



## Say What You Will

**Len Krisak**

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Some twinkles transcend the page; Len Krisak will stop at nothing to roll your eyes, jelly your belly, and lift your better spirits. With degrees from the University of Michigan and Brandeis University, Krisak spent thirty-five years teaching English before retiring to spin poetry and translate.

### *Lower Peninsula*

*Asked where I'm from,  
I say Michigan made me  
And touch the birthmark  
Below the lifeline  
Of my right hand.  
Just here, under  
The locked knuckles  
Of the half-opened  
Half-cupped fist—  
A stiff mitten  
The map won't fit;  
Just here,  
Down at the heel  
Of the Indian "how"  
(A little above  
And slightly ahead of  
The place where the thickened  
Wrist cuts  
And twists west.)  
And though the nuns said  
"Thumbs up" in school,  
I went ahead  
Without a hitch,  
And have only to put  
My finger on it  
To keep my place:  
On almost-an-island,  
Born with my life  
In the palm of my hand.*

MATT SUTHERLAND (November / December 2021)

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