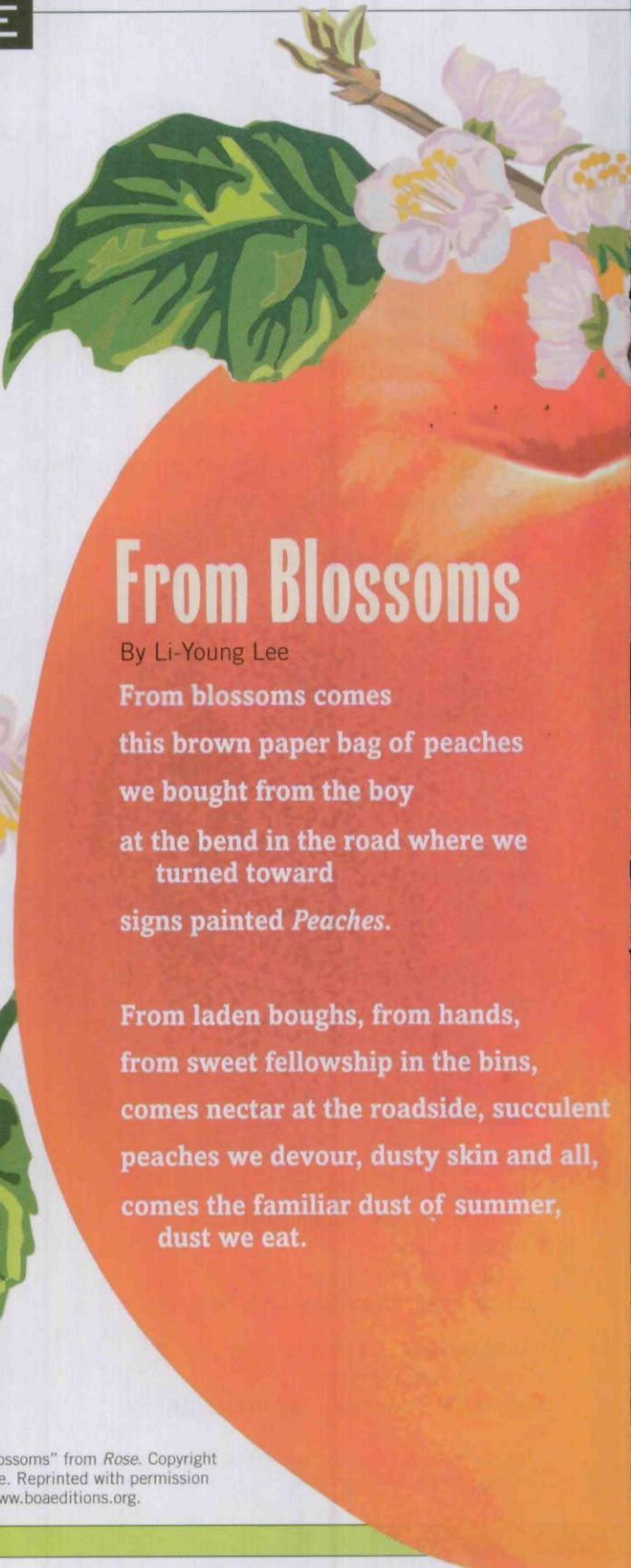


Eat This Poem

I love this poem and I want you to see why.
Read it. Then read it again, slowly. Eat it
like a peach—taste it, soft bite by soft bite.
Let the words and rhythms roll around on
your tongue like peach flesh. You see? This
poem is not crunchy like French fries. It's
not hard and dry like a bone. It's sweet,
luscious, and light—but very filling. Yum.

—Debbie Nevins

oh, such juicy words:
nectar, succulent,
jubilance!



From Blossoms

By Li-Young Lee

From blossoms comes
this brown paper bag of peaches
we bought from the boy
at the bend in the road where we
turned toward
signs painted *Peaches*.

From laden boughs, from hands,
from sweet fellowship in the bins,
comes nectar at the roadside, succulent
peaches we devour, dusty skin and all,
comes the familiar dust of summer,
dust we eat.

Li-Young Lee, "From Blossoms" from *Rose*. Copyright © 1986 by Li-Young Lee. Reprinted with permission of BOA Editions, Ltd, www.boaeditions.org.



O, to take what we love inside,
to carry within us an orchard, to eat
not only the skin, but the shade,
not only the sugar, but the days, to hold
the fruit in our hands, adore it,
then bite into
the round jubilance of peach.

There are days we live
as if death were nowhere
in the background; from joy
to joy to joy, from wing to wing,
from blossom to blossom to
impossible blossom, to sweet
impossible blossom.

Did you ever have a
moment so perfect that
you wished you could hold
it forever?

The peach tastes of
sugar. (Life and Love)
It also tastes of dust.
(Death?)

The poet wants to
stop time and hold on
to the joy that is the
"sweet impossible blossom."

But of course, it's impossible.

Li-Young Lee is a Chinese American poet who
came to the United States as a child.
He has written several books of poetry as well
as a memoir.

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