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## Athens author to sign and dine at one local bookstore

March 11, 2011 by [SARAH SMITH](#)  
Filed under [Books](#), [Featured](#), [Variety](#)

As anyone who has ever tried to make an old-fashioned Southern meal knows, it is a labor of love.

With the time and effort involved, traditional home-cookin' has to be reserved for weekends or holidays.

The March 8 release of Rebecca Lang's "Quick-Fix Southern" changes that.



Jonathan Tonge, owner of Dog Ear Books on Clayton Street, enjoys hosting cookbook events because of the food samples. Photo by Ally White

To celebrate, Dog Ear Books is holding a book-signing party for Lang, an Athens resident. A specialist in Southern food and contributing editor for "Southern Living," Lang is especially qualified to write such a book.

She noticed a lack of cookbooks offering recipes for quick Southern-style meals, so she decided to write her own.

"I now have a 5-year-old and 16-month-old baby," she said. "I wanted honest food, not prepackaged. But it's got to be in 30 minutes or it's just not going to happen."

The book is divided into 10 different sections, such as "Sipping on the Screened Porch" and "Southern Sweets."

"I think the book is very easy for students to approach because you are just as busy as I am," she said.

Though the recipes in the book are quick, the writing process was not.

"From my perspective, it was a massive undertaking and it becomes a part of who you are and your life," Lang said.

It's because of this that Jonathan Tonge, owner of Dog Ear Books and organizer of the event, is holding this book release party.

"She deserves it and she's worked hard," he said. "This is a celebration of the book and the work she put into it."

Lang said she appreciates that the event — one of the first for her book — will be held in Athens, where she and her husband have lived for the last six years.

"It's so gratifying when everyone who loves you or the topic you've written about comes out to celebrate with you," she said. "It's quite a treat to sit down and sign books for people you know and love."

Tonge said he is glad for the chance to celebrate one of Athens' local talents.

"I like doing cookbook events because normally you can get some food out of it," he said. "There's something tactile you can look at and eat. People ask, 'What's this book about?' Well, just eat this."

The release will feature samples of appetizers from Lang's book, and wine and soft drinks will also be served.

"It'll be kind of like any other party you'd go to," she said. "Except you'll be surrounded by books."

What: Book release party for 'Quick-Fix Southern'

When: Tonight at 6

Where: Dog Ear Books

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