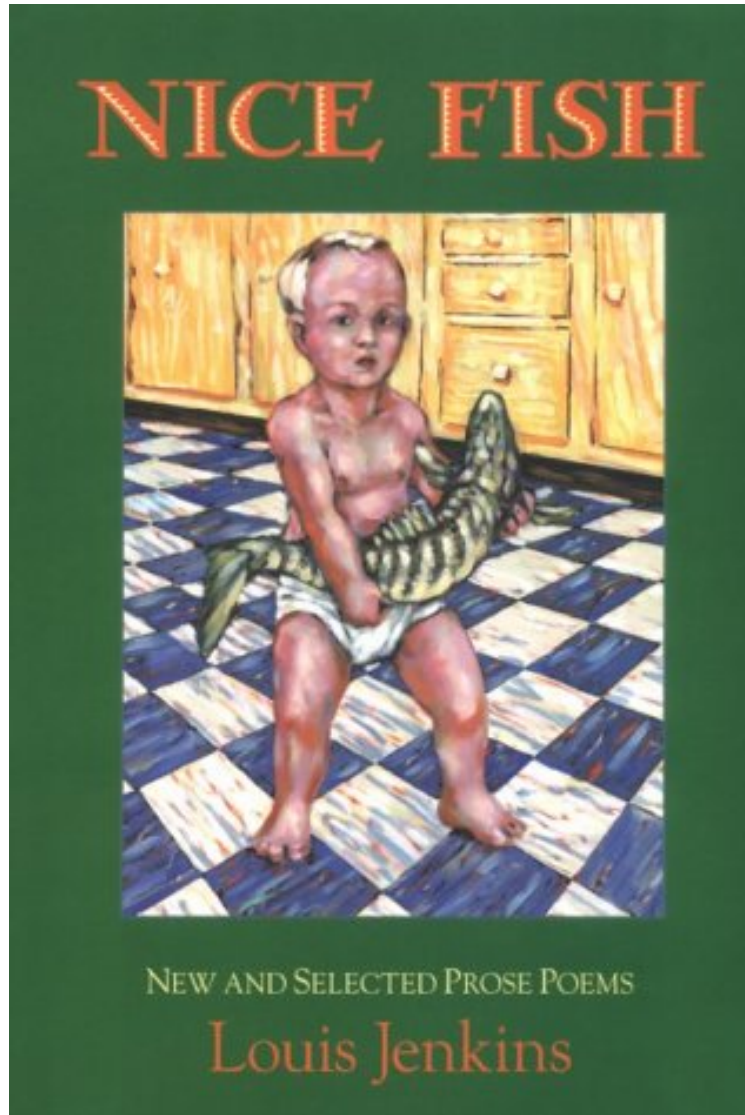


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## Nice Fish: New and Selected Prose Poems

*Louis Jenkins*

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**Louis Jenkins : Nice Fish: New and Selected Prose Poems** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nice Fish: New and Selected Prose Poems:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Michael C. Rainnie Love L. Jenkins' poetry! This book is a prime example. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I'm hooked! By David Hosler Very refreshing and entertaining form of writing! I was unfamiliar with this type of writing until a neighbor shared a few short readings at a dinner party. Quite touching and I must say somewhat revealing. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice Fish.... By Boondocks Brooklyn First off I really enjoyed the book of poems I've been a fan since I saw Mark

Rylance say the prose poems as his acceptance speech at the Tony's, unfortunately Louis Jenkins is a lesser known poet and tougher to get your hands on. But this seller delivered a almost brand new copy of a book I had a tough time finding in proper time and condition. Would be happy to purchase from again.

Winner of the Minnesota Book Award for Poetry, 1995 "To imagine what it means to be another human being is an act of love. These are poems written by a great lover of the world. Everything in it that stands alone, unobserved, and luminous. Solitary people with their solitary destinies...If there's a native, archetypical American solitude, Louis Jenkins has given us its flavor."--Charles Simic, *The Boston Review*

From *Library Journal* Previously available only in limited-circulation books, Jenkins's work fills a great need in modern American prose poems, striking a balance between surrealism and precision thus far found mainly in translations. Many pieces are portraits and run the risk of becoming stories; instead they involve readers momentarily in a character's life, then turn an invisible corner, breaking the story line while holding the attention. Time vanishes; a history unfolds in the space of a paragraph. Crucial events are merely hinted at. A poem on aging, for example, ends with a moment "blinding as the flash when someone snaps a picture of you blowing out the candles." We begin in middle-age and end in middle age; we've gotten nowhere; it's all extremely well-crafted verbiage. We sit back and enjoy. An added bonus: Jenkins's brief introduction is one of the most lucid descriptions of the prose poem available. Rochelle Ratner, formerly Poetry Editor, "Soho Weekly News," New York Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From *Booklist* Introducing these prose poems, Jenkins writes that readers should "think of [them] as a door, another useful rectangle." Indeed, his tightly written paragraphs seem to be entryways, although occasionally they resemble selections from the openings of novels more than completed poetic pieces and leave us yearning for the rest of the story. The characters in them are immensely likable and realistic, from the "fat teaching assistant" who caught a student cheating on an exam and now spins her story into grand exaggeration to a night-shift waitress quietly filling a water glass and looking out a window to Lake Superior. Jenkins captures small scenes and solitary people, making the typical become fascinating. Many of the poems seem almost like small flowers ready to bloom just as the action ends. Elizabeth Gunderson About the Author Louis Jenkins lives in Duluth, Minnesota. His poems have been published in numerous literary magazines and anthologies. Among his books of poetry are *An Almost Human Gesture*, *All Tangled Up With the Living*, *Nice Fish: New and Selected Prose Poems* (winner of the Minnesota Book Award) and *Just Above Water*. He has read his poems on *A Prairie Home Companion* and was featured poet at the Geraldine R. Dodge Poetry Festival in 1996. Two of his prose poems were published in *The Best American Poetry* 1999.