



## The Plum in Mr. Blum's Pudding

*Tosh Berman*

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## **The Plum in Mr. Blum's Pudding** Tosh Berman

The Plum in Mr. Blum's Pudding is Los Angeles native Tosh Berman's first printed collection of poetry. In 1989, Berman left the United States behind, moving to Japan after learning his wife's (artist Lun\*na Menoh) mother was ill in Kitakyushu. The Plum in Mr. Blum's Pudding was penned while both rapt and lost by this transition. Gracefully toiling between the quirky and earnest, these poems describe the liminal space of the foreigner caught between the strange and the familiar. The result is surreal and unclassifiable, a book of love poems overshadowed by isolation and underscored with curiosity and lust.

Originally published in 1990 by "Cole Swift & Sons" (Japan) as a small hardcover edition of two hundred copies, this new edition acts to preserve this work and features an introduction by art critic and curator Kristine McKenna, an afterward by Tosh Berman, and additional content by Ruth Bernstein.

## **The Plum in Mr. Blum's Pudding Details**

Date : Published November 18th 2014 by Penny-Ante Editions (first published January 1990)

ISBN : 9780978556426

Author : Tosh Berman

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Genre : Poetry

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## From Reader Review The Plum in Mr. Blum's Pudding for online ebook

### Kimley says

So happy to see this coming back in print. Mr. Berman at his finest!

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### Jeff Jackson says

Tosh Berman's poetry collection "The Plum in Mr. Blum's Pudding" is full of unexpected associations, images, and jump-cuts. The poems are unfailingly charming, but they're also occasionally cut with poison, so that you're never certain what lurks around the next line break. The book is beautifully sequenced so each of the short pieces echoes off one another, creating a whole that's far more ineffable and mysterious than any individual verse. The writing is often masterful, but in an offhanded and understated way, refusing to call attention to its startling sleights of hand. It plays like an album of dislocated love songs, the meanings sometimes obscured, the yearning voices occasionally slipping into a foreign tongue -- but always seductive.

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### Eddie Watkins says

The fifteen minutes it took me to read this book transported me to a place that lingers. So I reread it three more times to reinforce that place. And placed the book on my coffee table to place that place in the place where I live.

What kind of place? It is a heart on top of the head kind of place, with volcanoes and Glenn Gould, and the Sea of Japan making things sad and sticky and beautiful. It is a place where people die to the tune of a light pop tune. It is an innocent and a jaded place where sex skirts the edges. It is a place where pressed pants paint a poem with enviable off-handedness. A place with plenty of space and the stars above twinkling into cocktails. A place with a light touch that you know still wants to grope. So watch it!

### Dromedary

*Stars crashed on deck  
Old wood, not as good as it used to be  
The Japanese have an old saying  
But I lost it back home*

*The World represents  
A mirror  
& I'll wash the smudges off*

*So please remember me  
I have ten fingers  
& they're all good for nothing*

*This is a work of a poet  
With pressed pants*

## **Debt**

*The Government forces at work  
Making your dollars  
Disappear in Amazon death*

*We suffer  
If memory serves me  
Don't lie to America  
You're no Jack Kennedy*

*We kiss under beds  
As if we were dead  
The volcanoes are rips as bananas  
"We'll get even now"  
Under icy control  
I lost my audience*

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## **Ruth B says**

joy

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## **Tosh says**

A review from the author - good god know! But on the other hand I will be doing an event for this book in Los Angeles at the incredible Skylight Bookstore on Vermont in Los Feliz.

Here's the info:

<http://www.skylightbooks.com/event/to...>

And here is the Facebook announcement for the November 21, 2014 signing and event for "The Plum in Mr. Blum's Pudding."

<https://www.facebook.com/events/91179...>

Dennis Cooper did a Tosh special blog with music, "Tosh Talks," and of course poetry.

<http://denniscooper-theweaklings.blog...>

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