



Eat, Drink, and Be Merry: Poems About Food and Drink (Everyman's Library Pocket Poets)

From Washington, Peter (EDT)



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Eating and drinking and the rituals that go with them are at least as important as loving in most people's lives, yet for every hundred anthologies of poems about love, hardly one is devoted to the pleasures of the table. *Eat, Drink, and Be Merry* abundantly fills the gap.

All kinds of foods and beverages are laid out in these pages, along with picnics and banquets, intimate suppers and quiet dinners, noisy parties and public celebrations—in poems by Horace, Catullus, Hafiz, Rumi, Rilke, Moore, Nabokov, Updike, Mandelstam, Stevens, and many others. From Sylvia Plath's ecstatic vision of juice-laden berries in "Blackberrying" to D. H. Lawrence's lush celebration of "Figs," from the civilized comfort of Noël Coward's "Something on a Tray" to the salacious provocation of Swift's "Oysters," from Li Po on "Drinking Alone" to Baudelaire on "The Soul of the Wine," and from Emily Dickinson's "Forbidden Fruit" to Elizabeth Bishop's "A Miracle for Breakfast," *Eat, Drink, and Be Merry* serves up a tantalizing and variegated literary feast.

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Editorial Review

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The typical Everyman's Library Pocket Poets offering collects all of one writer's poems that a well-rounded reader should know. Occasionally, though, an original, topical anthology crops up. This is one, and it's not to be missed. The accent is on light verse--no surprise: after all, who doesn't feel lighthearted after a good feed or tipple?--from John Updike's "Food" ("Man's real best friend. / It doesn't bite back") in the first section, "Plain Food," to Richard Wilbur's "A Voice from under the Table," which closes the last section, "Liquor Is Quicker," with the floored observations of a cultivated sot. Each poem pertains to its section's topic, and the topics include, besides those already mentioned, "Square Meals," "Fruit," "Vegetables," "Delicatessen," "The Food of Love," and "Feasting and Fasting." Ancient Greeks and Romans, Sufi mystics, classical Chinese and Japanese, medieval Europeans, lusty seventeenth- and eighteenth-century English realists, comic Romantics (Byron, Hood, Thomas Moore), plenty of moderns, and song lyricists (Coward, Porter) all contribute, and despite the richness of the fare, you won't need a digestive. *Ray Olson*

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From the Inside Flap

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About the Author

Peter Washington is the editor of many of the Everyman's Library Pocket Poets, including *Love Poems*, and is the author of Madame Blavatsky's *Baboon: A History of the Mystics, Mediums, and Misfits Who Brought Spiritualism to America*.

Users Review

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Frank Jorge:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, likely to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book is usually option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, maybe the book untitled Eat, Drink, and Be Merry: Poems About Food and Drink (Everyman's Library Pocket Poets) can be great book to read. Maybe it may be best activity to you.

Rene Hudson:

Precisely why? Because this Eat, Drink, and Be Merry: Poems About Food and Drink (Everyman's Library Pocket Poets) is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap that but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who have write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning entirely. So, it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book get such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So, still want to hold off having that book? If I had been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

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