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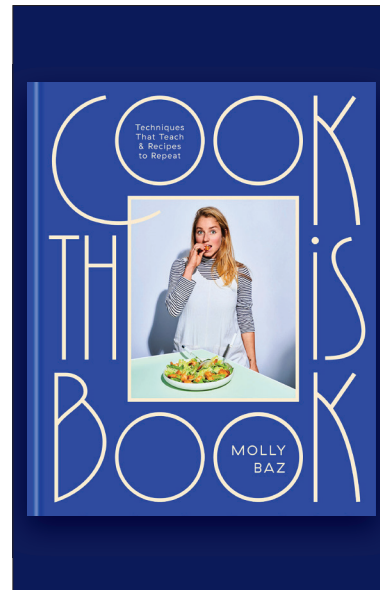
What we're into

'COOK THIS BOOK'

My latest obsession is the recently released cookbook "Cook This Book: Techniques That Teach and Recipes to Repeat" by chef and internet sensation Molly Baz.

The book was released in April 2021 and arrived at my house shortly after. I've been a fan of Baz's recipes for several years and always receive rave reviews from dinner guests who get to eat my attempts at her creations. My favorite dishes I've tried so far from her new book have been the cod tostadas with juicy cucumber salad, salted waju (watermelon juice) granita and the minimalist wedge (a simple but mouthwatering take on the classic wedge salad). If your palette enjoys the flavors of things like green olives, copious amounts of garlic, fresh lemon juice, anchovies, dill, schmaltzy potatoes and other umami, savory things, you will surely love this cookbook.

My other favorite thing I've been into doing with this new



book was started by my younger sister who taste tests everything I make. She suggested I rate each recipe after making it and record that ranking in the book for future reference. To do so I am using gold star stickers and using a ranking system that works like this: 1 star = Not worth making again; 2 stars = Good but won't make very often; 3 stars = Delicious, will make often. So far every recipe I've tried in the book has received three stars.

— CHARLET HOTCHKISS, NEWS
CLERK, EAST OREGONIAN

New releases

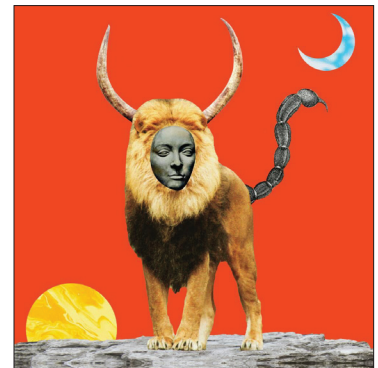
'MANTICORE,'
SHOVELS & ROPE

Fans of Shovels, Rope or both need not be alarmed by "Divide & Conquer," a wrenching breakup song on the new album "Manticore." It's compelling but fictional, and happily, Michael Trent and Cary Ann Hearst are still going strong as husband and wife and as Shovels & Rope.

The new 10-tune set rivals their best work, and the partnership is so self-sufficient the album required little outside input — the duo wrote the songs and played every note themselves, from piano underpinnings to the occasional guitar or harp solo.

When there are words to be sung, Trent and Hearst usually do it together, the bond between them always audible. Their harmonies dance with an appealing informality, as if they're figuring out intervals while they sing.

The unpolished approach fits the material. "I'm singing



The Associated Press

like a toothache," they observe on "Happy Birthday Who," a lament about homelessness. When the couple profess their love for their two children on the affecting ballad "Bleed Me," Hearst's vibrato conveys a maternal quiver.

Elsewhere they're at full throttle, and topics range from a World War I truce and the ghost of James Dean to the visceral plain and cosmic bones.

"Life will make you shiver," the lovely ballad "Anchor" concludes. "It's a long and lonely river."

Find an ampersand to lean on.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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