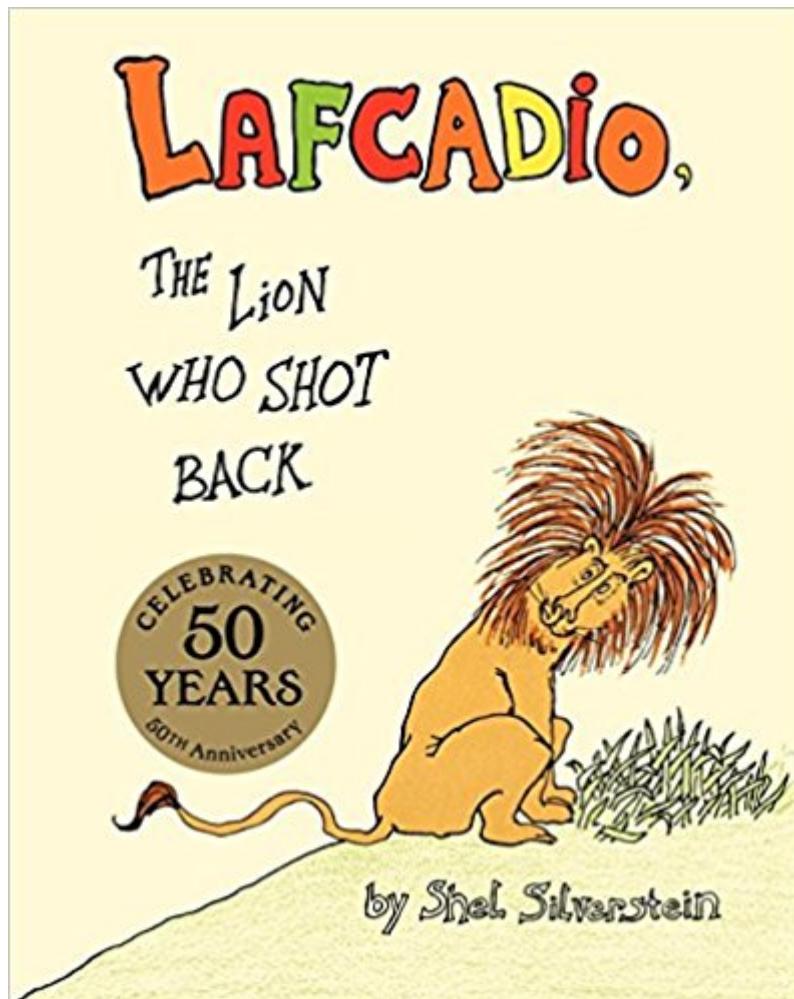


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# Lafcadio, The Lion Who Shot Back



## Synopsis

Shel Silverstein's first children's book, *Lafcadio, the Lion Who Shot Back* "a whimsical tale of self-discovery and marshmallows" is turning fifty with a return to the vintage full-color cover. Is a famous, successful, and admired lion a happy lion? Or is he a lion at all? Written and drawn with wit and gusto, Shel Silverstein's modern fable speaks not only to children but to us all! First published in 1963, this book had rave reviews from the *New York Times*, *Time* magazine, and *Publishers Weekly*, as well as a starred review from *Kirkus*. Now celebrating its fiftieth anniversary, *Lafcadio* is being reissued with a full-color cover featuring vintage art from Shel Silverstein discovered in the archives. *Lafcadio, the Lion Who Shot Back* is the book that started Shel Silverstein's incomparable career as a bestselling children's book author and illustrator. He is also the creator of picture books such as *A Giraffe and a Half*, *Who Wants a Cheap Rhinoceros?*, *The Missing Piece*, *The Missing Piece Meets the Big O*, and the perennial favorite *The Giving Tree* and of classic poetry collections such as *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, *A Light in the Attic*, *Falling Up*, *Every Thing On It*, *Don't Bump the Glump!*, and *Runny Babbit*. And don't miss *Runny Babbit Returns*, the new book from Shel Silverstein!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: NC1010L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 112 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; 50 Anv edition (September 24, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060256753

ISBN-13: 978-0060256753

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.7 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 100 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #61,454 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #47 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Lions, Tigers & Leopards #472 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Poetry #630 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Chapter Books & Readers > Chapter Books

Age Range: 6 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 3

## Customer Reviews

First published in 1963, the late Shel Silverstein's children's book debut *Lafcadio: The Lion Who Shot Back*, will resonate with young readers much as it did 40 years ago. The affable narrator Uncle Shelby's story begins: "Once there was a young lion and his name was--well, I don't really know what his name was because he lived in the jungle with a lot of other lions and if he did have a name it certainly wasn't a name like Joe or Ernie or anything like that." That all changes, however, when a circus man discovers the lion's skills as a marksman (the lion took a gun from a hunter he ate) and names him Lafcadio the Great. When the circus man takes Lafcadio to New York City, the story takes on a certain Crocodile Dundee quality--the lion eats the menu at a fancy restaurant, demands marshmallows (he likes the sound of them), and is captivated by the hotel elevator. As Lafcadio becomes more civilized and rich and famous, however, he becomes more unhappy. In the end, to entertain the increasingly despondent star, the circus man takes Lafcadio hunting in Africa where he encounters his old lion friends on the other end of his gun. Is Lafcadio now a man or is he a lion? He decides he is neither and wanders alone into the valley. In typical Silverstein style, this exuberantly-silly-yet-poignant fable, illustrated with simple, expressive line drawings, asks more questions than it answers. The glee the author derives from wordplay and the sound of language is positively contagious. This read-aloud classic belongs on every child's bookshelf. (Ages 6 to 10)

--Karin Snelson

"You don't have to shoot me," says the young lion. "I will be your rug and I will lie in front of your fireplace and I won't move a muscle and you can sit on me and toast all the marshmallows you want. I love marshmallows." But the hunter will not listen to reason, so what is there for a young lion to do? After eating up the hunter, Lafcadio takes the gun home and practices and practices until he becomes the world's greatest sharpshooter. Now dressed in starched collars and fancy suits, and enjoying all the marshmallows he wants, Lafcadio is pampered and admired wherever he goes. But is a famous, successful, and admired lion a happy lion? Or is he a lion at all? Told and drawn with wit and gusto, Shel Silverstein's modern fable speaks not only to children but to us all!

Lafcadio, *The Lion Who Shot Back* has been a favorite of mine for over 20 years, and I love to share it! The book can be difficult to find in brick-and-mortar stores, unlike other Silverstein books for youngsters. That fact has always baffled me, as Lafcadio is one of Uncle Shelby's best. Lafcadio is best when read aloud, and the little ones will often sit still for a full reading, it's just that good. Older children note, "It really left me hanging! What happens to him?" It's the perfect beginning of a

conversation about understanding and being true to yourself, not changing to be what others expect or want you to be. I still wonder what happened to Lafcadio, and hope he is happy, wherever he is, and that he has plenty of marshmallows.

I remember my mom reading this book to me as a little boy and loved it. Now that I have a daughter of my own I bought this book and still enjoy it. I would say this is one of the great books by Shel Silverstein and is probably the most over looked.

I ordered this based on great reviews, but it was just ok. We really didn't like it, and sent it back. I was expecting a fun read aloud children's book, and while I read it aloud, it went over my kids heads for the most part and just wasn't really a story I liked that much. Also it's long- took us four days to read (reading 20 min a day).

This is a must have. It is well written and very funny. My 7 year old daughter and I laughed and giggled throughout the first 4 chapters and we had to finish reading it the next morning. Good thing too because I was going to finish it without her. Please don't let the reviews that complain about lion shooting hunters and eating them scare you off. It's told very well and I can't imagine any kid being scared by it.

this is a good book. we are really enjoying it. my son is just now ready for longer books, and this one captures his interest.

this was bought as a gift for a friend's recent baby shower; the idea being in lieu of cards, folks might bring their own, favorite, childhood book (i thought the idea was thoroughly groovy). the year this book was published, 1963, made it easy to choose - notwithstanding the fact that it's a typically, predictably wonderful, Silverstein offering from "back in the day". if you're a half-century or so on in years, you might've even missed this one too (or had forgotten about it by now). our friend was tickled pink about this since she'd never heard of it (she's a late 20-something gal)! it'll be a hit for her new baby - after all, what Shel Silverstein book isn't? highly recommended...

I love this book! It was new to me from Shel Silverstein but I am happy that I have it in my kids' library. Great addition!

Not his best book.

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