



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 million 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 whimsy. 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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ever sung
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Berlin Opera

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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.