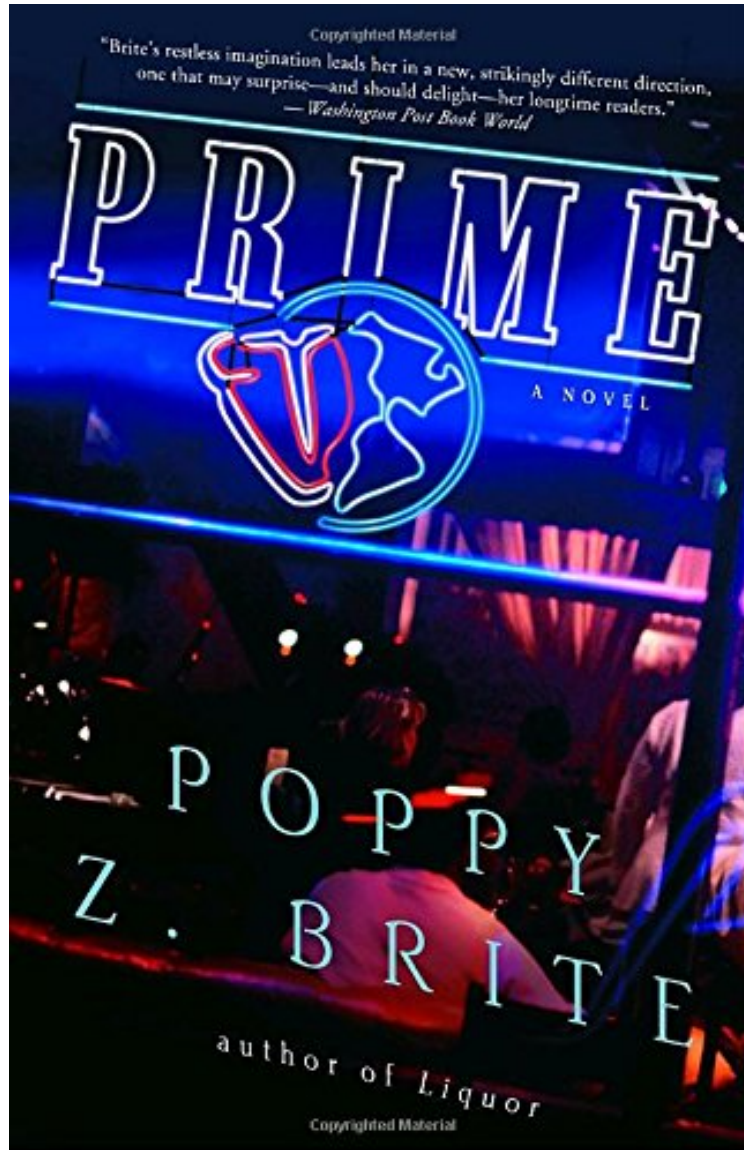


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Prime: A Novel (Rickey and G-Man Series)

Poppy Z. Brite

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Poppy Z. Brite : Prime: A Novel (Rickey and G-Man Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prime: A Novel (Rickey and G-Man Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Pleasant RepastBy Nicolle SuttonI bought "Liquor", the first novel in this series for my husband (a grill cook on the line at an upscale steakhouse here in Los Angeles). He enjoyed it very much so I decided to read it myself, though I did not care at all for "The Value of X". I didn't much care for "Liquor" either but chalked that up to not taking the same delight my husband did in reading about the nuances and

intricacies of working in a restaurant (I have to listen to him wail and moan about his aching feet, burns, and constant hunt for clean side towels almost every night). I also got the sense that the author was using her characters as vehicles to vent some of her own frustrations about the New Orleans restaurant scene, Mardi Gras, clueless tourists, etc. I'm always bothered when authors do this because it takes me out of the story. One thing that always makes me crazy is when an author contrives a scene to explain how non-locals mis-pronounce an indigenous word or colloquialism. Case in point, in "The Value of X" we get to learn how to properly say, "Praline". In "Prime", it's "New Orleans" (not New Orleeeenz or N'awlins). Anyhow, as I'm sure one could glean from my review thus far I didn't have high hopes for "Prime". I bought it for my husband but thanks to a few nights of hellish dinner shifts and after work debauchery, was able to read it before he got his greasy hands on it. About a quarter of the way through there was a scene in which Rickey, one of the main characters has dinner at a rival restaurant and is observed by his partner, G-Man, to have already made up his mind not to like anything and only begrudgingly admits when a dish is successful. Well, that was me. I was mentally prepared not to like this book but ended up enjoying it very much and am happy to admit it. Was it great literature? No. But it was a fun, fast paced and interesting read. Rickey and G-Man seemed to me, much more fleshed out. For the first time I could believe that two such people could really exist in the world and I found myself completely caught up in their story. There were a couple things that bothered me, the aforementioned pronunciation lesson, not being privy to Rickey and G-Man saying good-bye to each other on the occasion of their first parting in over twelve years and the incongruity of a characters writing each other handwritten, snail mail letters in this age of email and cellphones (especially when the same characters went on to use the phone and email later on). All in all though, I liked this book a lot. The characters, the story, the evocative descriptions of New Orleans and Dallas. Despite, the restaurant details, the mystery and the wide assortment of colorful characters, I found "Prime" to be more than anything else, a romance, not so much between Rickey and G-Man, though their steadfast and loving relationship was very sweet. More than that, to me, it was about Rickey and G-Man's love affair with New Orleans, its people, culture and of course, its cuisine. I'm grateful to have had this opportunity to be a part of their world and look forward to the next book in the series. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I recommend the whole Rickey and G-man series. By Customer I love the setting of New Orleans restaurants, but especially the low-key established relationship between Rickey and G-man. So sorry the author isn't writing these days. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. One Not To Miss By Morgan Ferdinand A while ago Poppy Z Brite moved away from goth/horror and on to just damned good storytelling. For this, the only thing to say is THANK YOU. Prime follows Liquor and continues the story of Rickey and G-man. The characters are so real that you'll wish you could be friends with them (or in the case of one or two of them, maybe you'll want punch them in the face). Even minor characters and background people have distinct personalities and "voices" that add layers and depth and make even the smallest, shortest scenes very alive. You may find yourself remembering it later and realise you're unsure if you're remembering something you read, saw on television, or possibly overheard. A word of warning, however. If you're easily influenced, you might find yourself getting hungry reading the descriptions of the foods cooked and served. It was almost enough to make me give up my vegetarian ways.

Two years after the opening of Liquor, New Orleans chefs Rickey and G-man are immersed in the life of their restaurant, enjoying a loyal cast of diners, and cooking great booze-laced food. All's well until a bad review in a local paper not-so-subtly hints that their "silent" backer, celebrity chef Lenny Duveteaux, has ulterior motives. When Lenny is accused of serious criminal activity by eccentric D.A. Placide Treat, Rickey and G-man realize it may be time to end their dependence on him. When Rickey is offered a plum consulting job at a Dallas restaurant, it seems the perfect way to beef up their bank account. But taking the gig will mean a reunion with Cooper Stark, the older chef with whom Rickey shared an unsettling cocaine-fueled encounter back in culinary school, as well as dealing with gung-ho Texas businessman/restaurateur Frank Firestone. At G-man's urging, Rickey finally accepts the offer and revamps Firestone's menu to rave reviews. Home in New Orleans, Rickey has just settled back into his daily kitchen routine when he receives disturbing information that forces his return to Dallas. As Placide Treat's machinations grow ever more bizarre, G-man learns that there's more to the story—and that Rickey is in Texas-size danger.

"A high-end restaurant is - for any competent novelist - a gift that keeps on giving. The heat, the bickerings and intrigue, the pursuit of perfection, the dodgy money keeping it all afloat: the setting spawns plots ... Can the [Liquor] franchise sustain itself? The answer is yes." —New York Times "Brite's restless imagination leads her in a new, strikingly different direction, one that may surprise—and should delight—her longtime readers." —Washington Post Book World "Steeped in spicy dialogue and N'awlins flavor . . . a behind-the-swinging-door peek into the world of chefs." —Entertainment Weekly From the Inside Flap Two years after the opening of Liquor, New Orleans chefs Rickey and G-man are immersed in the life of their restaurant, enjoying a loyal cast of diners, and cooking great booze-laced food. All's well until a bad review in a local paper not-so-subtly hints that their "silent" backer, celebrity chef Lenny Duveteaux, has ulterior motives. When Lenny is accused of serious criminal activity by eccentric D.A. Placide Treat, Rickey and G-man realize it may be time to end their dependence on him. When Rickey is offered a plum

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About the Author Poppy Z. Brite's fiction set in the New Orleans restaurant world includes *Liquor*, *The Value of X*, and stories from her collection *The Devil You Know*. She lives in New Orleans with her husband, Chris, a chef, and is at work on another novel featuring Rickey and G-man.