

# 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 725

BY TED KOOSER, U.S. POET LAUREATE, 2004-2006

Marge Saiser, who lives in Nebraska, is a fine and a very lucky poet. With the passing of each year her poems have gotten stronger and deeper. That's an enviable direction for a writer. This poem was published in *The Briar Cliff Review* and it looks back wisely and wistfully over a rich life. Saiser's most recent book is *The Woman in the Moon* from the Backwaters Press.

### Weren't We Beautiful

growing into ourselves  
earnest and funny we were  
angels of some kind, smiling visitors  
the light we lived in was gorgeous  
we looked up and into the camera  
the ordinary things we did with our hands  
or how we turned and walked  
or looked back we lifted the child  
spooned food into his mouth  
the camera held it, stayed it  
there we are in our lives as if  
we had all time  
as if we would stand in that room  
and wear that shirt those glasses  
as if that light  
without end  
would shine on us  
and from us.

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