



In Defence of English Cooking

George Orwell

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Not only was George Orwell one of the greatest writers and most important political thinkers of the twentieth century, he is also the author of the bestselling Penguin title of all time: *Animal Farm* first published in Penguin in 1951. These heartfelt essays demonstrate Orwell's wide-ranging appeal, and range from political manifesto to affectionate consideration of what being English truly means.

In Defence of English Cooking Details

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Michael T says

Mandatory reading

Jennifer says

A nice sampling of some of Orwell's essays. This was an impulse buy after I found it at a used bookstore, and I was surprised by how interesting I found the essays. It may be important to note, though, that this is not really about English cooking, except for the final essay, which is only three pages long.

Melanie says

English breakfast, ugh. What defense could there be?

Shelley says

I enjoy George Orwell's writing.

His shorter works are every bit as relevant today as they were when he wrote them half a century ago. "My Country Right or Left" could be applied to the youth of today, who have not seen a break in conflict since the beginning of WWII. And his "Defence of English Cooking" is surprising accurate and agreeable.

This was a pleasant collection of short stories with a intelligent political bent that has not dated.

Ruth says

As relevant today as the day it was written.

Tse Guang says

When you find yourself nodding in agreement at Orwell's defence of English cooking, you know you've been completely seduced. I would like to read his defence of English *weather* if such a text exists. In any case, the essays before this last one are no less works of art: the persona Orwell constructs in his political writings always seems to speak with the voice of absolute common sense and right-thinking, despite him being a card-carrying communist. Orwell's acute sense of the potential perversions of the left allow his analyses of

English culture at the time to transcend polemics and emotionalism. The more I read him the more I admire his thoughts and the spirit which animates them.

Yihui Quek says

My only gripe is that the title is totally irrelevant to the bulk of the book. In the first few essays (which are about nationalism and the war), Orwell feels like a demanding personal trainer who puts us through the usual mental exercises.

Marcus says

Three short essays, a little disjointed as a collection, but plenty still resonates today; a testament to his genius.
