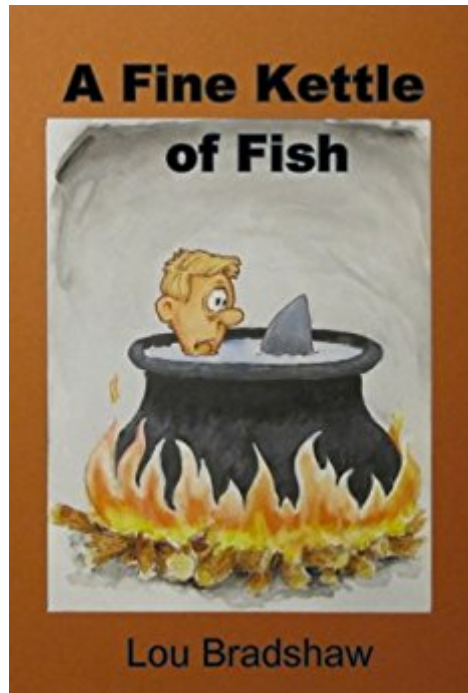




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# A Fine Kettle Of Fish



## Synopsis

Young Lee Brickey is the kind of son that any mother would hope for—almost. He is bright, easy going, an apt student, a hard worker, and a thief. Actually, he is more of an opportunist than a thief. Things just land in his lap, and he keeps them. Working after school and on weekends at his father's garage and towing service, he has more than ample opportunity for things to drop into his lap. As a high school senior in a small Missouri town and with a father who remembers what it was like to be young, Lee has been given the kind of freedom unheard of in the early 1960s; the kind of freedom that most of his peers can only dream of. The worst that could ever happen, he thought, would be getting caught in the back seat with a six-pack and the daughter of the man holding the flashlight. He quickly learns that the world outside of Doubling, Missouri can be a cruel and deadly place when four pounds of heroin are dropped into his lap at the scene of a fatal accident. Realizing that he is over his head, he turns the merchandise over to the local law. The size and circumstance of the find attracts the attention of state and federal agencies, which set up a foolproof sting operation using Lee as bait. When he starts classes at a nearby state college, Lee realizes that he can no longer slam through life with abandon because a commitment to his father has to be honored. The class work is harder and more complex than high school, and so are the girls, but both are much more interesting and exciting. As Lee fumbles and stumbles his way into maturity, he also goes from frying pans into fires at an ever-increasing rate.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Unbelievable. I don't know where the author came up with the story. It makes me think it is more truth than fiction. A book you can't put down until you have read it cover to cover. A most unique story tell of the life of a young man and his trials and tribulations. One you should not miss. My congratulations to Mr. Bradshaw. none better

An earthy coming-of-age tale, *A Fine Kettle of Fish* takes you on a fast-paced cruise through the senior year of small town high school student, Lee Roy Brickey. Lee is the embodiment of the Bible belt's version of an all-American male. At his core, he's "Little Brick" is a good ol' boy in-the-making, a sociable combination of small-time wheeler/dealer and a responsible young man driven by a hardcore work ethic. By day he's a gas jockey working in the family business, and by night, a regular hometown Joe, hoping to score a couple of cold beers after work and maybe, just maybe, learn something about the opposite sex. He's an older brother who keeps a protective eye on his little sister while remaining loyal to his friends and family. Always ready for an adventure, life just seems to happen around Lee. Along the way, he discovers an interest in art that he didn't expect to find. His dad expands the family business by adding a sign shop and Little Brick is on his way to making real money while he prepares to start college in the fall. Becoming friendly with a customer who has a penchant for fancy cars turns into the adventure of a lifetime that rocks Lee's comfortable world. A summer that should have been an idyllic season of self-discovery turns into a nightmare of murder, uncovered secrets and the realization that he's the target of some very angry men. Bradshaw weaves an exciting and enjoyable story that keeps you glued to the pages until the very end. *A Fine Kettle of Fish* wraps up with a satisfying ending, leaving no loose ends. Missourians will enjoy revisiting local landmarks surrounding Springfield and baby boomers will relish reliving the memories of their own teenage shenanigans during the 50's and 60's. Lee's verbiage brings to mind the wisdom of Will Rogers and I can't help but wonder just how much of Lee Roy Brickey is autobiographical. *A Fine Kettle of Fish* was my first experience reading Lou Bradshaw, but it won't be my last. I highly recommend this engaging Ozark author.

Lou Bradshaw is one of my favorite authors. I have read quite a few of his Ben Blue books and never have been disappointed in them. This one is not a western but has the main character who is a teen in 1960 telling the story. It is humorous, a good mystery book, and just all around good story.

The world was changing in the late 50's and 60's and America was losing her innocence. Although I was almost 10 years younger than the time of this story, I knew many of the personas. The more I read the more I identified with the author and his perspective on a country and the youthful hope that was destroyed by the Kennedy assassination and the disaster that was Vietnam. Lou Bradshaw caught the mood of this period in time and transported us back with so much clarity that I once again felt the hope and anguish that shaped my life those 50 years ago.

This has to be one of the best books I've ever read. Some parts will have you laughing and other parts will have you on the edge of your seat. Well written and worth the time to read.

I was reminded of some of the antics we would pull at that age. Young men full of testosterone and young girls developing into women. I was somewhat surprised about the connection with the drug gang but very pleased with the results. I really enjoyed the book and would find myself laughing out loud at times.

I just like good clean reading. I grew up during this time so a lot of time things made sense to me. Another good job by this writer. I look forward to the next one.

This story was wonderful fun reading for me because I graduated from high school in 1960. Most of this story had me laughing to the point of tears. I remember most of the corny jokes used back then, and the author brought back many memories.

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