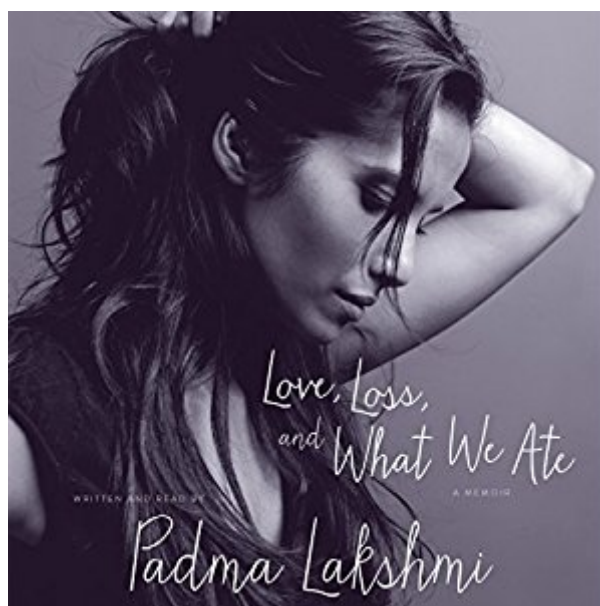


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# Love, Loss, And What We Ate: A Memoir



## Synopsis

A vivid memoir of food and family, survival and triumph, *Love, Loss, and What We Ate* traces the arc of Padma Lakshmi's unlikely path from an immigrant childhood to a complicated life in front of the camera - a tantalizing blend of Ruth Reichl's *Tender at the Bone* and Nora Ephron's *Heartburn*. Long before Padma Lakshmi ever stepped onto a television set, she learned that how we eat is an extension of how we love, how we comfort, how we forge a sense of home - and how we taste the world as we navigate our way through it. Shuttling between continents as a child, she lived a life of dislocation that would become habit as an adult, never quite at home in the world. And yet, through all her travels, her favorite food remained the simple rice she first ate sitting on the cool floor of her grandmother's kitchen in South India. Poignant and surprising, *Love, Loss, and What We Ate* is Lakshmi's extraordinary account of her journey from that humble kitchen, ruled by ferocious and unforgettable women, to the judges' table of *Top Chef* and beyond. It chronicles the fierce devotion of the remarkable people who shaped her along the way, from her headstrong mother, who flouted conservative Indian convention to make a life in New York, to her Brahmin grandfather - a brilliant engineer with an irrepressible sweet tooth - to the man seemingly wrong for her in every way who proved to be her truest ally. A memoir rich with sensual prose and punctuated with evocative recipes, it is alive with the scents, tastes, and textures of a life that spans complex geographies both internal and external. *Love, Loss, and What We Ate* is an intimate and unexpected story of food and family - both the ones we are born to and the ones we create - and their enduring legacies.

## Book Information

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Biographies & Memoirs > Professionals & Academics > Culinary

## Customer Reviews

Sigh. I will attempt to review the writing/story as opposed to my impression of Ms. Lakshmi (which I had hoped might change from reading her memoir, but no). The title could be shortened to "What we ate". 80% of the book is way too much detailed recollections of her food shopping, cooking and eating. I'm a foodie, but this was so much, that I didn't believe such young childhood memories could be recounted in such detail. Perhaps some creativity was indulged. The writing felt like she was trying too hard to be taken seriously. Was there a ghost writer? Perhaps, I don't know or care - it was overcooked. I bought it because I'm a big Top Chef fan. There is little about Top Chef in here, and honestly not worth the price if you want to learn about Top Chef. Wasted opportunity from her point. I do love good memoirs though, so I was curious to see if it was entertaining from the perspective of her being a tv personality. Nope. Ms. Lakshmi wants to be taken seriously, but somewhat complains throughout the book about being just a pretty face, a hanger for clothes, well, yes, but that is what gave you the opportunities you have now. I wanted the book to show me she was more than just a pretty face, but never mind....She made a not so subtle dig at one of the other regular judges as perhaps having a drinking problem and not speaking too nicely about her hair/makeup people, etc. Seemed like she was maybe burning bridges a bit too early. More than half the book seems to take place in her native India, fitting into America having brown skin, etc. and I understand that is what shaped her, but then there is disconnect to her post-college life when she falls into modeling in Europe. It's as if she was two different people. This is the beginning of her going from one extremely wealthy lover to another...

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