



THE DEVIL

BACKSTORY: Endlessly seeking deals to strike, the horned and bearded Devil sneaks up to earth, where he lures unsuspecting humans over to the dark side. In his most infamous pact, the Devil grants a scholar named Faust boundless knowledge in exchange for his soul.

FRONT AND CENTER: Display the Devil by himself on your doorstep—this strong character shines even without a supporting cast.

QUESTIONABLE characters

Something wicked this way
carves—each of our etched
pumpkins features an infa-
mous creature from fairy
tales, folklore, or litera-
ture. These ghosts, goblins,
and other fantastical fiends
tend to emerge after dark
and are rarely seen, except
by the glow of candlelight.
Menacing though they may
be, don't hesitate to invite
them into your home—they
make haunting additions to
this season's décor. With our
carving how-to (see page
28H) and templates as your
guides, use a linoleum
cutter to carve out each
character. Once they're
let loose on All Hallows'
Eve, these ghoulish gourds
are sure to become legends
in their own right.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ZACHARY ZAVISLAK

TEXT BY
KATIE HOLDEFEHR





WICKED WITCH

BACKSTORY: Witches in the Grimm fairy tales are certainly evil: locking Hansel in a cage, poisoning Snow White with an apple. But perhaps no witch is as iconically wicked as the one from the West: *The Wizard of Oz's* witch set the standard for broom-clutching, green-skinned hideousness.

FRONT AND CENTER: Carved onto a 'Long Island Cheese' pumpkin, this graphic, skirt-trailing sorceress looks as if she's perched to take flight from this stool.



GOBLIN

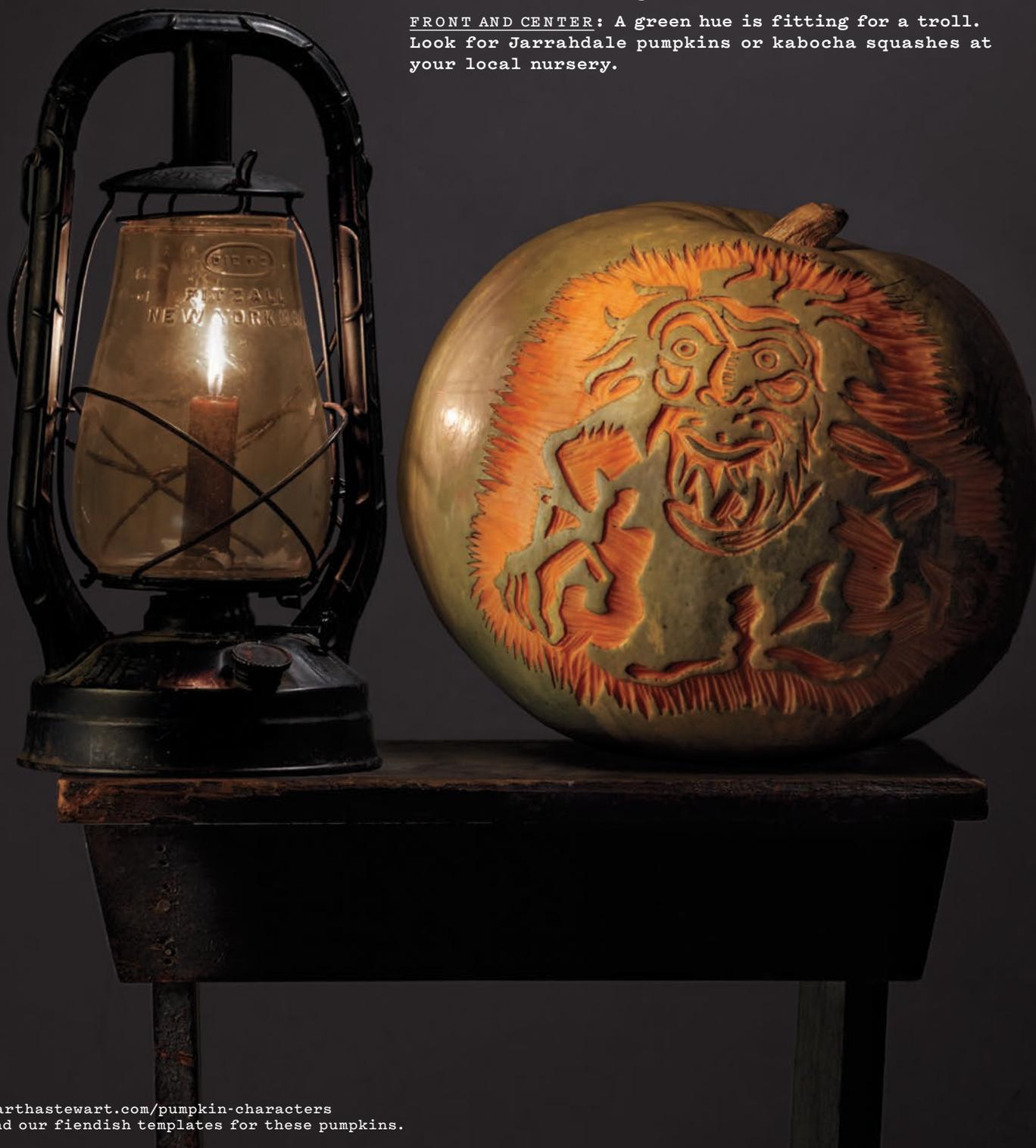
BACKSTORY: In a Dutch fairy tale, tiny, sooty goblins creep into homes to disturb humans' slumber. To stop these night terrors, the men of one town chase the creatures until daybreak. (Sunlight turns the imps to stone.) In Hans Christian Andersen's stories, goblins are greedy squatters that desire delicacies.

FRONT AND CENTER: Stack these feisty little rascals along with mushroom-strewn pumpkins, so they appear to be taking a romp through the woods.

TROLL

BACKSTORY: Ugly, scraggly-haired giants, the trolls of Scandinavian folklore lurk under bridges, awaiting passersby to eat. But never fear, even the most notorious troll—the menace from “The Three Billy Goats Gruff”—is easily outsmarted: Each goat convinces him to wait for something more delicious.

FRONT AND CENTER: A green hue is fitting for a troll. Look for Jarrahdale pumpkins or kabocha squashes at your local nursery.





VAMPIRE

BACKSTORY: Long before suave and beautiful vampires (like the charismatic Dracula) were brought to light by 19th-century horror novels, ancient civilizations were drawing bloodsucking spirits on pieces of pottery. Modern-day vampire-mania proves that the appeal is still very much alive.

FRONT AND CENTER: Keep this vampire locked up in your castle; in the evenings, set him in a window to cast an ominous glow over the neighborhood.



THE HEADLESS HORSEMAN

BACKSTORY: This reappearing figure in folklore is most memorable in Washington Irving's rendition of the tale. A former Revolutionary War soldier, the specter stalks the battlefield where he died and searches for his lost head. Sleepy Hollow's schoolteacher, Ichabod Crane, thinks he encounters the ghost (actually his rival, playing a prank), who hurls his "head" (a pumpkin) at Crane.

FRONT AND CENTER: Nod to Crane's profession by placing the carving on a child-size school chair. A large, round pumpkin is the ideal canvas for this showstopper.