

# “A House with Bottle Trees”

By Eudora Welty



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The house in the background of Welty’s photograph is typical of ones throughout rural Mississippi in the 1930s and 1940s. It is possible to imagine that Sara and Jason might have lived in a house such as this. The house was photographed by Welty in Simpson County in 1941. In the yard are trees whose limbs hold empty glass bottles. Folk tradition held that evil spirits would be trapped in the bottles and prevented from harming people in the house. Welty writes about bottle trees in her short story “Livvie.”