



The Big Oyster: History on the Half Shell

Mark Kurlansky

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“Part treatise, part miscellany, unfailingly entertaining.”

–*The New York Times*

“A small pearl of a book . . . a great tale of the growth of a modern city as seen through the rise and fall of the lowly oyster.”

–*Rocky Mountain News*

Award-winning author Mark Kurlansky tells the remarkable story of New York by following the trajectory of one of its most fascinating inhabitants—the oyster.

For centuries New York was famous for this particular shellfish, which until the early 1900s played such a dominant a role in the city’s life that the abundant bivalves were Gotham’s most celebrated export, a staple food for all classes, and a natural filtration system for the city’s congested waterways.

Filled with cultural, historical, and culinary insight—along with historic recipes, maps, drawings, and photos—this dynamic narrative sweeps readers from the seventeenth-century founding of New York to the death of its oyster beds and the rise of America’s environmentalist movement, from the oyster cellars of the rough-and-tumble Five Points slums to Manhattan’s Gilded Age dining chambers. With *The Big Oyster*, Mark Kurlansky serves up history at its most engrossing, entertaining, and delicious.

“Suffused with [Kurlansky’s] pleasure in exploring the city across ground that hasn’t already been covered with other writers’ footprints.”

–*Los Angeles Times Book Review*

“Fascinating stuff . . . [Kurlansky] has a keen eye for odd facts and natural detail.”

–*The Wall Street Journal*

“Kurlansky packs his breezy book with terrific anecdotes.”

–*Entertainment Weekly*

“Magnificent . . . a towering accomplishment.”

–*Associated Press*



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Rodney Bryant:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they doing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book could be option to fill your cost-free time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the book untitled The Big Oyster: History on the Half Shell can be fine book to read. May be it might be best activity to you.

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