

C O U N T E R P O I N T

**"A book that's sure to satiate
your appetite." —People**

**A March 2026
Indie Next Pick**

"From the Mennonite baker to the tattooed chef to the college student hostess, no one creates characters like Kauffman."

—People

"Entertaining . . . The story develops into a profound meditation on what it means to be connected, which Kauffman elucidates with a light touch when a bar guest reflects on the nature of storytelling . . . It's a pitch-perfect mash-up of *Clue* and *The Bear*."

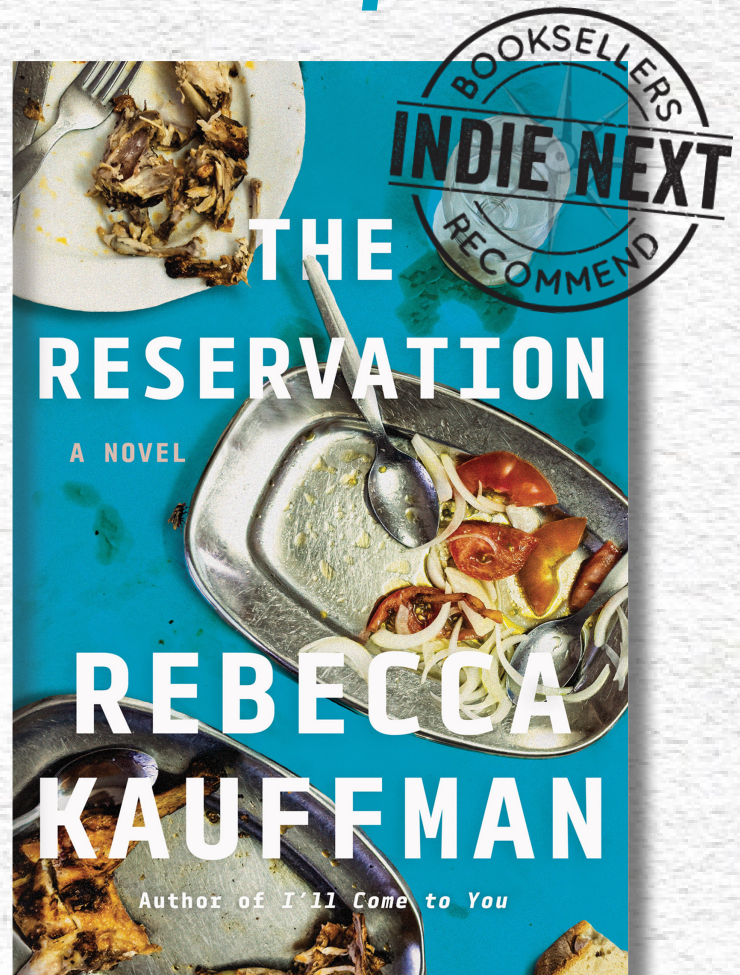
—Publishers Weekly

"A book that proves light touches can leave lasting impressions."

—Kirkus Reviews

"This is *Big Night*, but with sandy blond hair and a Southern drawl!
So, so good."

—Emma Straub



Title: *The Reservation*

Author: Rebecca Kauffman

ISBN: 9781640097483

Format: Hardcover

Price: \$27.00

BISACS:

FICTION / Friendship

FICTION / Humorous

Contact your Penguin Random House sales rep to stock up now.

C O U N T E R P O I N T

Advance bookseller praise for *The Reservation*

"Captivating and humorous, this should be on the TBR list of anyone who appreciates character-driven novels."

—Pat Rudebusch, **Orinda Books (Orinda, CA)**

"*The Reservation* is *The Bear* meets *Anxious People*: sharp, funny, and tightly knit."

—Beth Seuffer Buss, **Bookmarks (Winston-Salem, NC)**

"Bold, flavorful, and impossible to put down—*The Reservation* is an irresistible blend of drama, wit, and the messy beauty of service."

—Jewell Petrowitz, **Books & Company (Oconomowoc, WI)**

"Featured on today's menu are characters who are flawed, sweet, annoying, complicated, secretive, ambitious, and a little desperate. Set on one very important day in a midwest restaurant, *The Reservation* blends the backstories of each employee into a completely filling and satisfying story. When steaks are at stake, everyone is a suspect."

—Nancy Baenen, **Arcadia Books (Spring Green, WI)**

"A perfect little world, like *Big Night* or *Last Night at the Lobster*. Restaurant drama, human drama, humor! I love all of Rebecca Kauffman's books but this is her most commercial, and you should stack 'em high!!!!"

—Emma Fusco-Straub, **Books Are Magic (Brooklyn, NY)**

"It's incredible to me how the story of a single dinner service at a local restaurant can manage to be immensely gripping, entirely fascinating, and quietly touching all at once. Getting to know each worker at the restaurant on the day of a celebrity author visit when everything seems to be going wrong is as fulfilling as a three course meal."

—Tabitha Klein, **The MIT Press Bookstore (Cambridge, MA)**

"Told over the course of a single day, this novel gives vibrant voice to each person on staff via their role in the restaurant. It's a brilliant structure for a story of class, love, art, and ambition. The reader has the best seat in the house—this is one reservation you don't want to miss."

—Laurel Rhame, **Phoenix Books (Essex Junction, VT)**

"Rebecca Kauffman has once again introduced us to a group of interesting people and then unfolded their lives for us at precise moments—when they intersect, when they leave the room, when they realize something about themselves, or, about the other. Set in the restaurant world, if you didn't have extreme empathy for anyone who works in a restaurant, you will now."

—Kira Wizner, **Merritt Bookstore (Millbrook, NY)**

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