

# AMERICAN LIFE IN POETRY

A FREE COLUMN FOR NEWSPAPERS BY TED KOOSER, POET LAUREATE OF THE UNITED STATES, 2004-2006  
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## American Life in Poetry: Column 589

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We hope that you will visit, from time to time, our archived columns at [www.americanlifeinpoetry.org](http://www.americanlifeinpoetry.org), where you may find other poems by the poets we feature. Today's is the third we've published by Sharon Chmielarz, a Minnesota poet with several fine books in print, including *The Widow's House*, just released by Brighthorse books.

### Fisher's Club

A roadside inn. Lakeside dive. Spiffed up.  
End of a summer day. And I suppose  
I should be smiling beneficently  
at the families playing near the shore,  
their plastic balls and splashes and chatter.

But my eye pivots left to a couple;  
he is carrying her into the water.  
He's strong enough, and she is light  
enough to be carried. I see  
how she holds her own, hugging  
his neck, his chest steady as his arms.

I have never seen such a careful dunk,  
half-dunk, as he gives her. That beautiful  
play he makes lifting her from the water.

And I suppose I should be admiring  
the sunset, all purple and orange and rose now.  
Nice porch here, too. Yeah, great view.

But I have never seen such a loving  
carrying as he gives her. Imagine

being so light as to float  
above water in love.

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