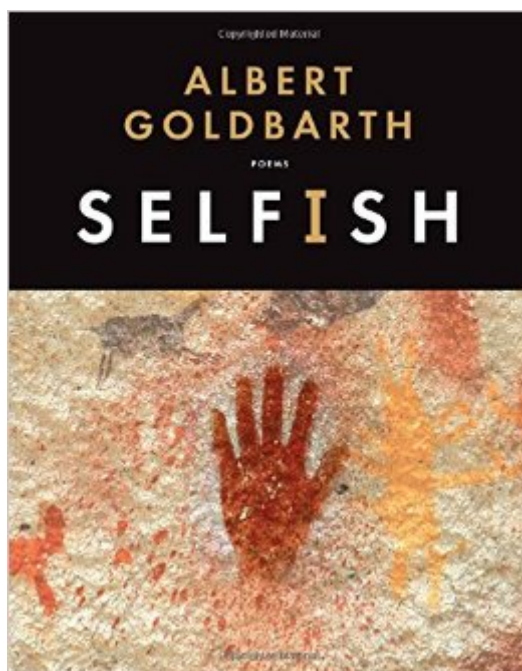


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# Selfish: Poems



## Synopsis

"If Goldbarth belongs to a school, he is surely its sole member. He's simply . . . one of our most generous working poets." —Rumpus

And you perhaps don't like this poem: its free verse or its narrative or the way it uses gender or the heavy-handed word-play of its title. Like I care. I wrote this for me. —from "Try the Selfish"

In his latest collection, the incomparable Albert Goldbarth explores all things "self-ish": the origins of identity, the search for ancestry, the neurology of self-awareness, and the line between "self" and "other." Whether one line long or ten pages, whether uproariously comic or steeped in gravitas, these are poems that address our human essence.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

How is it no one else has written a blurb about this book yet? *Selfish* is a euphoric whirlwind of language and feeling, a high-wire linguistic balancing act from one of our best and most honored poets. Sometimes the wordplay reminds me of early Heather McHugh, but Goldbarth's voice has always been unmistakably his own. Full disclosure: I'm not a stranger to him, but I'd still be writing this if I were. This is just a fun, rich, and deeply moving read, even for those whose poetry appreciation was bludgeoned to death in high school English classes.

Goldbarth's style is quite unique. He manages to use dazzling language, taking unexpected turns linguistically, while writing poems filled with urgency and meaning. If he's not (still) writing about his childhood and his parents, he's writing about the trials and tribulations of his friends and his wife.

His language, while clearly "poetic", seems to also tap into a kind of middle-American patois that has its own jazziness and zing, and he's been writing like this since the mid-Eighties. And so far, he seems to be finding all kinds of things to write about and hasn't so far repeated himself. This is a powerful book and I highly recommend it.

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