



# The Taking Tree: A Selfish Parody

*By Shrill Travesty*

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## **The Taking Tree: A Selfish Parody** By Shrill Travesty

We all know the story of the "selfless" tree that gave all she had just to make sure a young boy was "happy".

Snore. This is a different tree. This is a different boy. This is a very different book.

The Taking Tree is not so happy when the boy takes her twigs to pick on his sister, or takes her apples to sell for college (she's an oak tree for goodness sake), or when he cuts off her branches to build a house that he burns for insurance money. And the boy is not sorry at all. Ever. In fact, he's kind of a jerk. And the boy asks for more, and more, and more until the oak tree is so fed up she just can't take it any longer. While another story might end sweetly with an old man sitting on a stump. This one does not.

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## **The Taking Tree: A Selfish Parody** By Shrill Travesty Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This isn't the first parodic tweak of Shel Silverstein's classic, but it certainly sets a new standard of blithe snarkiness. "The tree was his best friend," writes the nom-de-plumed Travesty of the bratty protagonist. "Which shows what a loser the kid was." The tree, which frankly hates the child (who only gets meaner with age), feels hostage to his selfish and often criminal bidding ("he couldn't get away from him. She was a tree"). Blisteringly sarcastic throughout (when the boy asks for the tree's apples to pay for college, she responds, "I'm an oak tree.... When have you ever seen me grow apples?"), the tree finally embraces the full meaning of "passive-aggressive. "he took the kid's credit cards and ordered a bunch of DVDs she had no intention of watching. And she took the kid's cell phone and called the cops." Debut illustrator Cummins's deadpan cartooning never flags (one visual joke takes aim at the 2008 Republican presidential ticket); her addition of a scraggly and highly expressive mouth to the beleaguered tree's otherwise featureless trunk makes the fear and loathing even funnier. All ages. (Oct.) (c)

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From School Library Journal

K-Gr 2—In this parody of Shel Silverstein's *The Giving Tree* (HarperCollins, 1964), the relationship between the tree and the boy is not as loving this time around. The boy is "a real jerk" whom the tree detests. He pokes his sister with twigs, throws acorns at old people, and takes leaves from the tree and sets them on fire. Each time the kid goes away—usually to jail—the tree is happy. And it is not so willing to sacrifice itself for someone who, as he grows older, is never satisfied. "Are you out of your mind?" it asks. "You took everything you could take. And I can't take it anymore!" While ultimately the tree fares no better, those who were disturbed by the original version will appreciate that the boy's outcome is equally grim. Charcoal illustrations evoke Silverstein's style, with watercolor accents to brighten the pages. While adults are the typical audience for parodies, children who enjoy stories a bit off-kilter will find this one intriguing. As fans of Roald Dahl know, seeing the truly evil get their comeuppance makes for a satisfying book.—Suzanne Myers Harold, Multnomah County Library System, Portland, OR(c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

About the Author

**Pete Hautman** has written many novels for adults, including *Doohickey*, as well as the teen novels *Hole in the Sky*, *Stone Cold*, and *Mr. Was*, which was nominated for an Edgar Award by the Mystery Writers of America. He divides his time between the Twin Cities of Minnesota and the shores of Lake Pepin in southwestern Wisconsin.

According to Pete, the idea for *Sweetblood* was born more than twenty years ago:

"I was researching the origins of vampire stories when I discovered two remarkable facts. First, drinking excessive amounts of blood can cause diabetes -- bad news for would-be vampires! Second, I learned that diabetes, if left untreated, could produce symptoms that made the victim look and act a lot like the vampires of stories and legends. Coincidence? Perhaps...

"A few years later, I was diagnosed with insulin-dependent diabetes. So far I haven't developed a taste for blood, but you never know...."

Visit Pete on the Web at [www.petehautman.com](http://www.petehautman.com).

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Bruce Bracey:**

The publication untitled The Taking Tree: A Selfish Parody is the book that recommended to you to read. You can see the quality of the publication content that will be shown to an individual. The language that author use to explained their ideas are easily to understand. The article writer was did a lot of study when write the book, and so the information that they share for you is absolutely accurate. You also will get the e-book of The Taking Tree: A Selfish Parody from the publisher to make you much more enjoy free time.

#### **Cynthia Bryant:**

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or their friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book might be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the book untitled The Taking Tree: A Selfish Parody can be good book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

#### **Louis Chavez:**

People live in this new morning of lifestyle always make an effort to and must have the spare time or they will get great deal of stress from both lifestyle and work. So , whenever we ask do people have free time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not just a robot. Then we consult again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer can unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading publications. It can be your alternative within spending your spare time, the particular book you have read is usually The Taking Tree: A Selfish Parody.

#### **Stacy Knarr:**

The book untitled The Taking Tree: A Selfish Parody contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains your ex idea with easy approach. The language is very simple to implement all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was written by famous author. The author gives you in the new era of literary works. It is easy to read this book because you can read on your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice examine.

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