

~~FILE @: BOOK REVIEW~~  
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PIANKHI

REVIEWING: OUR LAST MEAL?

BY: ALBERT "RU-AL"

THE VERY FIRST THING ABOUT THIS PRINT BOOK THAT STRUCK ME AS ODD ONCE I OPENED IT UP WAS THE LOW-RESOLUTION TEXT IMAGES. I WAS EXPECTING THE WHITE GLOSSY PAGES WITH SHARP BLACK TEXT AND HIGH-RESOLUTION DIGITAL IMAGES CONSIDERED "THE BAR" STANDARD IN PRINT BOOK PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTION. OBVIOUSLY, MY BOY RU-AL HAD BANGED THIS OUT HIMSELF WITH A MANUAL TYPEWRITER - LIKE THOSE ONLY PRISONERS STILL USE - AND XEROX COPIER, WHICH MADE ME THINK TO MYSELF, "THIS COULD'VE BEEN A ZINE."

IRONICALLY, THE THOUGHT OF THAT DIDN'T IMPRESS ME TOO MUCH AT ALL, AND, NOT EXPECTING MUCH IN FAVOR OF THIS PRISON COOKBOOK AS I HAD BOUN TO READ TENTATIVELY INTO THE FIRST HALF OF ~~IT~~ IT, I UNEXPECTEDLY FOUND MYSELF RE-EVALUATING MY INITIAL RUSH TO DISCREDIT THE CONTENT OF THE BOOK SUPERFICIALLY. THE PAGES BEGAN TO PROVIDE A MATERIAL CONTEXT THAT WAS MORE AUTHENTIC AND THREE-DIMENSIONAL. THERE'RE THOSE FORMS OF WRITTEN WORD / TEXT AND CREATIVITY THAT DON'T TRANSLATE WELL INTO THE PAGES OF A PRINT BOOK. THAT'S WHEN I THOUGHT TO MYSELF AND SAID ALOUD TO MY NEIGHBOR, XZVZST, "AY, THIS COULD'VE BEEN A ZINE!"

MY FAVORITE FEATURE OF THE BOOK ARE THE RECIPE TITLES: "M.J. HELP-A-BROTHER OUT MACKEREL & RICE." WHICH IS FUNNY TO ME SINCE I KNOW M.J., AS WELL AS THE REST OF RECIPE TITLE RECIPIENTS. SOMETHING THAT'D BE LOST ON THE MATURITY "BROTHERS" HOUSED HERE AT SAN QUENTIN DEATH ROW.

FOR THE PRISONER THIS IS A GOOD GUIDE TO EATING, WHETHER YOU'RE WORKING WITH A LITTLE OR A LOT, AND THE LACK OF HEALTHY OPTIONS COMES WITH THE ~~UNDESIRABLE~~ TERRITORY. LAST MEALS ARE A CONDEMNED MAN'S FINAL INDULGENCE.