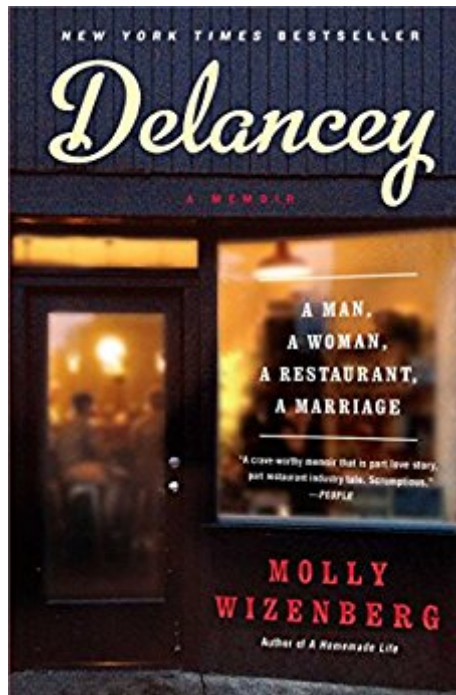




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Delancey: A Man, A Woman, A Restaurant, A Marriage



Synopsis

The New York Times bestseller from the author of *A Homemade Life* and the blog *Orangette* about opening a restaurant with her new husband: “You’ll feel the warmth from this pizza oven...cheerfully honest...warm and inclusive, just like her cooking” (USA TODAY). When Molly Wizenberg married Brandon Pettit, he was a trained composer with a handful of offbeat interests: espresso machines, wooden boats, violin-building, and ice cream making. So when Brandon decided to open a pizza restaurant, Molly was supportive not because she wanted him to do it, but because the idea was so far-fetched that she didn’t think he would. Before she knew it, he’d signed a lease on a space. The restaurant, Delancey, was going to be a reality, and all of Molly’s assumptions about her marriage were about to change. Together they built Delancey: gutting and renovating the space on a cobbled-together budget, developing a menu, hiring staff, and passing inspections. Delancey became a success, and Molly tried to convince herself that she was happy in their new life until in the heat and pressure of the restaurant kitchen she realized that she hadn’t been honest with herself or Brandon. With evocative photos by Molly and twenty new recipes for the kind of simple, delicious food that chefs eat at home, *Delancey* explores that intimate territory where food and life meet. This moving and honest account of two people learning to give in and let go in order to grow together is “a crave-worthy memoir that is part love story, part restaurant industry tale. Scrumptious” (People).

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Customer Reviews

I first became a fan of Orangette when I was in college, around 2009 or so. I loved her style of writing, and her simple, yummy recipes. She writes with heart and she writes in a very conversational tone. I read her other book a couple of years ago, and enjoyed it sooo much. This one I enjoyed, but not as much as that book. I think I enjoyed this book because it was written by Molly, and I'm already sort of partial to her writing and recipes. So, first and foremost, if you enjoy the Orangette blog or the "A Homemade Life," you might enjoy this book. Secondly, if you're really into pizza and I really REALLY as in you're interested in the mechanics behind opening your own pizzeria and all that goes into it, I think you might also enjoy this book. But otherwise, I'm not sure if the typical reader who has never heard of Molly would be too into it. Sure, Molly is a fantastic writer, and she's very personable, but the book itself doesn't seem to have much heart like the previous book. It delves into the marital issues and into the nitty gritty of the restaurant, dipping into things but never really fleshing them out. I'm guessing this is due to it being of a personal nature. Molly touches in the book about the lack of recipes, because it sort of morphs into this on its own, even surprising her. But there really is a super limited run of them. I would have appreciated more recipes associated with the pizza-making experience, even if very little other recipes were given. Most of the recipes (and again, Molly touches on this in the beginning) were simple in nature and often something a friend would make for them, because there simply wasn't a lot of time while running around trying to open the restaurant. I understand if you don't want to give us a dough recipe, but something like a cheese recipe or maybe even a poor man's pizza might have been fun additions, or maybe even more of Brandon's recipes, since the moon centers around him. All in all, I liked it, and I can only hope that Molly plans on eventually writing a true blue cookbook at some point in the future. I would buy that in an instant.

In a recent issue of Coastal Living I'm going over the suggested summer reads and come across *Delancey: A Man.....etc.* Wait, wait, wait, back up the truck... I think I've dined at a delightful little pizza (and so much more) restaurant in Seattle by the same name, literally around the corner from my son's apartment in Ballard. Could it be? Why yes, it was. It's always interesting to read the inner workings of places I frequent but know little about. I knew nothing about how a restaurant works. Molly takes the reader from the concept, through the execution, and beyond; revealing vibrant characters, and the interesting personalities that make up the industry. The genius of *Delancey*, isn't the good writing or the framing of the story- the restaurant business. A fair and honest portrait of a young couple building a life together is what makes this book so great. Oh, and I forgot about the recipes Molly slipped in! Can't wait to try them, in fact, planning on making the spicy shrimp tonight. I love happy endings and hope they keep making delicious pizzas for years to come. Next time I'm in Seattle I'm considering settling at one of their tables, and later hanging the bar to wait for an autograph. If I can only figure out a way to have Molly sign my e-reader.

Love this book, though I am considerably biased, since I also love Molly's blog (orangette.blogspot.com) and listen weekly to her podcast, *Spilled Milk*. Since I was already acquainted with Molly's style of writing, this book was made richer by my familiarity. Nonetheless- I not only read this book but bought one for my boyfriend's mother (another lover of books about food and life) for Christmas. This story is not filled with dragon-slaying, arrow-shooting, or other explosive elements of books commonly sought after by readers today-- it is a true, true story, which I found quite touching. Molly is refreshingly frank about the emotional struggles that went into building a restaurant from scratch, the fault lines it created in her relationships, and the more real-life problems that popped up (equipment failure, staff issues, etc). The book is dotted with some pretty great recipes, most of which I fully intent to make. If you're looking for a story told about love, struggle, insecurity, triumph, and food this is the one for you.

What I love about Molly's writing is that her books feel like such a natural extension to the massive body of writing on her blog, *Orangette*. And, like any good story, you never want it to end! I remember meeting her at a book signing in Boston years ago, when she was touring with "*A Homemade Life*." She talked quite a bit about *Delancey* and about how she was still totally mystified that they had managed to pulled it off. "*Delancey*" is a really lovely glimpse into that process, and although I've never tried to open a business myself, I can still completely relate to and appreciate how it feels to reach and grope blindly at all of these big life things that we're supposed to do in our

30's - build a career, build a marriage, find your purpose. And I especially appreciate how honestly she offers up both successes and failures along the way.

Another charming Molly Wizenberg book! Her first book was excellent and felt like she was talking to you as a friend, and this one is no different. I figured a restaurant opening would be pretty stressful, but her descriptions of the extent of it would've stressed me out had it not been for her warm tone throughout the book. She's right, in that this is not so much a book about food as it is about the ins and outs of restaurant management, but that doesn't mean it's bereft of the loving descriptions of recipes she includes in her other book. The recipes are more of an accent (though a delicious-looking one!). More reviews at: <https://www.goodreads.com/parfois>

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