



The Book of Perilous Dishes

Doina Rusti

From best-selling Romanian author, this fantastical novel mixes elements of magic and folklore to create a dark and playful tale that traverses Europe at the turn of the 18th century.

#fantasyhistoricalfiction #Bucharest #TheOttomanEmpire #Romania
#Magic #Cookery #RecipeBook #Europe #Fantasy #Adventure
#Napoleon #occult

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1798 Bucharest: A magical, dark adventure

A year full of intrigue and political machinations: a slave-chef lives in Bucharest, sought after by everyone. His cooking is sublime, satisfying even the sophisticated tastes of the prince, who appropriates him from his rightful owner and installs him in the Palace. However, no one knows that the chef has in his possession a witch's recipe book: the Book of Perilous Dishes. The recipes in this magical book can bring about damaging earnestness, forgetfulness, the gift of prediction, hysterical laughter...And the rightful owner of this book is 14-year-old Patca, initiated in the occult arts. Patca comes to Bucharest, to her uncle, Cuviosu Zaval, to recover this book, but she finds him murdered and the Book of Perilous Dishes missing without trace. All that Zaval has left her is a strange map she must decipher. Travelling from Romania to France and on to Germany to do so, Patca's family's true past and powers are revealed, as is her connection to Silica the cook...

Author: Doina Rusti is among the most important contemporary Romanian writers and is widely appreciated for the epic force, originality and erudition of her novels. Award winning and translated into many languages, she has written ten novels, including *The Phantom in the Mill* (2008), *The Phanariot Manuscript* (2015), *Lizoanca* (2009), *Zogru* (2006), and *The Book of Perilous Dishes* (2017). Doina lives in Bucharest and is a university professor and screenwriter. <http://doinarusti.ro>

Translator: James Christian Brown, originally from Scotland, has lived in Romania since 1993 and teaches in the English Department of the University of Bucharest. His recent work includes: a volume of philosophical talks *About the World We Live In* by Alexandru Dragomir (2017), and Doina Ruști's novel *The Book of Perilous Dishes* (Neem Tree Press, 2022)



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