

Big City Food Biographies: A Culinary Journey Through American History

In his new book, *Big City Food Biographies*, John T. Edge takes readers on a culinary journey through American history, exploring the lives of seven iconic food figures and their impact on the country's culinary landscape.

The book profiles a diverse group of individuals, from the legendary chef and restaurateur Antoine "Tony" Gagliardi to the pioneering food writer M.F.K. Fisher. Edge's subjects are all pioneers in their own way, and their stories offer a fascinating glimpse into the development of American food culture.



New York City: A Food Biography (Big City Food Biographies) by Andrew F. Smith

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 12534 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 210 pages



Gagliardi, for example, was a key figure in the development of New York City's restaurant scene in the early 20th century. He was the founder of the iconic restaurant Delmonico's, which became a favorite haunt of the city's

elite. Gagliardi's innovations in menu design and service helped to set the standard for fine dining in America.

Fisher, on the other hand, was a influential food writer and cookbook author who helped to popularize French cuisine in America. Her work helped to change the way Americans thought about food, and she is credited with inspiring a generation of chefs and food lovers.

Edge's other subjects include:

- **James Beard**, the legendary chef and cookbook author who helped to define American cuisine
- **Julia Child**, the pioneering television chef who brought French cooking to the American mainstream
- **Alice Waters**, the founder of the Chez Panisse restaurant in Berkeley, California, and a leading advocate for sustainable agriculture
- **Emeril Lagasse**, the celebrity chef known for his exuberant personality and Cajun-inspired cuisine
- **Danny Meyer**, the founder of the Union Square Hospitality Group and a pioneer in the farm-to-table movement

Edge's book is a rich and engaging read, and it offers a valuable contribution to the literature of American food history. His subjects are all fascinating characters, and their stories are full of insights into the development of American food culture. *Big City Food Biographies* is a must-read for anyone interested in food, history, or the American experience.

Excerpt from *Big City Food Biographies*

In his chapter on Antoine "Tony" Gagliardi, Edge describes the chef's early years in New York City, where he worked as a dishwasher and a waiter before eventually opening his own restaurant.



“Gagliardi's first restaurant, Delmonico's, was a modest affair, but it quickly became a favorite haunt of the city's elite. Gagliardi's menu featured a mix of classic French and Italian dishes, and his service was impeccable. He was known for his attention to detail, and he insisted that his staff provide the highest level of customer service.

Delmonico's quickly became one of the most popular restaurants in New York City, and it helped to set the standard for fine dining in America. Gagliardi's innovations in menu design and service were widely copied, and he is credited with helping to create the modern American restaurant.”

Edge's book is full of similar insights into the lives and work of his subjects. *Big City Food Biographies* is a valuable contribution to the literature of American food history, and it is a must-read for anyone interested in food, culture, or the American experience.

About the Author

John T. Edge is a widely respected food writer and editor. He is the author of several books, including *The Potlikker Papers: A Food History of the*

American South and *The Truck Food Cookbook*. Edge is also the editor of the Oxford American food magazine.



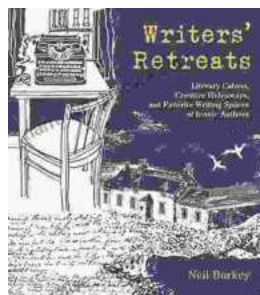
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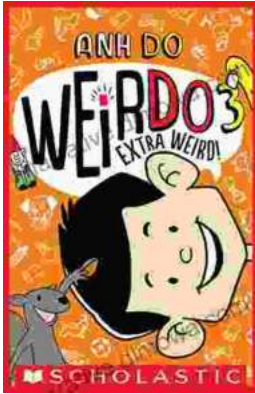
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