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The Cook

Wayne Macauley

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Wayne Macauley : The Cook before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Cook:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tough to swallow!By SWThis book is well written but the subject matter is a bit tough to swallow. Do not read it if you are a vegetarian or a member of PETA as it will really make your blood boil - but it is fiction - hopefully! I am an omnivore and it really bothered me how callous the main character is towards the treatment of meat animals. Really makes me NOT want to eat fine gourmet food if this is the

process used on animals. Spoiler alert: Not to mention the ending will really be upsetting to many readers.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It was an amazing piece of writing from a non-chefBy Nola ShelleyI found The Cook somewhat far-fetched, but also very revealing as a critique of the restaurant industry. It was an amazing piece of writing from a non-chef.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Cook: A dark satire on our obsession with food cultureBy m g van boheemenI had read a review of this book in a prominent Australian newspaper and I thought the book was going to be a tongue-in-cheek, hilarious send up of Australian TV food shows. It was completely different! I can't go into too much detail about the plot or it could spoil it for readers, but here is my analysis.The main character, Zac, is attending a cook school run for young men with a past. He throws himself wholeheartedly into the world of food preparation and proves an diligent pupil and zealous exponent of everything "fresh". He soon begins to plan a future for himself as a chef - he even has a great idea for a new type of restaurant. His hard work is soon rewarded with a coveted position as a private chef to a wealthy businessman and his family. But when things start to go wrong, obsession and food collide in a piece of revenge that will have you going back to re-read the chapter. We read this book for our bookclub, and quite a number of us didn't pick the plot twist. Others (such as myself) felt that the building tension and pervading sense of evil did lead to its inevitable conclusion.I must warn prospective readers that Wayne Macauley has written this novel in a first person narrative style, and the main character is lacking a higher education. Consequently, there is little or no grammar and sentences run together. This can be maddening at first, but you soon adjust.This novel is meticulously researched (from the viewpoint of someone quite ignorant about chefs!) and a fascinating insight into fresh food preparation and the western world's sociopathic obsession with food. It is certainly a black comedy, and I would not recommend this book for members of PETA. Vegetarians and vegans may find that this book reinforces why they don't eat meat.A couple of highlights;- The restaurant "Insousiance" featured in the book sounds to me to be exactly where food culture is headed these days.- References to the rich businessman's daughter who is a leftie socialist but keeps asking for money.Overall, a clever black comedy that was enjoyable but frightening at the same time.

A delicious satire of our contemporary obsession with food, cooking and fine dining, The Cook is a wild and darkly funny novel.Zac, a teenage boy with a difficult past, throws himself into the world and work of haute cuisine but when sweet turns sour, his mind turns from first-class service to revenge.Published to rave reviews in the UK, Australia.

'This is a satiric novel of rigour, strange beauty, and impeccable, brazen style.'Winnipeg Free Press'IrresistibleThe Cook reminds us just how exciting it is to read a wonderful and original novel.'Lloyd Jones'A riot of a book! Gripping and subversive'Nick Cave'Blackly funny and deliciously satirical, this book skewers our culture of food worship while feeding our curiosity about kitchens.'Age Magazine'On the surface this novel plays on our obsession with reality TV, fame and in particular cooking shows such as MasterChef. But as you read on it becomes apparent that questions of class, aspiration and success are at the heart of this complex, nuanced bookThis is a black parable on contemporary society.'Tim Coronel, Bookseller+Publisher'This is a novel that punctuates the fine life, eviscerates food wankery and highlights the emptiness and decay of the distracted and wealthyMacauley has so effectively captured the voice of Zac, who believes this is the life he wants, when the dream starts to unravel we are immersed in Zacs delusion along with him.'Rachel Edwards, The Book Show'The Cook is a confident and potent piece of work. With its claustrophobic first-person narration and its appealing combination of black humour and broad comedyOne of the novels most impressive achievements is its creation of a droll, readable, vernacular prose, which is not only rhythmically insistent but able to hint at the tension and the instability beneath its apparently detached and affectless surface.'Weekend Australian'In the past few years, Wayne Macauley has published some of the most memorable fiction going in this country. His books and stories are satirical fables in which the properties are recognisably contemporary and Australian, indeed Melburnian, but his use of them is carefully distanced from realism and he has a prose style of remarkable poise and control that can allow his narratives to take off into the bizarre without ever losing their cool. Beneath that cool is a steady anger at the depredations of late capitalism, at the attempts of laissez-faire to turn us all into Homo economicus or addicted consumersThis is Macauleys longest novel so far and marks a brilliant development in his dark vision of the way we live.'Sunday Age'This brilliant and richly layered book by Melbourne author Wayne Macauley is almost impossible to put downFor Macauley is writing about nothing less than the social, cultural and moral excesses of late capitalism: about the logical absurdities of conspicuous consumption, the decadence of fine dining and the contemporary obsession with cooking.'Sydney Morning Herald'Reading The Cook is an intense experience, like stepping into a steamy, industrial kitchen, with pots boiling over on every surfaceconsistently hilarious.'Daily Telegraph'A marvellous experiment in voice.'Financial Times UK