



The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen

By Sharon Lebewohl, Rena Bulkin, Jack Lebewohl

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The Second Avenue Deli has been an internationally renowned Gotham landmark for nearly half a century. Over the years, its founder, Abe Lebewohl, provided the best Jewish fare in town, transforming his tiny ten-seat Village eatery into a New York institution.

The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook contains more than 160 of Abe Lebewohl's recipes, including all of the Deli's peerless renditions of traditional Jewish dishes: chicken soup with matzo balls, chopped liver, gefilte fish, kasha varnishkes, mushroom barley soup, noodle kugel, potato latkes, blintzes, and many more. These versatile dishes are perfect for any occasion--from holiday dinners to Sunday brunches with friends and family.

The late Abe Lebewohl was a great restaurateur in the showman tradition and a well-known and much-loved New York personality. His famous Deli attracted hundreds of celebrity patrons, many of whom have graciously contributed to this cookbook not only personal reminiscences but also recipes, running the gamut from Morley Safer's family brisket to Paul Reiser's formula for the perfect egg cream. A wonderful blend of New York and Jewish history and mouthwatering recipes, The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook provides a delicious taste of nostalgia.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The food at *The 2nd Ave. Deli* is what your grandmother, mother, or a friend's family cooked. (Especially if you are not Jewish but loved being well fed.) From its recipes for Schmalz (the rendered chicken fat indispensable to real, old-fashioned Jewish dishes) and what is arguably the best chopped liver in the world, to Health Salad (a mayonnaise-less, sweet coleslaw), potato kugel (a dense, crisp-crusting pudding), six versions of chicken soup, a Honey Chiffon Cake served for Jewish New Year, and Mandelbrot, an almond-studded Jewish biscotti, this cookbook offers the best of the hefty, soul-satisfying Jewish cooking that is the ultimate comfort food.

Having survived World War II, and, at 19, hungry to succeed, Abe Lebewohl arrived in New York City in 1950, a Jewish immigrant from Russia. His first job was working in a deli on Coney Island. In 1954, he took over the tiny luncheonette near New York's bustling Lower East Side, which he renamed the 2nd Ave. Deli. From that day forward, he looked after his customers (and everyone else he felt needed it) with spontaneous generosity. The stories in this book from his daughter and other people who knew Abe bring to life the passion and love he served along with the best authentic Jewish home cooking--making it clear why he was called the Mayor of Second Avenue. The deli, a magnet for tourists and New York City locals, is now also a memorial to Abe Lebewohl, who was killed in 1996 during a robbery after the restaurant had closed for the night. His daughter wrote this cookbook as a memorial to him, as well as to share the family's recipes for elemental Jewish cooking. Its 166 recipes, black-and-white photographs, and inspiring text make this a joyful celebration by his family and friends. --*Dana Jacobi*

From Publishers Weekly

This is a cookbook that will bring a tear to readers' eyes, and not just because it will have them chopping four onions for Chopped Liver. In 1996, Abe Lebewohl, owner of New York's famed Second Avenue Deli, was murdered; now Sharon, Lebewohl's daughter and current deli steward, and food writer Bulkin present recipes from the New York establishment as well as touching and funny anecdotes from the many people who adored him. The famous and less-famous contribute recipes along with their stories: food critic Mimi Sheraton recalls hearing Lebewohl explain matzo ball soup to a Japanese journalist (a monologue that included an overview of the Old Testament) and offers her Favorite Matzo Balls. Alfred Portale, chef and owner at the swanky Gotham Bar and Grill, recalls Lebewohl's generous praise and provides a recipe for Whole Roast Red Snapper with Tomatoes, Lemon and Thyme. Lebewohl, who was such a friend to working people that he once provided free lunches to striking NBC workers for 21 weeks, would appreciate the profile of veteran waitress Diane Kassner, famous for her quips (Customer: How is the stuffed breast of veal served? Diane: On a plate). Recipes from the restaurant itself are traditional Eastern European Jewish fare. A. e. g., Kreplach and Gefilte Fish. There are also a smattering of such Middle Eastern dishes as Falafel and Tabbouleh and a few concessions to today's lighter eating habits (Turkey Meat Loaf and Broiled Fillet of Sole ? la Second Avenue). The latter recipes belie a talk Lebewohl once gave on the topic "Is Deli Dying in New York?" where he quipped: "What am I gonna tell you? My food will kill you." (Oct.)
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Review

"Restaurant cookbooks may make your mouth water, but rarely do they stir your soul, or put a smile on your face. The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook is an exception. Like the fabled eating establishment whose recipes it contains, it manages to do all three. The Second Avenue Deli experience is always about more than just

eating. Until now, you had to be in New York to have that experience. But with the publication of this grand book of recipes and stories, the lusty flavor--and the irrepressible spirit--of Abe Lebewohl's landmark restaurant become transportable. And what a lucky thing that is, for they are a treasure."

--Cara De Silva, author of *In Memory's Kitchen*

"'You'll eat. We'll talk later,' Abe Lebewohl said to me once, when I sat down amid the aromas of his Deli to interview him. I ate--holishkes; borscht the way Abe made it, with chunks of beef; and chicken livers. We talked, ate rugalach, and we were finished. I thought. As I was walking out Abe yelled after me, 'Don't forget, just because you write for a fancy-schmancy magazine, that cholent is Lower East Side cassoulet.' I didn't forget, Abe. Kisses."

--Fred Ferretti, contributing editor, *Gourmet*

"The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook is a wonderful collection of recipes and anecdotes that truly captures the essence of a wonderful restaurant and special man. Enjoy!"

--Drew Nieporent, president of Myriad Restaurant Group, owner of Nobu, Tribeca Grill, Heartbeat, Layla

"It would be hard to find anything as wholly delicious as the Second Avenue Deli, but this savory book comes close. Not only is it full of tempting, eminently doable recipes, but it recalls the warm spirit of the Deli itself, and of dear, generous Abe Lebewohl, who would consider this collection a fitting eulogy."

--Mimi Sheraton, noted food journalist and former food critic for *The New York Times*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Katie Phillips:

Hey guys, do you desire to find a new book to read? May be the book with the name *The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen* suitable to you? The particular book was written by well known writer in this era. The book entitled *The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen* is the main of several books in which everyone read now. That book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new shape that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their plan in the simple way, therefore all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this book. This book will give you a wide range of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world in this book.

James Dickens:

The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that will increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The article author giving his/her effort that will put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing *The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen* nevertheless doesn't forget the main point, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource info that maybe you can be one among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into completely new stage of crucial imagining.

Edward Cooley:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray anyone, why because this The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen book written by well-known writer we are excited for well how to make book that could be understand by anyone who else read the book. Written in good manner for you, leaking every ideas and writing skill only for eliminate your hunger then you still hesitation The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen as good book not just by the cover but also by the content. This is one e-book that can break don't judge book by its deal with, so do you still needing an additional sixth sense to pick this specific!?! Oh come on your examining sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to an additional sixth sense.

Annie Hiatt:

In this time globalization it is important to someone to receive information. The information will make you to definitely understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, paper, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher this print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended for your requirements is The Second Avenue Deli Cookbook: Recipes and Memories from Abe Lebewohl's Legendary Kitchen this book consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented how can the world has grown up. The language styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. Typically the writer made some investigation when he makes this book. Here is why this book acceptable all of you.

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