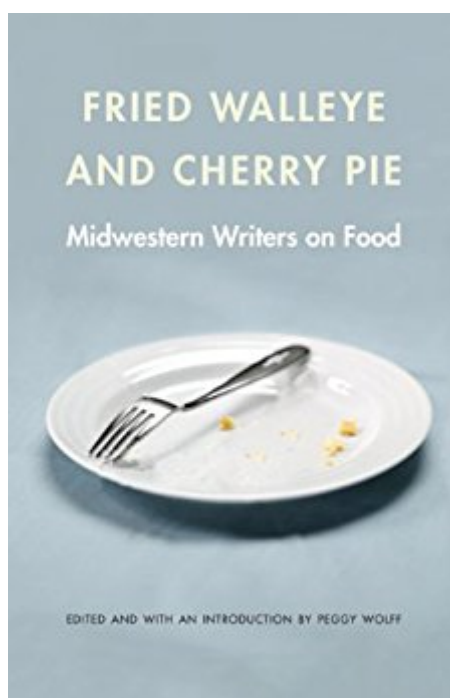


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Fried Walleye And Cherry Pie: Midwestern Writers On Food (At Table)



Synopsis

With its corn by the acre, beef on the hoof, Quaker Oats, and Kraft Mac n' Cheese, the Midwest eats pretty well and feeds the nation on the side. But there's more to the midwestern kitchen and palate than the farm food and sizable portions the region is best known for beyond its borders. It is to these heartland specialties, from the heartwarming to the downright weird, that *Fried Walleye and Cherry Pie* invites the reader. The volume brings to the table an illustrious gathering of thirty midwestern writers with something to say about the gustatory pleasures and peculiarities of the region. In a meditation on comfort food, Elizabeth Berg recalls her aunt's meatloaf. Stuart Dybek takes us on a school field trip to a slaughtering house, while Peter Sagal grapples with the ethics of patting a dog. Parsing Cincinnati's five-way chili, Robert Olmstead digresses into questions of Aztec culture. Harry Mark Petrakis reflects on owning a South Side Chicago lunchroom, while Bonnie Jo Campbell nurses a sweet tooth through a fudge recipe in the *Joy of Cooking* and Lorna Landvik nibbles her way through the Minnesota State Fair. These are just a sampling of what makes *Fried Walleye and Cherry Pie* with its generous helpings of laughter, culinary confession, and information an irresistible literary feast.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Peggy Wolff's anthology, *Fried Walleye and Cherry*

Pie is not a book just about food.

It's about food writing as art and a larger message about humanity, life, and place.

Food is the jumping-off point. Some pretty impressive writing chops show up in this book.

Contributing authors include Bonnie Jo Campbell, a Pushcart Prize-winning author; Stuart Dybek,

born a south-side Chicago boy, now a professor at Northwestern University and recipient of many

awards, including a MacArthur Foundation Fellowship; NPR host, Peter Sagal, of *Wait, Wait,*

Don't Tell Me; New York Times Food Writer, Molly O'Neill, and

too many more to enumerate here. Ms. Wolff herself is an impressive writer. She's

contributed to the Food Section of the Chicago Tribune with articles ranging from

Farmers' Market Arugula to her foray into Utah fly-fishing, capturing the beauty of

trout from stream to table. Her essay in this collection on the Wisconsin Fish Boil will send you right

into the heart of that oft-maligned Midwest ritual. Peggy turns this ostensible tourist trap into a

spectacle worthy of a movie script, placing the reader right in the scene, senses fully engaged,

around a cauldron of fish and potatoes in bubbling broth. Wolff has divided the essays into sections:

Midwestern Staples; Distant Cultures; Holidays, Fairs, and Events; A Full Belly; and The Midwestern

Sweet Tooth. There's something sweet to savor in each

niche. You'll be privy to the process of food production in Bonnie Jo

Campbell's rhapsodized remembrance of milking cows and creating home-made

fudge. Gale Gand, Executive Chef of TRU, a Chicago treasure, writes a paean to her favorite goat

cheese, and how healing and devotion are interwoven into a three-ingredient product. Best-selling

author, Harry Petrakis, writes of buying a small cafe that eventually fails, but the lessons he learned

about life and people remains a balm worth more than if his business venture had been a

success. Being a Chicago girl, I was especially fond of Stuart Dybek's school field

trip to the Chicago Stock Yards, a visit that combines pre-adolescent longings and bravado with the

gruesome reality (and a good dose of dark irony) of cows taken to slaughter. Dip into this lovely

confection of a book, where you'll find an abundance of humor, poignancy,

nostalgia, and just enough recipes to whet your appetite.

Great stories and recipes, but would have preferred additional stories from more recent/nonwhite

Midwesterners, who also have had important contributions to the region's story and cuisine. In addition, there was only passing references to walleye - I would have expected at least one story be about the delicious fish given the book's title.

I usually read insanely long (e.g., 700 page) books. But every now and then I enjoy a short story. These are fun reads. I grew up in the Midwest and taught courses on the Sociology of Food so many of these stories are ones I can identify with and are about family and the social nature of food. For disclosure, one story is by a cousin (Mary Kay Shanley).

As an Ohioan myself, I launched into Peggy's new essay collection expecting the best and I found it. Great read

Interesting food writer, fun to read, particularly if you are from the Midwest.

Great book for food lovers and also great stories about those like us foodies! My husband is a chef and we recommend this book!

Nicely done project for seldom discussed mid-western food...great fun!

OK

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