

# Fish Anthology

2012



Short Stories  
Flash Fiction  
Short Memoirs  
Poetry  
*chosen by*

David Mitchell  
Michael Collins  
David Shields  
Billy Collins

Clem Cairns, Editor

*Fish*

# The Cruellest Jokes Have No Punch Lines

The yellow kangaroo paw dulled by dark  
and the neighbor's pterodactyl child  
off to bed with The Wild Things  
and Maria's cocooned in the house  
burying the baby she delivered today  
not moving because it happens  
for no other reason than it happens  
by reading an article about a diver  
tangled up with a dead body at 907 feet  
the dive computer on his wrist flashing red  
the nitrogen levels in his blood like drinking  
six dry martinis back to back  
so now she's displacing one body  
with another body the same article I read  
earlier with my martini on the roof deck  
to get the alcohol the sunset the article  
one body to displace another body  
to displace the one armed man child  
sent from the pet crematorium to carry  
my eighty pounds dog up flights of stairs  
to an orange flamed flatbed  
grab him by the legs he said  
he's going to start to leak

*Noah Blaustein*