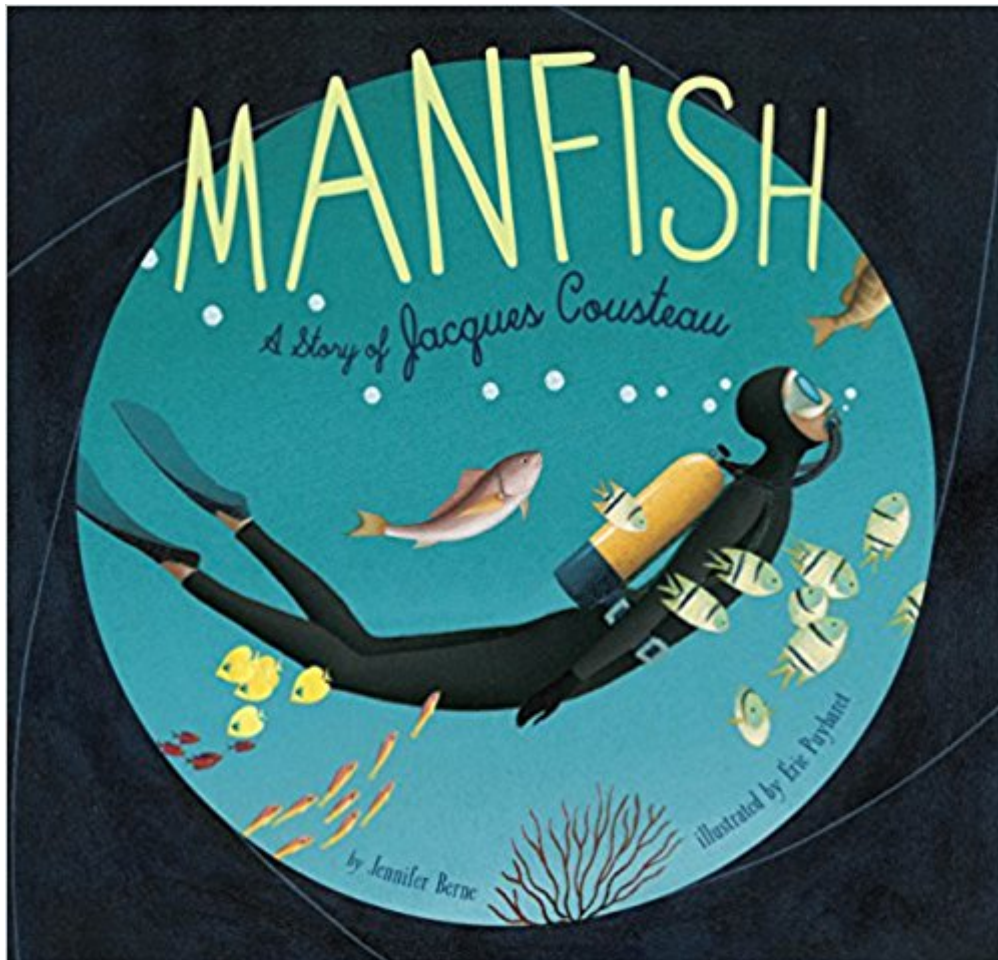




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# Manfish: A Story Of Jacques Cousteau



## Synopsis

Once upon a time in France, a baby was born under the summer sun. His parents named him Jacques. As he grew, Jacques fell in love with the sea. He dreamed of breathing beneath the waves and swimming as gracefully as a fish. In fact, he longed to become a manfish. Jacques Cousteau grew up to become a champion of the seas and one of the best-known oceanographers in the world. In this lovely biography, now in paperback, poetic text and gorgeous paintings come together to create a portrait of Cousteau that is as magical as it is inspiring.

## Book Information

Paperback: 38 pages

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Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

Grade 2â "5â "A new generation of children is introduced to the pioneering oceanographer and filmmaker. Beginning with Cousteau's childhood in France where he marveled at the sea and dreamed of breathing underwater, Berne reveals the unique mix of curiosity, ingenuity, and passion that drove Cousteau to make underwater exploration possible. She describes his early experiments and forays into amateur filmmaking, helping readers understand the man he became. Most interesting is the simple explanation of how Cousteau and his friends developed the first fins, wetsuits, and scuba gear. Children will be surprised to know that before this man, the sport of scuba diving was nonexistent. Berne gently leads readers to Cousteau's passion for saving the underwater environment and then follows up with suggestions for further inquiry in her author's note. Almost

poetic in its rich descriptions, the text is superimposed on ethereal acrylic paintings, submerging readers in the marine world. Shades of blue and green represent swaying, wraithlike strands of seaweed that both readers and oceanographers dart through while exploring the briny depths.â Nicki Clausen-Grace, Carillon Elementary School, Oviedo, FL Copyright Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

**\*Starred Review\*** Writing in simple poetic language, both lyrical and concise (âBubbles rising through the silence of the sea, silvery beads of breath . . . a manfish swimming, diving into the unknown.â), Berneâs offers a luminous picture-book biography about Jacques Cousteau. In just a few lines per page, she follows Cousteau through his life as he develops his twin passions for filmmaking and oceanic exploration, and she shows how a lifeâs path can begin with deep, childhood curiosity: âLittle Jacques loved waterâ the way it felt on his hands, his face, his body. And water made him wonder. He wondered why ships floated. Why he floated.â Puybaretâs smooth-looking acrylic paintings extend the wordsâ elegant simplicity and beautifully convey the sense of infinite, underwater space; and an inventive format further reinforces the text: a bisected scene shows a diverâs waterline view above and below the surface; a series of panels depicts Cousteau and his friends learning to dive progressively deeper; and a gatefold dramatically suggests deep-sea depth. A closing scene, coated in sooty grays, describes how human activity has damaged sea life; and in a final, inspiring message, Berneâs calls for young people to become caring stewards of the earth. Only one disappointment: where are the source notes? Grades K-3. --Gillian Engberg --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

This story along with the fun illustrations was captivating to my toddler after a trip to the natural history museum and aquarium in which he saw real scuba divers getting into the water. For weeks afterwards he was dressing up as a scuba diver and sliding around on the floor. The story is somewhat detailed for a tot but he still got a lot out of parts of the story and the illustrations.

I got this book for my kid, who love all things ocean. They really enjoy the book. It tells the story simply with beautiful pictures.

Nicely written and beautifully illustrated!

This hardcover book is a nice story but it is a little confused if it wants to be a small child's book or an older child's book. It appears to be a nice picture book and starts off at one level but then gets technical. I liked it because it is a true story and I like Jacques Cousteau.

Both my boys 2 and 7 love this book. We've since bought extra copies for gifts.

This is one of our new favorite children's books. Jennifer has a way with words , and pictures, that spins the stories of these men's lives into adventures of the heart and dreams. I can't wait to see who else she spotlights!

A wonderful book for a wonderful human being. I like more 'story' like biographies rather than didactic ones because I think the littles get more out of it that way - this one is creative and beautiful and fun. Best age range 3-7.

We've accumulated quite an extensive storybook library at our house, and this was a fast favorite. The illustrations are beautiful - imaginative and colorful, definitely plenty to keep our five month old engaged. And the story is a substantial enough one (I even learned a fair amount about Jacques Cousteau from reading it) that I imagine we'll keep this one around for a long time, with our son growing into it.

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