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Anthony Bourdain: Tasting the World

Extremely Lucky Guy

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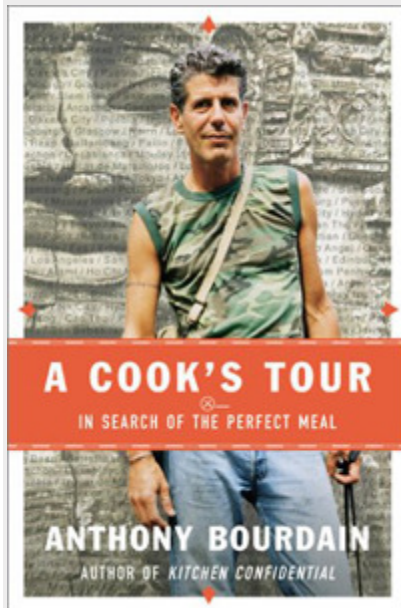
No one seems more surprised at [Anthony Bourdain's](#) overnight success than Anthony Bourdain. The writer of *NY Times* bestselling exposé *Kitchen Confidential* and writer and host of the Travel Channel's hit show, *No Reservations*, is dealing with his new schedule and new reality of life as best he can—by realizing he's pretty damn lucky.



Rachel Murphy, Anthony Bourdain

Bourdain was in town for a speaking engagement supporting his book, *A Cook's Tour: Global Adventures in Extreme Cuisine* at the newly renovated Midland Theatre, presented by the Kaufman Foundation for the Performing Arts. The book that spawned the television show has

taken him all over the world searching for the perfect meal. A chef for 28 years prior to his literary success, one assumes that he knows what he's talking about.



Sitting down at the bar at the Bristol in a pre-show media Q and A, his first question is, “So what’s the local beer around here?” A Boulevard Pale Ale is promptly produced and so is evidence of what has made Bourdain so likable for six seasons. Instead of only going for the high brow, he aims for the authentic and connects with his audience on their level.

He admits to having no idea what he was getting into when he first started on the show. “I really didn’t know what was involved. I figured that someone would follow me around with a camera. I didn’t know I’d have to actually address it. Making television is not as easy as you think,” he says.

After the first two seasons, originally on the Food Network and known as *A Cook’s Tale*, he moved to the Travel Channel with his tightly connected crew with him, renaming the show *Anthony Bourdain: No Reservations*.

“I work with friends,” he says. “We sit around drinking beer and looking at a map or a globe and say, ‘Well that looks cool. I just saw a movie, *The Year of Living Dangerously*, and now Indonesia looks really great’ and we try to rip off that style.” Bourdain says that everyone that

works on No Reservations is a huge movie buff and their personal successes come when they can emulate the work of the people they so admire.

Bourdain spends roughly ten months out of the year on the road and writes not only the show, but for magazines and upcoming book projects. On his plate right now is a project on who's cooking in the U.S. now, the up-and-coming talent of America's ever-developing culinary world.