

reading group guide

THE RAGING SKILLET by Rossi
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## the raging skillet

## reading group guide

- Food played a powerful role in Chef Rossi's childhood household.
   It was a source of pleasure and community and also a point of contention as her parents were always working to save money. What role or roles did food play in your home growing up?
- 2. How did the recipes impact your experience of reading the book? Did you make any of them? Would you?
- 3. As a female chef in New York in the 1980s, Chef Rossi was a frontrunner in many ways. How did she prove herself to the men who doubted her abilities? How have you proven yourself to those who doubted you?
- 4. Chef Rossi has taken a grab-bag approach to Judaism—taking what works for her and leaving the rest. What's your relationship to your inherited religion or lack thereof? How has it shaped you? Or how have you formed yourself in opposition to it?
- 5. Rossi develops three rules in her kitchen: (1) Be nice to the front of the house. (2) Never try to cook what you hate. (3) Have fun. How could these apply to everyday life outside of the kitchen?

- 6. The meals of Chef Rossi's youth and the recipes throughout the book are cheap, easy, and accessible food elevated to something special. How was Rossi able to create something special with the hand she had been dealt in life?
- 7. When Chef Rossi was starting out as a chef, she practiced serving each dish two to ten times for her friends. This practice served her well. How could this method be applied to something in your life?
- 8. Rossi had a complicated relationship with her mother. What did she learn from Harriet? What did she reject?
- 9. What about Chef Rossi inspired you? What rubbed you the wrong way?
- 10. When in Rossi's story did food serve the purpose of healing wounds? How can food be used to communicate love or affection? Has it done so in your life?





Rossi is the owner and executive chef of The Raging Skillet, and has been described as a "rebel anti-caterer" by the New York Times. Rossi has written for many publications, including BUST, the Daily News, the New York Post, the Huffington Post, Time Out New York, and McSweeney's.



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