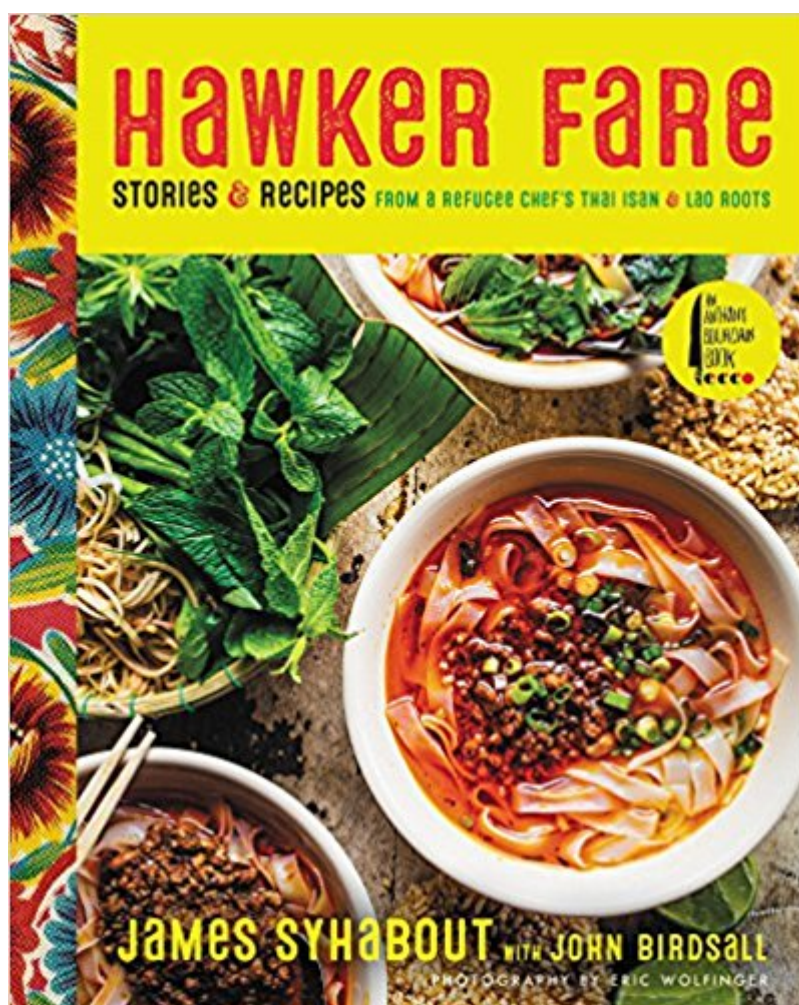


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Hawker Fare: Stories & Recipes From A Refugee Chef's Thai Isan & Lao Roots



Synopsis

From chef James Syha about of twoâ “Michelin-star restaurant Commis, an Asian-American cookbook like no otherâ ”simple recipes for cooking home-style Thai and Lao dishesJames Syha aboutâ™s hugely popular Hawker Fare restaurant in San Francisco is the product of his unique family history and diverse career experience. Born into two distinct but related Asian culturesâ ”from his motherâ™s ancestral village in Isan, Thailandâ™s northeast region, and his fatherâ™s home in Pakse, Laosâ ”he and his family landed in Oakland in 1981 in a community of other refugees from the Vietnam War. Syha about at first turned away from the food of his heritage to work in Europe and become a classically trained chef. After the success of Commis, his fine dining restaurant and the only Michelin-starred eatery in Oakland, Syha about realized something was missingâ ”and that something was Hawker Fare, and cooking the food of his childhood. The Hawker Fare cookbook immortalizes these widely beloved dishes, which are inspired by the open-air âœhawkerâ • markets of Thailand and Laos as well as the fine-dining sensibilities of Jamesâ™s career beginnings. Each chapter opens with stories from Syha aboutâ™s roving career, starting with his motherâ™s work as a line cook in Oakland, and moving into the turning point of his culinary life, including his travels as an adult in his parentsâ™ homelands. From building a pantry with sauces and oils, to making staples like sticky rice and padaek, to Syha aboutâ™s recipe for instant ramen noodles with poached egg, Hawker Fare explores the many dimensions of this singular chefâ™s cooking and ethos on ingredients, family, and eating well. This cookbook offers a new definition of what it means to be making food in America, in the full and vibrant colors of Thailand, Laos, and California.

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