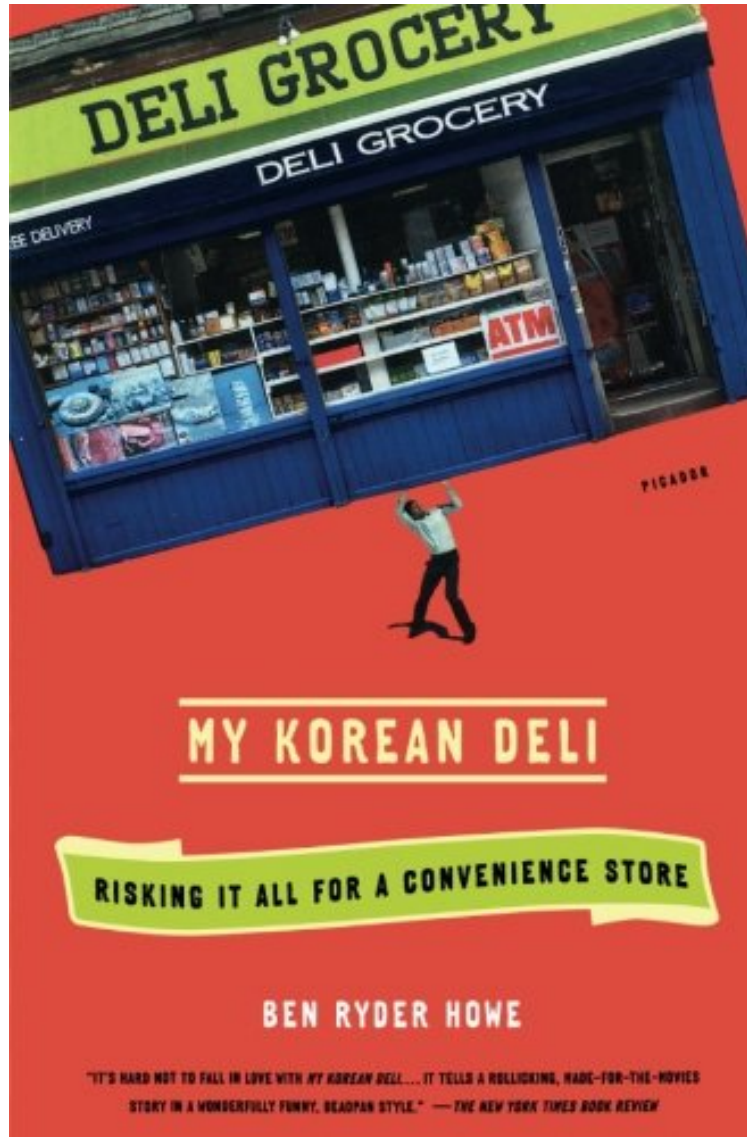


(Mobile pdf) My Korean Deli: Risking It All for a Convenience Store

# My Korean Deli: Risking It All for a Convenience Store

Ben Ryder Howe

ePub | \*DOC | audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#1029713 in Books Ben Ryder Howe 2012-02-28 2012-02-28 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .71 x 5.50l, .61 #File Name: 1250002478304 pages My Korean Deli Risking It All for a Convenience Store | File size: 63.Mb

**Ben Ryder Howe : My Korean Deli: Risking It All for a Convenience Store** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised My Korean Deli: Risking It All for a Convenience Store:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful read. By R. Kyle A wonderful read.... beautifully written and takes me back to my days in Ft. Greene Brooklyn. Brownstone Brooklyn in the eighties was a wonderful melting pot of every kind of minority, even high tone WASPS like the author.... it was a fabulous moment in time in a

wonderful place and this marvelous memoir captures it all. Beautifully written and filled with good stuff about the immigrant experience, cultural clashes, Brooklyn's Boerum Hill as a neighborhood and much more. Done with humor, insight and most of all, love.<sup>2</sup> of 2 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable and eye-opening look at owning a Brooklyn deliBy Suzanne Dobbins"There's even something appealing about cashier work - the enviable hand-eye coordination, the mental stamina, the unflappable cool during a rush. So for the next half hour I attempt to prove to Kay that I can work the register as fast as anyone, resulting in a succession of over-rings, nineteen dollars in change for a grateful customer buying cigarettes, a decaf coffee served light and sweet instead of regular and black, as requested, and a turkey sandwich that never even gets made (the customer eventually walks out, cursing)."I am a firm believer that anyone who has never run a small business should at least read about the trials and tribulations of one, so here's your chance! In *My Korean Deli: Risking It All for a Convenience Store*, magazine editor Ben Ryder Howe delves into the world of delicatessen owner, along with his Korean wife and mother-in-law. At times the deli is the charming neighborhood community center, but more often than not it's just a hodge-podge of strange characters with even stranger happenings. And, as most small business owners discover, Howe learns that the excitement he's granted with this opportunity, isn't necessarily the good kind. Massive debts, long hours, bureaucracy and hooligans, not to mention that fact that it really doesn't make any money at all, lie along the road to self-discovery for both Ben Ryder Howe and his wife. Howe is honest and funny, and I found *My Korean Deli: Risking It All for a Convenience Store* to be an enjoyable and eye-opening look at the life of a Brooklyn deli owner.<sup>1</sup> of 1 people found the following review helpful. The WASP and a Korean deli in New YorkBy The Big FA reality show in a deli. On the plus side, Howe is a professional writer, so it reads well. But it doesn't end well. There are various strands to this story: Howe's unsteady relationship with *The Paris Review*, his relationship with his Korean mother-in-law and his transformation from cosseted editor to frantic deli boy. Howe ties everything together nicely as he tries to juggle his editing job with deli life. It gives good insights into New York characters and life with a Korean mother-in-law. But Howe ends the book in a hurry. The lead in to the deli story is slow and measured. The end looks almost like he just ran out of steam and stopped writing. More detail about getting out of the business and more reflection would have been nice. But it's an interesting read.

This warm and funny tale of an earnest preppy editor finding himself trapped behind the counter of a Brooklyn convenience store is about family, culture, and identity in an age of discombobulation. It starts with a gift, when Ben Ryder Howe's wife, the daughter of Korean immigrants, decides to repay her parents' self-sacrifice by buying them a store. Howe, an editor at the rarefied *Paris Review*, agrees to go along. Things soon become a lot more complicated. After the business struggles, Howe finds himself living in the basement of his in-laws' Staten Island home, commuting to the *Paris Review* offices in George Plimpton's Upper East Side townhouse by day, and heading to Brooklyn at night to slice cold cuts and peddle lottery tickets. *My Korean Deli* follows the store's tumultuous life span, and along the way paints the portrait of an extremely unlikely partnership between characters with shoots across society, from the Brooklyn streets to Seoul to Puritan New England. Owning the deli becomes a transformative experience for everyone involved as they struggle to salvage the original gift?and the family?while sorting out issues of values, work, and identity.

.com Best Books of the Month, March 2011: In this laugh-out-loud funny memoir, Ben Ryder Howe, a burned out editor at the *Paris Review*, spends his days concealing his apathy from his eccentric boss (George Plimpton!), avoiding the short story slush pile, and anticipating the day he will move out of his in-laws' Staten Island basement. When Ben's wife insists they buy a deli for her mother, he is skeptical but somehow energized by the risk involved, envisioning himself behind the counter at a profitable little deli providing bohemian customers with gourmet groceries. Instead, he ricochets from the magazine by day to the struggling deli by night, where his regular customers drink beer in the aisles, his mother-in-law, the "Mike Tyson of Korean grandmothers," squares off with Mr. Tortilla Chip, and his pistol-packing employee, Dwayne, conducts X-rated phone calls with his girlfriends while ringing up customers. Howe's daily interactions with a unique cross-section of humanity and his self-deprecating humor infuse *My Korean Deli* with insight, hopefulness, and addictive entertainment.--Seira WilsonFrom Publishers WeeklyFormer senior editor of the *Paris Review*, Howe recounts his stint as owner and beleaguered worker of a Brooklyn deli in this touching memoir. Howe and his wife, Gab, the daughter of Korean immigrants, decide to buy a deli for her parents as a gesture of goodwill for the sacrifices they have made. His mother-in-law, Kay, whom he describes as the Mike Tyson of Korean grandmothers, is gung-ho from the start, and when a store is finally purchased in the Boerum Hill section of Brooklyn, she immediately takes charge. The work (including manipulating the devilish lottery machine) is more trying than Howe anticipated, not to mention dealing with the eccentric neighborhood characters who complain bitterly about any changes, from coffee prices to shelf rearrangements. Mostly working the night shift, Howe also maintains his position at the magazine. Both establishments are sinking ships: the deli hemorrhages money as bills pile up and revenue falters; the magazine grows more disorganized, and subscribership plummets. Howe ably transforms what could have been a string of amusing vignettes about deli ownership into a humorous but heartfelt look into the complexities of family

dynamics and the search for identity. (Mar.) (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. From Booklist When editor-by-day Howe goes along with his wife's idea to buy and start up a Brooklyn deli as a gift for her Korean-immigrant mother, saying he had no idea what he was getting into would be a vast understatement. He certainly didn't know how hard it would be to find a great deli in their price range, to staff the place, to operate a cash register, or to keep the regular customers happy. Poking fun at everything from his stereotypically WASP upbringing to his "tank" (he said it) of a mother-in-law's hard-headed workaholicism and lacking an ounce of sentimentality, Howe artfully lends the reader a keen interest in his and his family's success. Surmounting calamity upon calamity with the kind of tunnel-vision only family disasters can engender, Howe paddles to keep life afloat at home, the deli, and his "day job" at the Paris. From his former unenviable position at the bottom of a pile of problems, Howe has created a smartly measured and propulsive read. --Annie Bostrom