



Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table (Random House Reader's Circle)

By Ruth Reichl

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NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

At an early age, Ruth Reichl discovered that "food could be a way of making sense of the world. . . . If you watched people as they ate, you could find out who they were." Her deliciously crafted memoir, **Tender at the Bone**, is the story of a life determined, enhanced, and defined in equal measure by a passion for food, unforgettable people, and the love of tales well told. Beginning with Reichl's mother, the notorious food-poisoner known as the Queen of Mold, Reichl introduces us to the fascinating characters who shaped her world and her tastes, from the gourmand Monsieur du Croix, who served Reichl her first soufflé, to those at her politically correct table in Berkeley who championed the organic food revolution in the 1970s. Spiced with Reichl's infectious humor and sprinkled with her favorite recipes, **Tender at the Bone** is a witty and compelling chronicle of a culinary sensualist's coming-of-age.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

New York Times restaurant critic Ruth Reichl reads her (only very slightly abridged) memoir with the same humor, care, and intimacy that she put into its writing. The voices of the chefs, waiters, and gourmands who taught her to love food and its preparation come to life in this audiobook. Particularly compelling is her wonderful tale of "Life on Mars"--boarding school in Montreal might well have been on another planet. We listen as her halting French becomes fluent, as she shares weekend forays for forbidden smoked meat and cream puffs (the cure for all homesickness) with her new friend, Beatrice, and as her encounter with Beatrice's father, Monsieur du Croix, introduces her to a new level of joy in food. Audiobook listeners are also treated to a handy booklet of recipes included with the tapes that represent a dish from each of the main characters we meet in Ruth's life.

From Publishers Weekly

Reichl discovered early on that since she wasn't "pretty or funny or sexy," she could attract friends with food instead. But that initiative isn't likely to secure her an audience for her chaotic, self-satisfied memoirs, although her restaurant reviews in the *New York Times* are popular. Reichl's knack for describing food gives one a new appreciation for the pleasures of the table, as when she writes here: "There were eggplants the color of amethysts and plates of sliced salami and bresaola that looked like stacks of rose petals left to dry." But when she is recalling her life, she seems unable to judge what's interesting. Raised in Manhattan and Connecticut by a docile father who was a book designer and a mother who suffered from manic depression, Reichl enjoyed such middle-class perks as a Christmas in Paris when she was 13 and high school in Canada to learn French. But her mother was a blight, whom Reichl disdains to the discomfort of the reader who wonders if she exaggerates. The author studied at the University of Michigan, earned a graduate degree in art history, married a sculptor named Doug, lived in a loft in Manhattan's Bowery and then with friends bought a 17-room "cottage" in Berkeley, Calif., which turned into a commune so self-consciously offbeat that their Thanksgiving feast one year was prepared from throwaways found in a supermarket dumpster. Seasoning her memoir with recipes, Reichl takes us only through the 1970s, which seems like an arbitrary cutoff, and one hopes the years that followed were more engaging than the era recreated here.

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From School Library Journal

YA-This gastronomic delight is best taken slowly so that readers can savor each word. Motivated by fear of her mother's bizarre cooking escapades ("She liked to brag about 'Everything Stew,' a dish invented while she was concocting a casserole out of a two-week-old turkey carcass"), Reichl learned to cook early and her entertaining descriptions of kitchen disasters are sure to cause howls of laughter time and again. There were also some requisite difficulties, too, and readers will wince while reading of the author's weight battles and self-image problems while growing up; her college roommate's estrangement; and her mother's mental imbalances. Every job she took, from social work to commune cook, gave her one more piece of experience that eventually led to her current career, that of restaurant reviewer and writer extraordinaire. As an added bonus, this thoroughly enjoyable memoir also includes a handful of recipes that will make readers' mouths water.

Susan R. Farber, Ardsley Public Library, NY

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Susan Scott:

This *Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table* (Random House Reader's Circle) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you receive by reading this book is actually information inside this reserve incredible fresh, you will get information which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. That *Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table* (Random House Reader's Circle) without we know teach the one who reading it become critical in thinking and analyzing. Don't become worry *Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table* (Random House Reader's Circle) can bring when you are and not make your carrier space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even cell phone. This *Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table* (Random House Reader's Circle) having excellent arrangement in word as well as layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Brent Abramson:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be revise about what going on or data even knowledge to make all of them keep up with the era that is always change and advance. Some of you maybe will update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to anyone is you don't know what type you should start with. This *Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table* (Random House Reader's Circle) is our recommendation to make you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Kristen Self:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained inside straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This *Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table* (Random House Reader's Circle) book is readable by means of you who hate those straight word style. You will find the details here are arrange for enjoyable examining experience without leaving perhaps decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer of *Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table* (Random House Reader's Circle) content conveys thinking easily to understand by most people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content but it just different available as it. So , do you nonetheless thinking *Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table* (Random House Reader's Circle) is not loveable to be your top list reading book?

Michael Espy:

Precisely why? Because this *Tender at the Bone: Growing Up at the Table* (Random House Reader's Circle) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will zap you with the secret it inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning totally. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any more or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book possess such as help improving your

proficiency and your critical thinking means. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

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