



# The Mad Feast: An Ecstatic Tour Through America's Food

*Matthew Gavin Frank*

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**A richly illustrated culinary tour of the United States through fifty signature dishes, and a radical exploration of our gastronomic heritage.**

Following his critically acclaimed *Preparing the Ghost*, renowned essayist Matthew Gavin Frank takes on America's food. In a surprising style reminiscent of Maggie Nelson or Mark Doty, Frank examines a quintessential dish in each state, interweaving the culinary with personal and cultural associations of each region. From key lime pie (Florida) to elk stew (Montana), *The Mad Feast* commemorates the unexpected origins of the familiar. Brazenly dissecting the myriad intersections between history and food, Frank, in this gorgeously designed volume, considers politics, sexuality, violence, grief, and pleasure: the cool, creamy whoopie pie evokes toughness in the face of New England winters, while the stewlike perloo serves up an exploration of food and race in the South. Tracing an unpredictable map of our collective appetites, *The Mad Feast* presents a beguiling flavor profile of the American spirit. 50 illustrations

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