

THE COELACANTH

BY

MARK YOUNG

**WHY I LIKE IT: *Poetry Editor HEZEKIAH writes…****For people unfamiliar, as I, 'the coelacanth' is an ancient fish over 400 billion years*

*old, described as a passive drift feeder (now that trait I find entirely relatable). Mark Young's treatment of this particular sarcopterygian is fathomlessly nonsensical, elevating this lobe-fin to new heights of whimsey. In spite of its prehistoric origins, it has never "sung / with the / Berlin Opera / or appeared in / a film by / Scorsese or / Tarantino, or [even] written a / self-help / book that / made it to /The Times—" Yes, Mr. Young's tone is quite serious, bordering on editorial, which makes the absurdity of this piece utterly irresistible.*

*Five Stars*

**The coelacanth**

has nothing  
in common with  
Orion’s Belt   
  
which is  
surprising  
  
considering  
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Berlin Opera   
  
or appeared in   
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*The Times*—  
London or NY—

best-  
seller

list.

**THE POET SPEAKS:** *Despite their apparent disparities, it is amazing how often there are commonalities between things.*

**AUTHOR BIO:** Mark Young was born in Aotearoa / New Zealand but now lives in a small town in North Queensland in Australia. He is the author of more than sixty books, the most recent of which are with the slow-paced turtle replaced by a fast fish, published by Sandy Press in May, 2023, & a free downloadable chapbook of visuals & poems, Mercator Projected, published by Half Day Moon Press in August 2023.