

2011

## The Mutilated Tree of Olene, Oregon

Emma Andrus

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/oval>



Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Let us know how access to this document benefits you.

---

### Recommended Citation

Andrus, Emma (2011) "The Mutilated Tree of Olene, Oregon," *The Oval*: Vol. 4 : Iss. 1 , Article 12.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/oval/vol4/iss1/12>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Oval by an authorized editor of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

*Emma Andrus*

*(*The Mutilated Trees of*)*  
Olene, Oregon

decapitated,  
the trees that line the roadside fields of Olene  
fill me with a sorrow clear as amber  
muddied by the broken down houses  
the shoddy shingles lined with moss and mold  
cracked window-panes  
where i imagine the wide eyes of hungry children staring.  
po' white trash,  
i know these children.  
i grew up in the rusted cabs of model A pickups  
playing witchcraft in the dust  
and standing in line with my mother at the food-bank.  
a trailer full of boxes of books  
and the desiccated paint tubes  
of a painter who didn't paint anymore.  
Olene, Oregon, is not so far from Clinton, Montana,  
with its shaggy horses whose ribs poke sharp through their hides,  
oxidized cans  
and barbed wire.  
government cheese is universal.

29  
A  
n  
d  
r  
u  
s