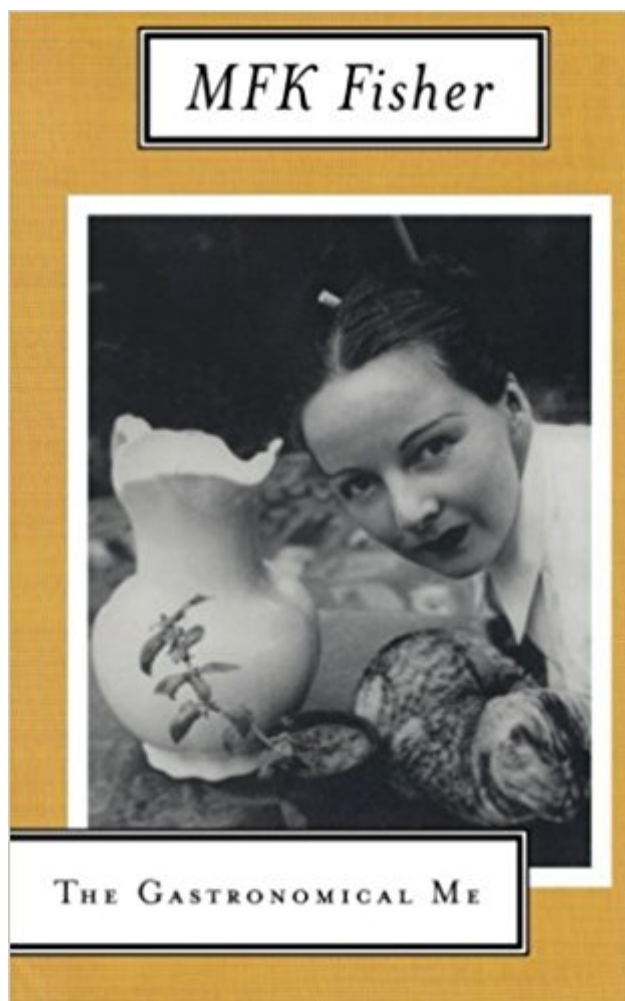


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The Gastronomical Me



Synopsis

In 1929, a newly married M.F.K. Fisher said goodbye to a milquetoast American culinary upbringing and sailed with her husband to Dijon, where she tasted real French cooking for the first time. *The Gastronomical Me* is a chronicle of her passionate embrace of a whole new way of eating, drinking, and celebrating the senses. As she recounts memorable meals shared with an assortment of eccentric and fascinating characters, set against a backdrop of mounting pre-war tensions, we witness the formation not only of her taste but of her character and her prodigious talent.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 33 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

M. F. K. Fisher sees life stomach first. The New York Times said "She spit Puritan restraint out like a dull wine and made a life of savoring the slow, sensual pleasures of the table." And between meals, she savored the pleasures of men and travel, too. She recalls California in 1912, life in France in the 1930s, and traveling solo to Mexico in 1941. Her first oyster is a beautiful story, about adolescence and the glory of the briny mollusk, and her humor is as forthright as her taste at table.

• "I do not know of any one in the United States who writes better prose." • W.H. Auden • "Poet of the appetites." • John Updike • "Because *The Gastronomical Me* is autobiographical, following Mrs. Fisher from childhood to widowhood in different countries, we are able to see its food not only as a matter of personal taste, but as a perpetual emotional and social force within a life. Here are meals as seductions, educations, diplomacies, communions. Unique among the classics of

gastronomic writing, with its glamorous but not glamorized settings, its wartime drama and its powerful love story, *The Gastronomical Me* is a book about adult loss, survival, and love. •
• Patricia Storace, *The New York Review of Books* • She writes about fleeting tastes and feasts vividly, excitingly, sensuously, exquisitely. There is almost a wicked thrill in following her uninhibited track through the glories of the good life. • • James Beard • She writes about food as others do about love, but rather better. • • Clifton Fadiman

What initially directed me to this author was an article in *Saveur* magazine. An interesting book if you are a foodie learning about the food & wine likes & dislikes of pre-war II Europe. I had no idea how popular ocean going travel was during with Atlantic crossings in the weeks, not days with numerous ports of call. A travel book as well as a foods of the world book. A good read.

Learning about MFK Fisher was a great discovery for me -- she was a very puzzling and interesting character. Wonderfully written memoirs.

A classic. Shipped promptly. Overall. A+

This is a great read for food lovers and francophiles. It isn't really a travel book at all, but Fisher's highly personal and frequently witty account of the experiences that shaped her thinking and made her one of the most noted food writers of the 20th century. Fisher was an American, and her adult life in France began in 1929 when she and her new husband moved to Dijon. One quickly appreciates how difficult her experiences as a newcomer must have been -- no stove, no refrigerator, no heating in winter. Some reviewers didn't like the way the book left gaps in her personal life story. That's true, but it isn't a standard biography, it's a literary sketch book. If you're looking for a travel book, this isn't one. Stylistically, because this book was written 65 or 70 years ago, there is no comparison between it and much later accounts of spending a year in Provence, touring the wine country, or houseboating on the Seine. Finally, one reviewer here thought the last part of the book about her time in Mexico seemed out of place. I agree, so if you get the book and read everything but the bit about the Mexican sojourn, you will have gotten to the heart of what I think she wanted us to know, anyway.

M.F.K. Fisher's writing is graceful and vivid in this lovely little book. One can picture, indeed almost taste, the wonderful peach pie she describes having had as a child. A delightful read, highly

recommended.

Such a charming and nostalgic romp through food, travel, and love!

A delicious book, an antidote to Hemingway and Fitzgerald.

excellent

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The Gastronomical Me

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