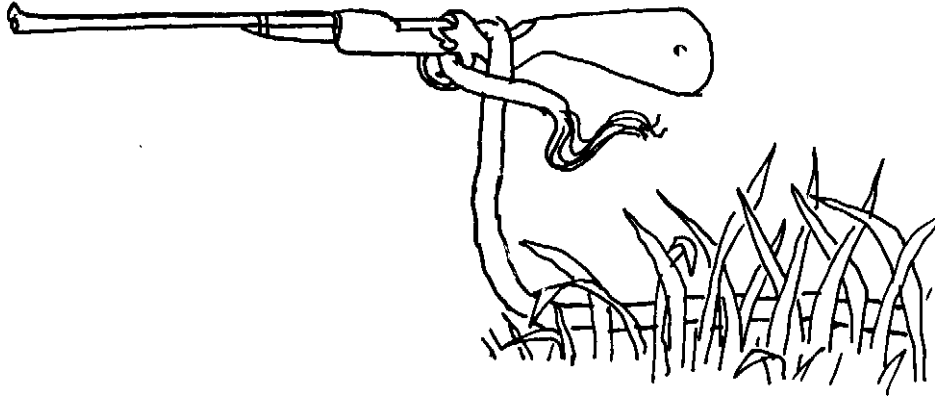


LAFCADIO

**THE LION
WHO SHOT BACK**



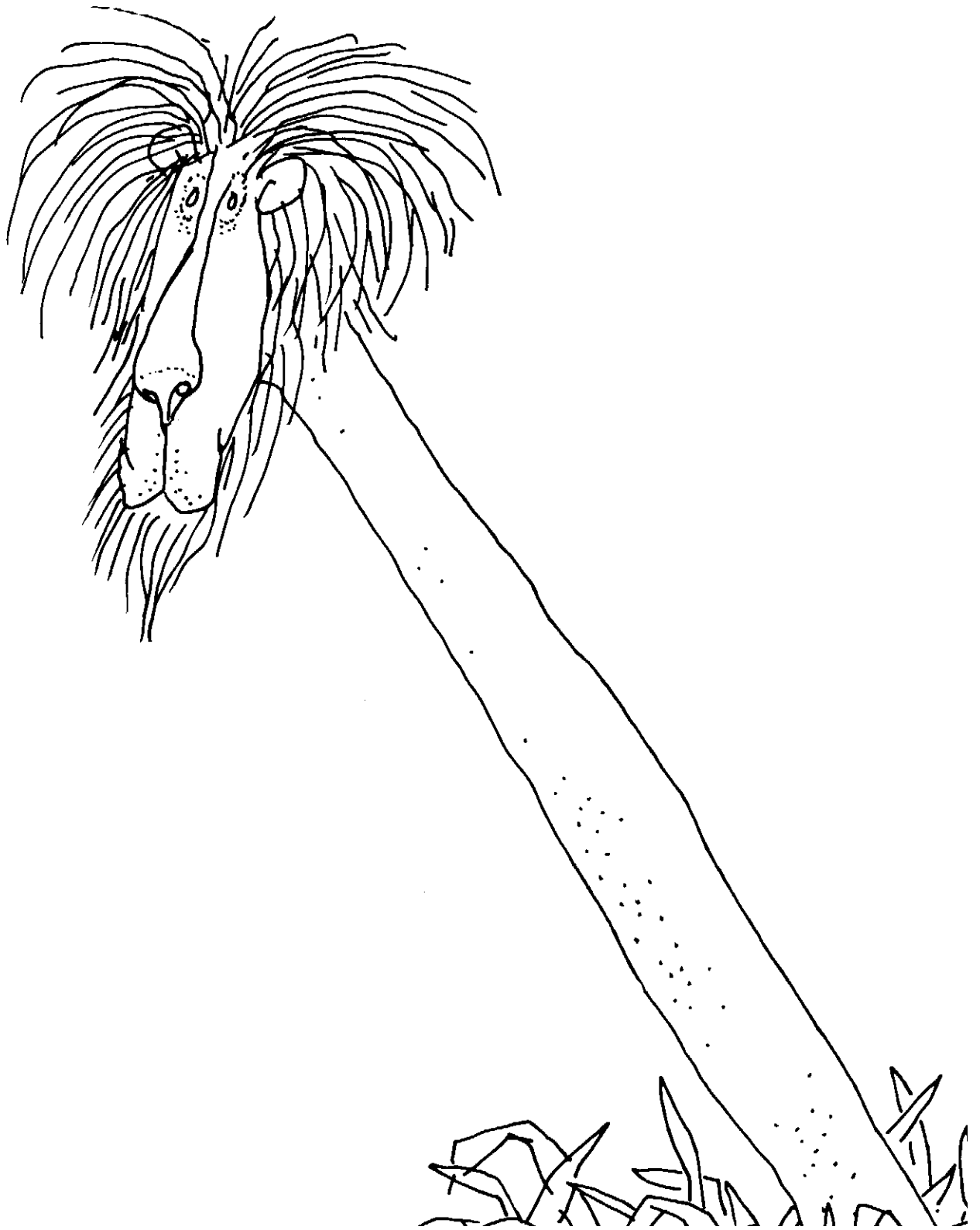
By Shel Silverstein



Shel
Silverstein

UNCLE SHELBY'S
STORY
OF
Lafcadio,
THE
LION
WHO
SHOT
BACK

 HarperCollins *Publishers*



LAFCADIO, THE LION WHO SHOT BACK

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WZ



Even your old Uncle Shelby once had a teacher.
His name was Robert Cosby.
This book is dedicated to him.

Lafcadio,

THE
LION
WHO
SHOT
BACK





And now, children, your Uncle Shelby is going to tell you a story about a very strange lion—in fact, the strangest lion I have ever met. Now, where shall I start this lion tail? I mean this lion *tale*. I suppose that I should begin at the moment that I first met this lion. Let's see . . . that was in Chicago on Friday the 17th of December. I remember very clearly because the snow had just started to turn to slush and the traffic was very bad on Dorchester Avenue and this lion was looking around for a barbershop and I was just coming home from—

No, I suppose I should start this story long before that. I suppose I should tell you about the lion when he was very young. All right.



1.

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. No, it was more of a lion name like, oh, maybe Grograph or Ruggrrg or Grmmff or Grrrrr.

Well, anyway, he had a name like that and he lived in the jungle with the other lions and he did the usual lion things like jumping and playing in the grass and swimming in the river and eating rabbits and chasing other lions and sleeping in the sun, and he was very happy.

Well, then, one day—I believe it was a Thursday—after all the lions had eaten a good lunch and were sleeping in the sun, snoring lions’ snores, and the sky was blue and the birds were going kaw kaw and the grass was blowing in the breeze and it was quiet and wonderful, suddenly . . .

BLOWNM!

