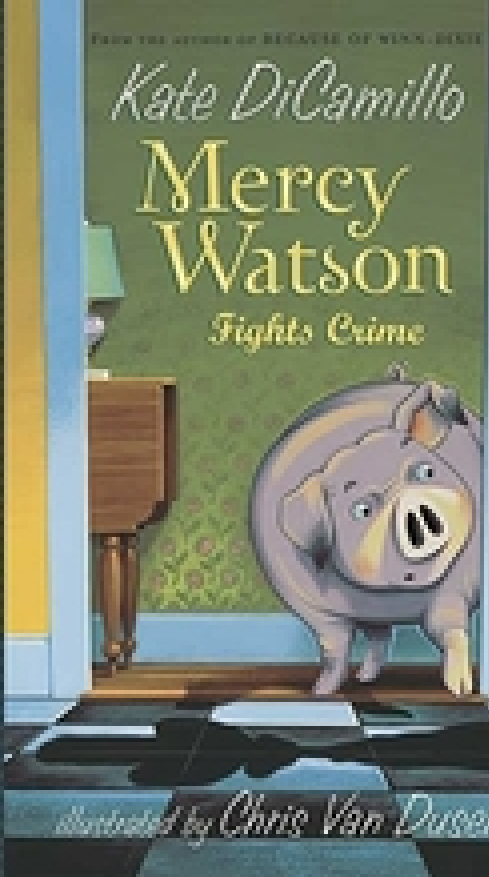

From the author of Because of Winn-Dixie
Kate DiCamillo
Mercy Watson
Fights Crime
Illustrated by Chris Van Dusen

Mercy Watson Fights Crime



Kate DiCamillo

Mercy Watson
Fights Crime

illustrated by Chris Van Dusen

Candlewick Press
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For Tracey Priebe Bailey,
who continues to laugh
K. D.

For Lauren and Sarah,
two sweet, little, silly girls
C. V.





Chapter 1

Mr. Watson and Mrs. Watson have a pig named Mercy.

Each night, they sing the pig to sleep.

Then they go to bed.

"Good night, my dear," says Mr. Watson.

"Good night, my darling," says Mrs. Watson.

"Oink," says Mercy.



Most nights, Mr. Watson and Mrs. Watson and Mercy all sleep soundly in their beds.

But there was one night when they did not.



Chapter 2

Leroy Ninker was a small man.

He was a small man with a big dream.

Leroy Ninker wanted to be a cowboy.

But in the meantime, he was a thief.

He was a thief in the kitchen at 54 Deckawoo Drive.

Leroy Ninker was robbing the Watsons.



"Yippie-i-oh," sang Leroy, "everything must go!"

He grabbed hold of the toaster.

He pulled it across the counter toward him.



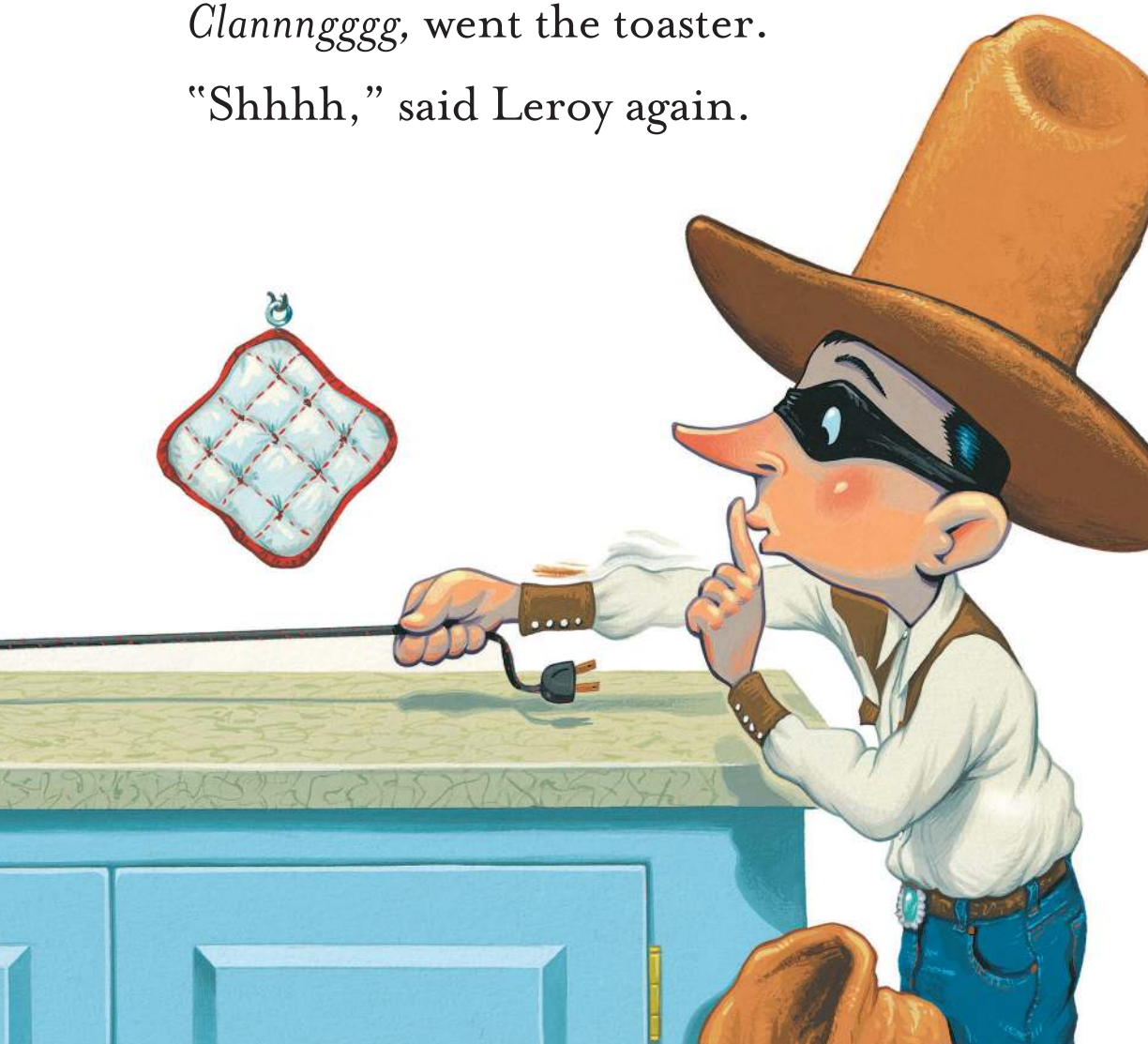
Screeeeeech, went the toaster.

"Shhhh," said Leroy.

He tossed the toaster into his bag.

Clannngggg, went the toaster.

"Shhhh," said Leroy again.



Chapter 3



Mercy woke up.

Screeeeeech was the sound the toaster made when it was being pulled across the kitchen counter!

Mercy Watson loved toast.

She particularly loved toast with a great deal of butter on it.

