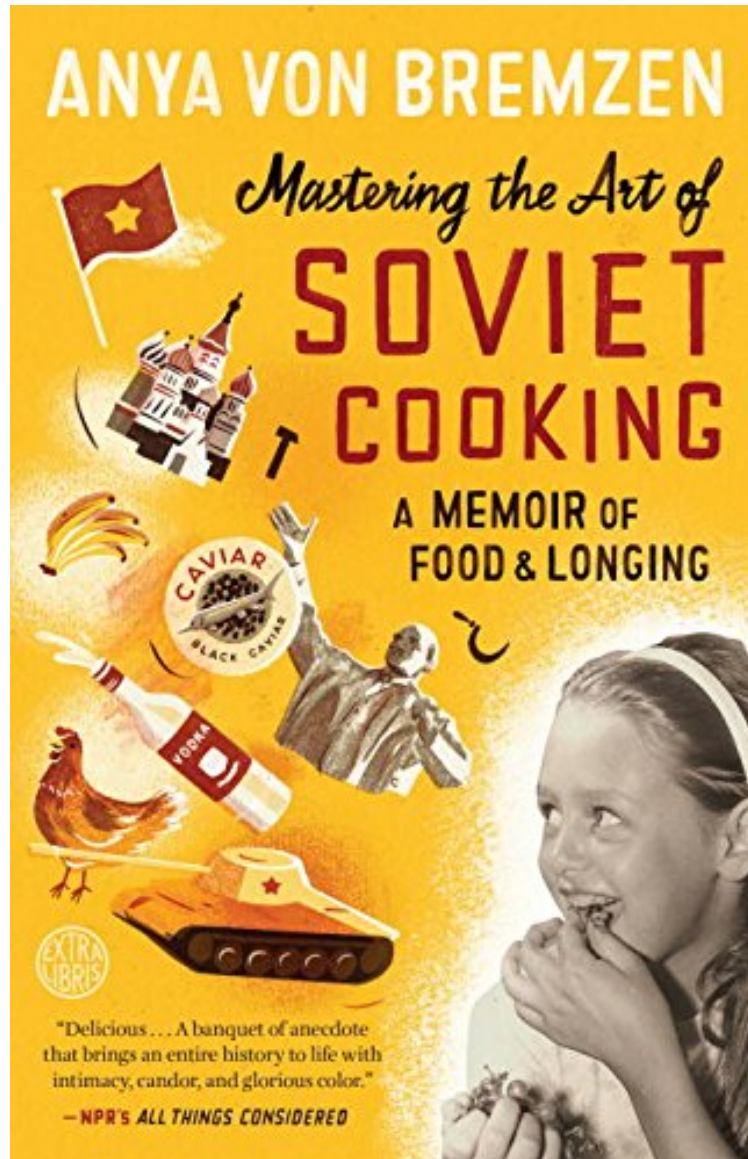


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Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking: A Memoir of Food and Longing

Anya Von Bremzen

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#98184 in Books Anya Von Bremzen 2014-09-16 2014-09-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .53 x 5.201, .0 #File Name: 0307886824368 pages Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking A Memoir of Food and Longing | File size: 29.Mb

Anya Von Bremzen : Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking: A Memoir of Food and Longing before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking: A Memoir of Food and Longing:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Amazing!By joeThis book is a treasure-I cannot even put it into words-it is first and foremost a personal memoir of what basic eating and survival looked like in the USSR, but it weaves in so much history and how the political changes molded the country's food culture as well. If you have seen stock photos of Soviet Union food ration lines, and wanted more of the story, pick it up. Through the lens of food, you get a history lesson that school text books do not offer. Von Bremzen's raw honesty, sometimes embarrassingly so, is endearing; although she is highly critical of the many leadership mishaps and horrors committed by the leaders of the USSR, she seems to genuinely miss at least parts of it in all its former glory. It is hard for me to understand, as I cannot separate out the good from the bad, but the way she shares her story, you can see how she could have such a nuanced point of view. This was her home. Her childhood. Her mother is the heroine of the book-sensible and strong, the life she led, the sacrifices she made, it's heartbreaking yet still a story of redemptive love and perseverance. And you will never look at your stocked pantry and grocery shelves the same.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Give yourself a little time to "get into" this book ...By DianeGive yourself a little time to "get into" this book. It starts slowly, but gradually becomes a can't-put-it-down memoir. There is just enough food in the book to give it a focal point, but really in the larger sense this story is about a mother and daughter navigating the latter end of the 20th century as newcomers to America, and what you bring from your home country that matters, and what does not. Food as part of a culture does matter, and it serves as a way to bind this family together, even across thousands of miles.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Memoir and History that Deserves PatienceBy SerenaI had a hard time reading this at first and almost gave up which is something I rarely do. I was not expecting a short history of Russia and food since 1900. It was drudgery. However, when I realized that somehow I completely missed Russian history during my school years I decided that it wouldn't hurt to learn a bit and changed my attitude. There are many very interesting family members. Some, not so nice, and others delightful--especially Anya's mother. And I loved that some of the food that Ms. Von Bremzen thought was strictly Russian was based on food from the U.S. How Russia got those food ideas during the time of Stalin was fascinating. This is not an easy book to read, but once I was able to "tune" my brain to it I found it remarkable.

A James Beard Award-winning writer captures life under the Red socialist banner in this wildly inventive, tragicomic memoir of feasts, famines, and three generations Born in 1963, in an era of bread shortages, Anya grew up in a communal Moscow apartment where eighteen families shared one kitchen. She sang odes to Lenin, black-marketeered Juicy Fruit gum at school, watched her father brew moonshine, and, like most Soviet citizens, longed for a taste of the mythical West. It was a life by turns absurd, naively joyous, and melancholy and ultimately intolerable to her anti-Soviet mother, Larisa. When Anya was ten, she and Larisa fled the political repression of Brezhnev-era Russia, arriving in Philadelphia with no winter coats and no right of return. Now Anya occupies two parallel food universes: one where she writes about four-star restaurants, the other where a taste of humble kolbasa transports her back to her scarlet-blazed socialist past. To bring that past to life, Anya and her mother decide to eat and cook their way through every decade of the Soviet experience. Through these meals, and through the tales of three generations of her family, Anya tells the intimate yet epic story of life in the USSR. Wildly inventive and slyly witty, *Mastering the Art of Soviet Cooking* is that rare book that stirs our souls and our senses.

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