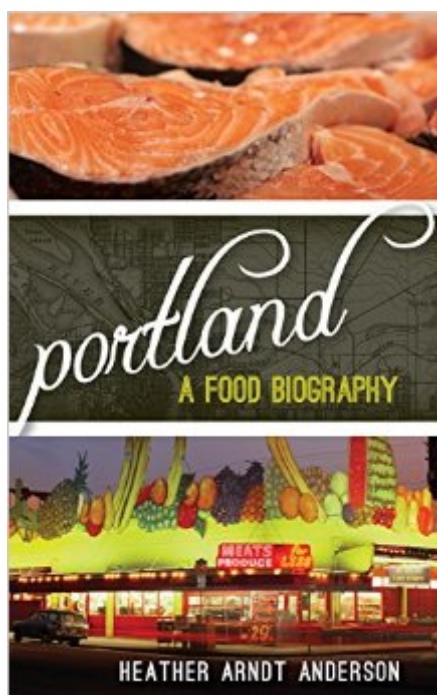


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Portland: A Food Biography (Big City Food Biographies)



Synopsis

The infant city called The Clearing was a bald patch amid a stuttering wood. The Clearing was no booming metropolis; no destination for gastrotourists; no career-changer for ardent chefs — just awkward, palsied steps toward Victorian gentility. In the decades before the remaining trees were scraped from the landscape, Portland's wood was still a verdant breadbasket, overflowing with huckleberries and chanterelles, venison leaping on cloven hoof. Today, Portland is seen as a quaint village populated by trust fund wunderkinds who run food carts each serving something more precious than the last. But Portland's culinary history actually tells a different story: the tales of the salmon-people, the pioneers and immigrants, each struggling to make this strange but inviting land between the Pacific and the Cascades feel like home. The foods that many people associate with Portland are derived from and defined by its history: salmon, berries, hazelnuts and beer. But Portland is more than its ingredients. Portland is an eater's paradise and a cook's playground. Portland is a gustatory wonderland. Full of wry humor and captivating anecdotes, *Portland: A Food Biography* chronicles the Rose City's rise from a muddy Wild West village full of fur traders, lumberjacks and ne'er-do-wells, to a progressive, bustling town of merchants, brewers and oyster parlors, to the critical darling of the national food scene. Heather Arndt Anderson brings to life in lively prose the culinary landscape of Portland, then and now.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Heather Arndt Anderson came into her own with this one, which takes you back century or two into Portland gastronomy and brings you up to the present. Witty, down-to-earth, with a huge dollop of fun.

Portland: A Food Biography by Portland's Heather Arndt Anderson is one of the best books for the history of food here in the Pacific Northwest. Anderson is a top-notch chef, home gardener, researcher, freelance journalist, food writer and presenter. She posts food articles online and on Facebook and willingly shares her recipes. She interweaves the history of Portland with the people of the times starting with natural resources, onto the indigenous people, next the wild west and early settlers to the later-coming immigrants. Other chapters include, "Drink Up; and Like Mother Used To Make: Historic Cookbooks and Home Cooking. Portland: A Food Biography will have the reader engaged with all the well-researched historical details and entertained with her sharp wit and sense of humor. Anderson's writing is all well-documented with extensive notes from her resources. This book is a must-have for the history buff, home cook, chef and anyone interested in the bounty of the land and Portland's connection to it. Portland: A Food Biography is a winner on so many levels, read it and enjoy!

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