



Liquor: A Novel (Rickey and G-Man Series)

By Poppy Z. Brite

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Liquor: A Novel (Rickey and G-Man Series) By Poppy Z. Brite

Two line cooks decide to open their own restaurant in New Orleans in the second book in the Rickey and G-Man series by novelist Poppy Z. Brite.

New Orleans natives Rickey and G-man are lifetime friends and down-and-out line cooks desperate to make a quick buck. When Rickey concocts the idea of opening a restaurant in their alcohol-loving hometown where every dish packs a spirited punch, they know they're on their way to the bank. With some wheeling and dealing, a slew of great recipes, and a few lucky breaks, Rickey and G-man are soon on their way to opening *Liquor*, their very own restaurant. But first they need to pacify a local crank who doesn't want to see his neighborhood disturbed, sidestep Rickey's deranged ex-boss, rein in their big-mouth silent partner before he runs amok, and stay afloat in a stew of corruption in a town well known for its bottom feeders.

A manic, spicy romp through the kitchens, back alleys, dive bars, and drug deals of the country's most sublimely ridiculous city, author Poppy Z. Brite masterfully shakes equal parts ambition, scandal, cocaine, and murder, and serves *Liquor* straight up, with a twist.

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Liquor: A Novel (Rickey and G-Man Series) By Poppy Z. Brite Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #251340 in Books
- Brand: Brite, Poppy Z.
- Published on: 2004-03-16
- Released on: 2004-03-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.97" h x .74" w x 5.24" l, .56 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 352 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

As much a love letter to the Big Easy as it is to the demanding (and sometimes debauched) lifestyle of a chef, horror maven Brite's (Lost Souls) first foray into the trendy genre of foodie lit is a winsome entree. New Orleans natives and lovers John Rickey and Gary "G-man" Stubbs, affable characters from Brite's recent coming-of-age/coming-out tale *The Value of X*, decide to capitalize on Rickey's brainchild of opening a restaurant with a "whole menu based on liquor." Word passes through the gossipy Nola restaurant scene that two up-and-comers have a hot concept but no money, and soon enough, Rickey and G-man find themselves backed by celebrity chef Lenny Duveteaux, known as "the Nixon of the New Orleans restaurant world" for his habit of taping his phone conversations. At first doubtful of Lenny's motives, the two come to regard him as a mentor even as they question some of his choices. In one of the many conflicts that Brite embroils her main characters (all of which are fun but not too convincing), the yats (colloquial for natives) have to fend off increasingly threatening actions from Rickey's former boss, cokehead Mike Mouton, while experimenting with dishes like white rum-laced fettuccine Alfredo and veal kidneys à la liégeoise. Although Brite rolls her eyes aplenty at the silly dramas and pretensions inherent in any urban restaurant scene, her affection for it is heartfelt. The plot is pretty boilerplate, but Brite's characters are as refreshingly unpretentious as a healthy helping of comfort food.

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From [Booklist](#)

Cult horror novelist Brite's new book offers quite a change of pace: a fictional foray into the wild and highly competitive foodie scene in New Orleans. The plot centers on two brilliant but underappreciated line chefs who come up with a new concept—a first-class dining establishment where the entire menu comprises dishes prepared with alcohol in one form or another, from whiskey to exotic liqueurs. This is a high-energy tale of restaurant intrigue, but there are also plenty of straightforward, realistic scenes depicting the lives of the small army of people who manage to create exotic meals that seem to materialize effortlessly at one's table. Brite serves up course after course of culinary passion and politics, sauteed in humor and garnished with the history of the Big Easy. Like Timothy Taylor's *Stanley Park* (2002), it will be an eye-opener for anyone who has never seen what really goes on behind the scenes in a fine-dining kitchen. So kick back, put on a zydeco CD, and dig in. *Elliott Swanson*

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Review

"Liquor is world-class satire and perfect New Orleans lit."—Andrei Codrescu, NPR commentator, author of **Casanova in Bohemia**

"Once both cult-worshipped and mainstream-reviled for her edgy investigations into supernatural and human horror, Brite, now more concerned with the more-or-less ordinary side of life and her home turf of New Orleans, emerges as a writer of honesty and wit."—Publishers Weekly

Users Review

From reader reviews:

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