

**Reviews of 3 of Charles Frode's publications from  
28th Annual Writer's Digest Self-Published Book Awards**

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**1. *Dreaming of Fish & Other Apocalyptic Stories Of Foreboding and Grace***

“What a diverse and interesting set of stories you’ve created. I enjoyed the spiritual undertone of your words. I liked the sayings you start each chapter with. Very philosophical and thought provoking as your stories are. There’s a “oneness” to your stories that I resonated with.” (Judge # 50)

**2. *The Garden: Perennial Reflections on Beginnings and Ends***

“I loved everything about this book. As soon as I sat down to read it, I felt as though I was connecting with an old friend. The photographs you have within the covers are beautiful. I enjoyed how you weave in gardening tips with observations about life itself. Because the garden is a perfect metaphor for life itself. Many struggle with getting a flower or vegetable garden just right. You’re able to connect those struggles with the obstacles we all face in our daily lives – sometimes obstacles that are unforeseen, and sometimes obstacles we create ourselves. I found your book very inspirational, and it was a joy to read. You have a lyrical way of creating prose that isn’t verbose or, what I would call "airy fairy," but gets right to the heart of the matter in a very down to earth manner. I especially liked Chapter 28 – your Thank You chapter. In a hectic life, we forget sometimes to simply stop and give thanks for all the blessings we have. You did it beautifully. I also enjoyed the inspirational quotes you start each chapter with. It sets up what we can expect as we turn the page and, not only soak up the beauty of your photos, but also the wisdom of your words. It’s the kind of book a reader can go back to again and again and always find something different in it. Great job!” (Judge # 29)

**3. *The Yearning Lurks: The Collected Poems***

“This is a well-produced collection... the prose sections are...successful and well executed... I really enjoyed that format variance, the way the words are often unexpected and the rhyme schemes not predictable or overused. One of my favorites is “When You Stir Mystery” for the way in which a short and simple idea can be thought about for so long! I loved the imagery used in that poem. The collection as a whole uses vivid words that are quite luscious and atmospheric without being overdone or impractical. I liked that sense of slight magic that each one held. “You Are the Moon” is another favorite for how it relates feelings of both general life experience and pulls direct moments from my mind when reading it. It’s wonderful when a poet and writer can accomplish that for the readers.” (Judge # 73)