



2013

The Christmas Tree that Ate My Mother by Dean Marney

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Ouderkirk, Lorianne (2013) "The Christmas Tree that Ate My Mother by Dean Marney," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 33 : Iss. 3 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol33/iss3/5>

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Author: Marney, Dean

Title: *The Christmas Tree That Ate My Mother*

Year of Publication: 1992

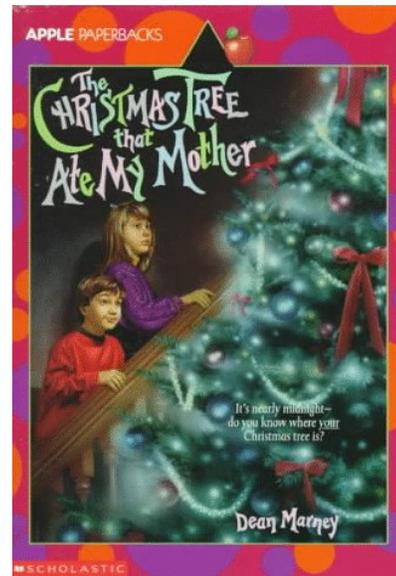
Publisher: Scholastic Inc.

ISBN: 9780590448819

Number of Pages: 86

Rating: Cannot Recommend

Reading/Interest Level: Intermediate



Keywords: Holiday; Adventure; Fantasy; Mothers; Family; Humor

Review:

Elizabeth freely expresses her opinions, including the fact that she thinks the family Christmas tree is weird. Strange things happen from the beginning: first, the tree salesman knows Elizabeth's name even though she does not introduce herself. Next, the tree moves itself around the living room, and the ornaments don't stay put. Then Elizabeth watches as her mom walks right into the tree. Elizabeth has to face her own fears of the dark and of loneliness as she seeks to rescue her mother from inside the Christmas tree and bring her back in time for Christmas morning.

Written for young readers in grades four to six, *The Christmas Tree That Ate My Mother* is part of a series of similar books by Dean Marney. The story line and vocabulary are simple, which make this a book that young readers can easily read on their own. However, the story does not challenge the reader's imagination much beyond the concept of traveling to an unknown location through the trunk of a tree and fighting a large black blob. The main character is whiny and disrespectful to her parents and brother, and she often uses sarcasm when communicating with her family. While beginning readers may find success with the book's easier reading level, the story and characters come up short.

Reviewer: Lorianne Ouderkirk

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“Come to my Christmas tree, little one,” a soft voice suddenly whispered over his head. He thought that this was still his mother, but no, it was not she. Who it was calling him, he could not see, but someone bent over to him, and all at once—oh, what a bright light! Oh, what a Christmas tree! And yet it was not a fir tree, he had never seen a tree like that! Where was he now? Everything was bright and shining, and all around him were dolls; but no, they were not dolls, they were little boys and girls, only so bright and shining. They all came flying round him, they all kissed him, took

The Christmas Tree That Ate My Mother. The Computer That Ate My Brother. The Easter Bunny That Ate My Sister. The Jack-O'-Lantern That Ate My Brother. The Turkey That Ate My Father and. The Valentine That Ate My Teacher. He is also the writer of Pet-rified!, How to Drive Your Family Crazy On Halloween and How to Drive Your Family Crazy Thirdly, my motherland is the land, where I hear the sounds of our pleasant language. These sounds arouse much excitement, warmness and tenderness in my soul. I canâ€™t help thinking about how melodious and harmonious the Ukrainian language is! I am very proud that I can speak this romantic and emotional language fluently. If you love the culture of your Motherland and are able to see the beauty of the Ukrainian landscape, you certainly love your country. To add more, there are boundless steppes, thick forests, serene groves, towering mountains, warm and caressing seas, wide rivers, whimsical cave labyrinth, numerous nature preserves, parks, exotically rich museum collections, historical and cultural landmarks, blossom fields of flowers and the sweet cherry gardens. Dean Marney (born 1952) is the author of several children's books along a common theme, including: The Christmas Tree That Ate My Mother. 'The Computer That Ate My Brother. The Easter Bunny That Ate My Sister. The Jack-O'-Lantern That Ate My Brother. The Turkey That Ate My Father and. The Valentine That Ate My Teacher. He is also the writer of Pet-rified!, How to Drive Your Family Crazy On Halloween and How to Drive Your Family Crazy On Valentine's Day.