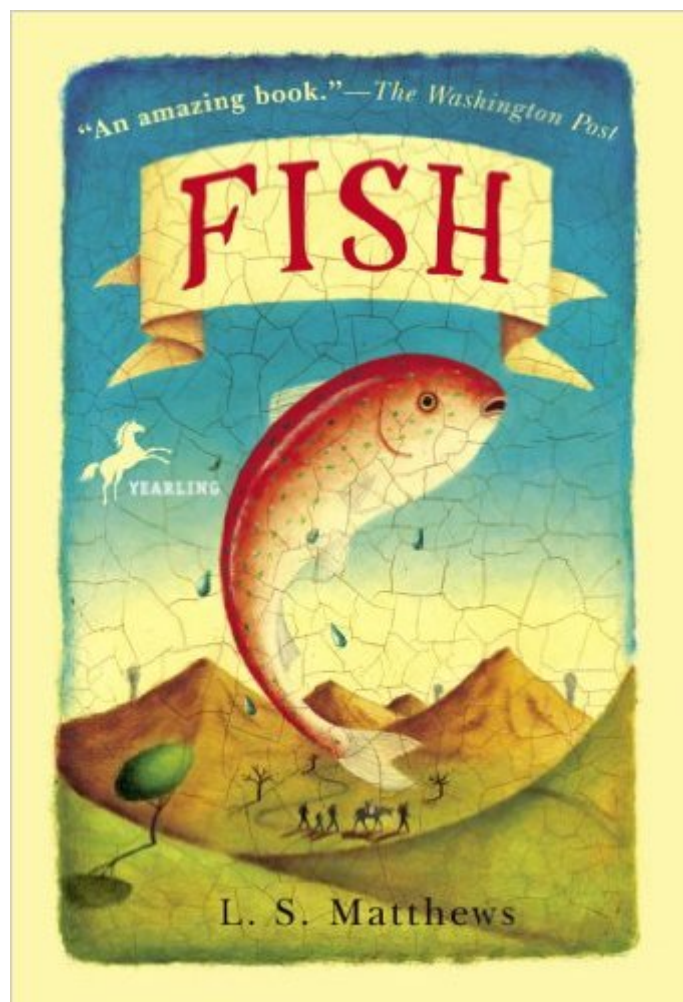


The book was found

# Fish



## Synopsis

A compelling novel that touches upon the hardships that refugees face and their resilience in the most dire of situations, *Matthews* celebrates the human spirit and inherent kindness. (School Library Journal). *Matthews* My story starts the day that my parents told me we must leave our adopted home forever. Because of the soldiers and the drought we barely had enough to eat and we could no longer stay to help the people in our village. The journey would be hard to cross the mountains and get to the safety of the border and the people there who could help us. But right before we were leaving, I saw a fish in a small brown puddle and I knew I had to take it with me. Yet when I put the fish in the pot, I never realized what we would have to face. It never occurred to me to leave Fish behind. A subtle and sophisticated exploration of life, the strength of humanity, and survival in an unforgiving world, *Fish* is a story that will teach those who doubt that, when hope is almost extinguished, miracles can happen. ALA Notable Children's Book Choice Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year Winner of the Fidler Award [STAR] *Matthews* allows just enough detail and heart to make miracles feel possible. Publishers Weekly, Starred Review An amazing book. The Washington Post Exciting and filled with crises and adventure | it is a story that celebrates the human spirit and inherent kindness. School Library Journal *Matthews* is a compelling new voice. VOYA

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0980 (What's this?)

Paperback: 192 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars See all reviews (22 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #149,554 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Science & Math > Biological Sciences > Animals > Marine Life #189 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology > Oceans & Seas #487 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Boys & Men

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

## Customer Reviews

Tiger is the child of humanitarian aid workers living in a country torn by famine and war. When their government asks them to evacuate the country, the family must make a difficult trek across the mountains to make their way back home. The day they leave their village, Tiger rescues a fish that is slowly suffocating in a mud puddle. As the family can only take what belongings they can carry on their backs, Tiger's choice to carry the fish seems absurd. But as the mud puddle is quickly drying up, Tiger is worried that the fish will die. "All the animals here have died --- and lots of the people," says Tiger's father. "One fish is just one fish after all." However, Tiger's parents, and the Guide who takes them across the border, help Tiger transport the fish. First the fish is carried in a cooking pot, then in a water bottle, and eventually in Tiger's mouth. The people who they meet along the way think what Tiger is doing is strange, but they are also impressed by the compassion the child has for another living creature. FISH is L.S. Matthews's first book. The focus and simplicity of this tale make it appealing to a broad range of readers. Tiger narrates the book. It is never clear whether Tiger is a boy or a girl. This makes it easier for the reader to identify with Tiger and perhaps also with the adventures that Tiger and the fish encounter. This book is a simple story about a child and a fish. It is also about trying to make a difference, even if it is just in the life of one being. What Tiger does for the fish is no different from what Tiger's parents do as aid workers. Each makes a difference in the world one life at a time. --- Reviewed by Sarah A. Wood

I first read this book as a ten-year-old child, borrowing it from the library. I read it feverishly, enjoying every sentence, paragraph and chapter. It was my first experience with a "I can't put it down" book. Because other reviewers have already talked in detail about the book's plot, I won't ramble on about it in addition to them. I must say, however, this book has haunted me, in a way. I loved reading it so much, that after it was returned to the library I tried to find it in the library's computer catalog. Much to my dismay, my searches left me with nonfiction books on how to catch, clean, cook or care for fish, instead of this lovely work of fiction. Myself being so young, I had not bothered to check the author's name, and so was left stumped. Over the years, I tried to find it, again and again, to no avail. I began to wonder if I had only imagined this book, in fact. My mother, who had also read it after I enjoyed it so thoroughly, had no memory of the story. It was not until this year that I finally tracked down a copy at a local bookstore. I searched for this book for eleven years, and I can heartily say that it was well worth the effort.

The book "Fish" starts off when a boy hears his parents say, "We have to leave our village because of a huge mudslide, and a war that is spreading towards our village." So off they went across the border, but on the way out of the house he saw a fish. The fish was stuck in a muddy lake because of the mudslide, so the boy asked his parents if he could take the fish with them across the border. His parents replied, "Yes." So he caught the fish, but he really didn't take the time to think about all of the trouble that little fish would get him into while crossing the border. "Fish" is written by an author named L.S Mathews. I think Fish is a recommended book for ages 10 and up. I would give the book "Fish" an 8 out of 10 because I like adventures and people who save animals. I would read this book over and over again because I loved it so much.

We listened to this as an audio book. My whole family enjoyed it from my husband down to the two year old. Often my 6 year old son is the complainer but he too was asking to listen to this book. It was the perfect length and kept the story exciting. The meaning/message behind the fish resonated with me for days. We listen to/ read hundreds of books a year as homeschoolers so if I came to to say it was good then trust in me it is!

Told in first person by a child is an excellent road for explaining the turmoil of the world. When his humanitarian aid parents are forced to leave the impoverished country because of war, Tiger is determined to save a fish he rescued from a puddle. Their escape is hair raising and Tiger's naive narrative is able to convey the fear without causing nightmares in the young audience for which it is intended.

This book's greatest strengths are its sensual descriptions of the ordinary elements of our world, and the unexpected glimpses of the greater reality of human relationships. In a narration that is always beautiful, we are allowed a gritty immersion into the flip side of our American lifestyles, those connected parts of the human and natural world from which our economic flow and "freedom" are obtained at such a cost. A reviewer above has identified the theme as "Christian," and so it is, but I think it is just as well related to any religion, as well as the deep reality that devout Athiests pursue. This is a wonderful book to read aloud and savor. If you can help it at all, DON'T read the jacket, for the surprise of the plot is probably very important to its unfolding. I'm giving it to all my family for Christmas this year.

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