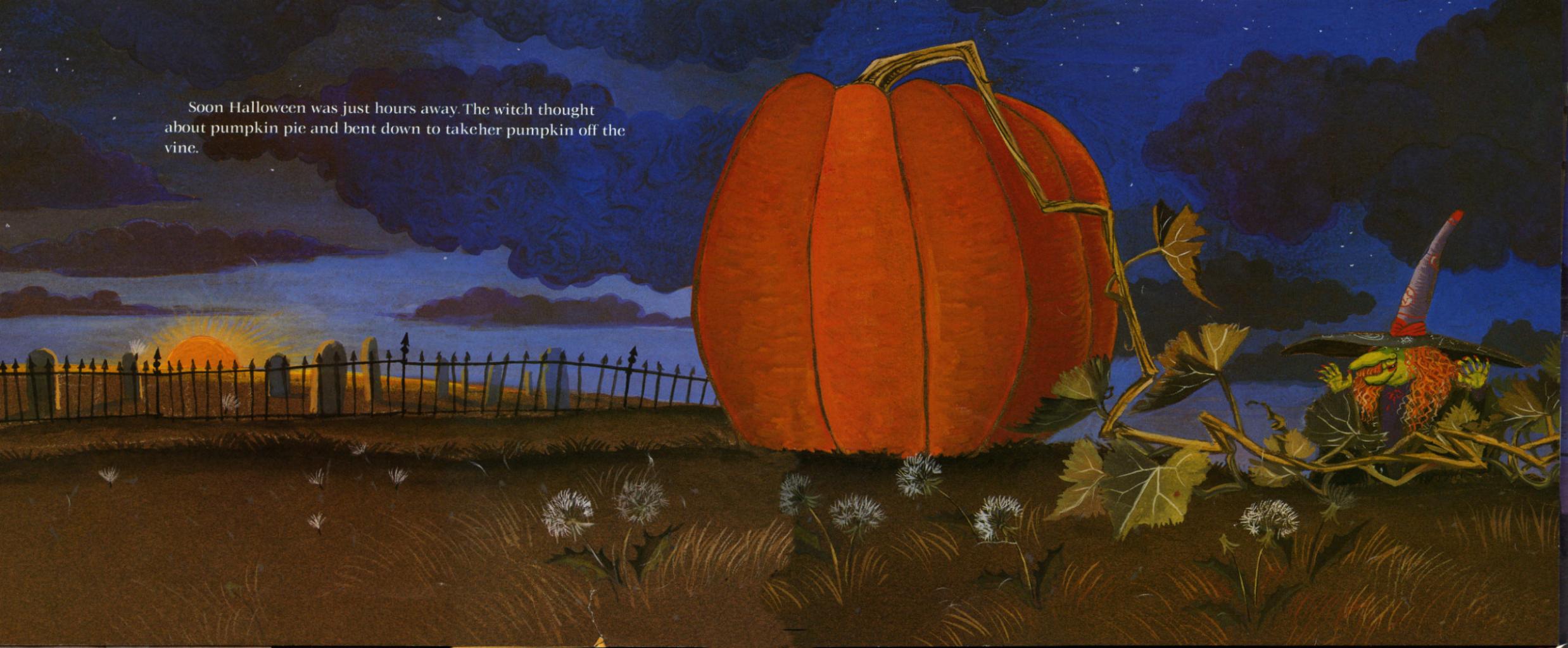
ERICA SILVERMAN

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Once there was a witch who wanted to make pumpkin pie. So she planted a pumpkin seed. She weeded and watered, and after a while a sprout poked through. And then a pumpkin grew. And it grew. And it grew. And then it grew some more.



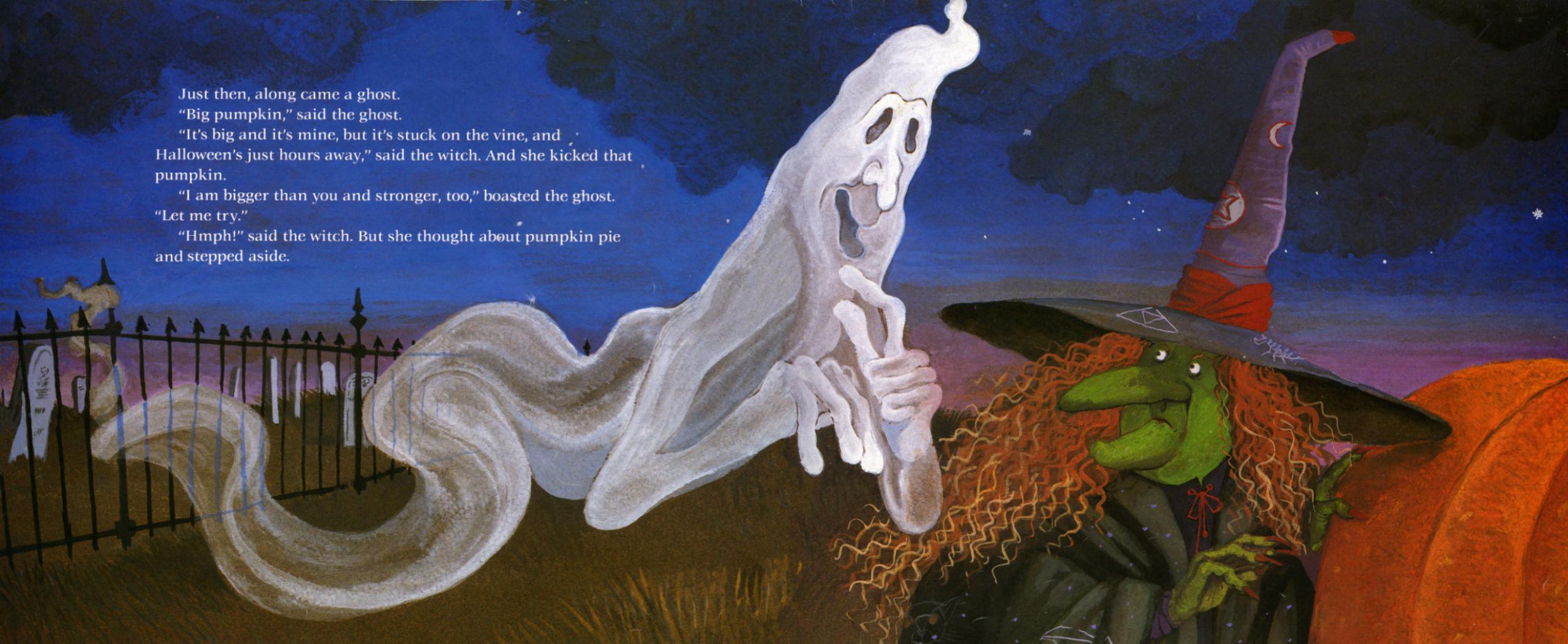


Soon Halloween was just hours away. The witch thought about pumpkin pie and bent down to take her pumpkin off the vine.



Well, she pulled and she tugged and she pulled. First she pulled hard and then she pulled harder. But that pumpkin just sat.

"Drat!" said the witch.

The illustration depicts a whimsical night scene. On the left, a white ghost with a long, thin body and a wide, toothy grin is perched on a large, orange, textured surface that looks like a giant's foot or a large pumpkin. The ghost's hands are clasped together. To the right of the ghost is a green, frog-like creature with a wide, toothy grin, wearing a tall, purple pointed hat with a red band and a white crescent moon on it. The creature has curly red hair and is holding a small red bow. The background features a dark blue sky with wispy clouds and a distant, colorful horizon. On the far left, there's a black wrought-iron fence and a small, circular stone structure with a cross on top, possibly a tombstone. The overall style is painterly and playful.

Just then, along came a ghost.

"Big pumpkin," said the ghost.

"It's big and it's mine, but it's stuck on the vine, and
Halloween's just hours away," said the witch. And she kicked that
pumpkin.

"I am bigger than you and stronger, too," boasted the ghost.

"Let me try."

"Hmph!" said the witch. But she thought about pumpkin pie
and stepped aside.



The ghost bent down to take the pumpkin off the vine.
Well, he pulled and he tugged and he pulled. First he pulled
hard and then he pulled harder. But that pumpkin just sat.
"Drat!" said the ghost.



A dark, whimsical illustration of a vampire, a witch, and a ghost in a garden at night. A large orange pumpkin sits in the foreground. In the background, a vampire in a black cape and red collar stands behind a fence, looking at the giant pumpkin. To the right, a green-faced witch with curly hair and a white ghost with a red bow tie look on from behind bushes.

Just then, along came a vampire.
"Big pumpkin," said the vampire.
"It's big and it's mine, but it's stuck
on the vine, and Halloween's just
hours away," said the witch. And she
kicked that pumpkin.

"I am bigger than both of you and
stronger, too," boasted the vampire.

"Let me try."

"Hmph!" said the witch.

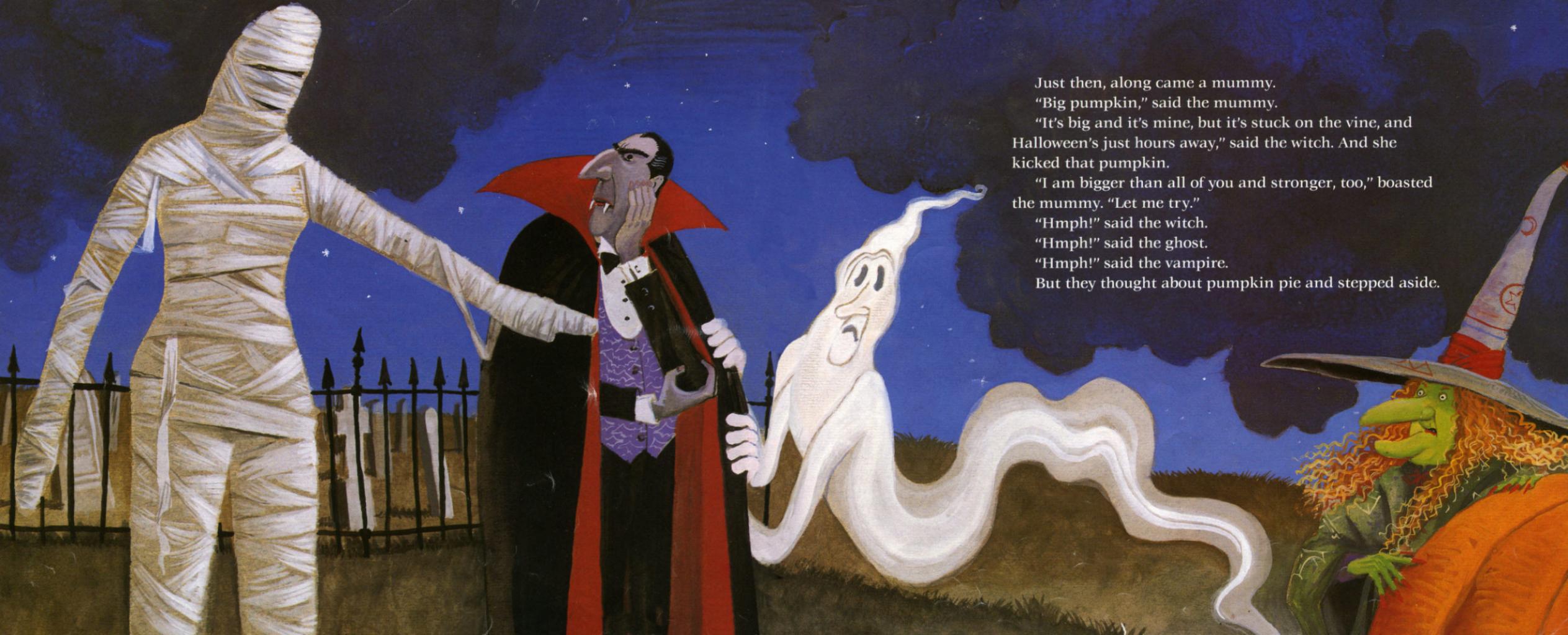
"Hmph!" said the ghost.



But they thought about pumpkin pie and stepped aside.
The vampire bent down to take the pumpkin off the vine.

Well, he pulled and he tugged and he pulled. First he
pulled hard and then he pulled harder. But that pumpkin
just sat.

"Drat!" said the vampire.



Just then, along came a mummy.

"Big pumpkin," said the mummy.

"It's big and it's mine, but it's stuck on the vine, and Halloween's just hours away," said the witch. And she kicked that pumpkin.

"I am bigger than all of you and stronger, too," boasted the mummy. "Let me try."

"Hmph!" said the witch.

"Hmph!" said the ghost.

"Hmph!" said the vampire.

But they thought about pumpkin pie and stepped aside.



The mummy bent down to take the pumpkin off the vine.

Well, she pulled and she tugged and she pulled. First she pulled hard and then she pulled harder. But that pumpkin just sat.

"Drat!" said the mummy.



Just then, along came a bat.
"Big pumpkin," said the bat.

The witch didn't say a word. She just looked at the ghost and rolled her eyes. The ghost looked at the vampire. The vampire looked at the mummy. They all looked at the little bat. And they started to laugh.

"I may not be big and I may not be strong," said the bat.
"But I have an idea."

And the bat told them what to do.

"Hmph!" said the witch.
"Hmph!" said the ghost.
"Hmph!" said the vampire.
"Hmph!" said the mummy.





But they thought about pumpkin pie and bent down to take the pumpkin off the vine.

"Ready, set, pull!" called the bat.

The bat pulled the mummy, the mummy pulled the vampire, the vampire pulled the ghost, the ghost pulled the witch, and the witch pulled the pumpkin.

Well, they pulled and they tugged and they pulled. First they pulled hard and then they pulled harder. And...



*Snap! Off came the pumpkin!
"Drat!" said the witch.
Whoosh! It flew and it flew and...*



Thud! It landed on top of a hill and...

Thump-bump, thump-bump, thump-bump. It bounced all the way down to the witch's house. And when it got to her door, that pumpkin just sat.

"Hurray for the bat!" shouted the witch. And she hurried inside to make pumpkin pie.



A dark, atmospheric illustration of a Halloween party. In the foreground, a green lizard-like creature with a red collar and a wide, toothy grin holds a fork and knife over a plate of orange cake. To its right, a white ghost with a skeletal face and a single blue eye is also eating cake from a plate. In the center, a mummy wrapped in white bandages is holding a tray with a slice of cake. To the right, a vampire in a black tuxedo and red cape is taking a bite out of his cake. In the background, a witch in a long purple dress is also eating cake. The setting is a dimly lit room with a large arched window on the left, a lit candle on a stand, and a string of colorful streamers hanging across the top. The floor is covered in cobwebs.

"Mmm," said the ghost.

"Have some more," said the witch.

"Couldn't eat another bite," said the vampire.

"Fun party," said the mummy.

"Time to go," said the bat.



"Drat!" said the witch as she watched them all leave.
Then she went right out and planted another pumpkin
seed.