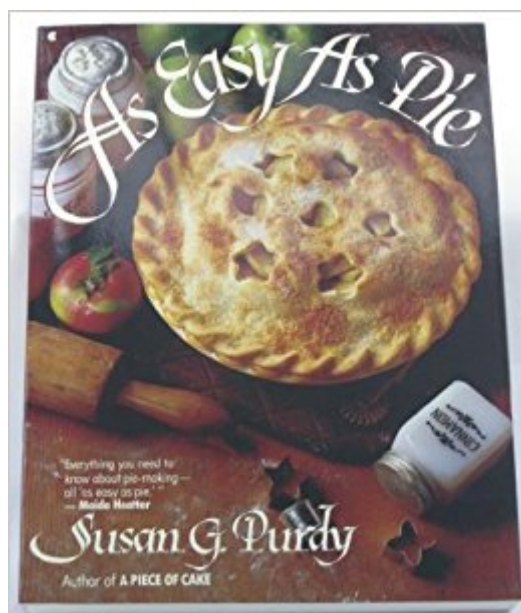


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As Easy As Pie



Synopsis

As Easy As Pie Book 1990

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

`As Easy As Pie' by old school pastry expert Susan G. Purdy is my `go to' book for pie recipes, even after reviewing at least a half dozen very good pastry and dessert books by the likes of Wayne Harley Brachman, Nick Malgieri, Rose Levy Beranbaum, Judith Fertig, Flo Braker, Gayle Ortiz, and the very French Christine Ferber. In fact, I recently went to Wayne Harley Brachman's `American Desserts' for a peach pie recipe and felt just a bit disappointed with the prospects of his recipe. While I think his book is an excellent tutorial on American recipes, I was just a bit apprehensive about his very simple pastry recipe, after having made Ms. Purdy's basic crust for everything from apple pies to tomato tarts to corn pies. I was even a bit apprehensive of Brachman's technique for blanching peaches for peeling, as it called for cutting the fruit in half before blanching. I was really afraid that this would either rob the fruit of some of its juices or make them damper than they naturally were, especially as I was dealing with very ripe fruit, just on that fine edge between ripe and rotten. So, I rush back to my aging copy of this book and use my old favorite for both the crust and the filling. I have tended to discount Ms. Purdy, as she did not seem to have the cachet of writers such as Nick Malgieri or Rose Levy Beranbaum or Flo Braker, who are routinely cited by other authors as their favorite authority on pastry making. It is true that Ms. Purdy may not spend 10 pages discoursing on the nature of flours or another 10 pages on all the different influences on making pastry dough. But in looking back at the front of her book, I see that this material has not been overlooked. I see that since I started using her book years ago, before I started picking

through cookbook texts with a finely toothed comb to review the material, I had gone straight to her superb 'Basic All Purpose Flaky Pastry Recipe' and have been using it successfully ever since. I have even used this as the benchmark against which I judged all other 'pate brisee' recipes. Unfortunately, I never sat down to read this volume as carefully as I would later pastry texts, so I never came to appreciate how good a pie reference this is. And yet, I keep coming back to it for my seasonal apple, pumpkin, mincemeat, and corn pie recipes. Upon doing that, I discover really great discussions of all sorts of pie and pastry crusts, including the ephemeral strudel and puff pastries. And, not only are the diagrams on the techniques better than average, the 'facts and figures' on making variations in the recipes are up to a professional level, without the professional patois of proportions found in books for bakers. The very best things about this book is that it is an excellent source of recipes for all the standard crusts and fillings, with methods for hand, food processor, and stand mixer approaches. The primary warning about this book is that good pie crust making is not that easy. I make pies only once in a while, and often forget the practical lessons from the last time I make a standard butter pie crust, which depends a lot on ambient temperature, humidity, and flour properties. Thus, in spite of reading all the experts, my Susan Purdy crust for my most recent pie, made on the very latest Silpat silicone pastry mat, was less than ideal, as I probably added too much water or started working it when the dough got too warm out of the fridge. I also suspect Ms. Purdy's basic pie crust recipe may have too many options and that one should really work on making a successful crust with nothing more than flour, water, and fats. Adding the egg and the vinegar or lemon gives one the sense that you have insurance against the failings of poor technique. They are added to cut down on gluten formation and do nothing for the perils of too much moisture or too much heat when manipulating the dough. All in all, as I have been using this book successfully for years, I highly recommend it for anyone who wishes to occasionally bake an apple pie or other holiday favorite.

I was looking for a nice Susan Purdy book to give as a holiday present and decided I had to write a review for this one. I was a pie-making novice when I was given "As Easy As Pie." Not only did Purdy's detailed instructions and careful descriptions help me overcome my crust-anxiety, between experience and her many alternative filling suggestions, I eventually grew confident enough to invent my own pies. From simple to elaborate, sweet to savory, she covers just about all there is, plus a few things you might not think of. Even after all these years, I still haven't tried and learned everything this book has to offer. While I'm sure her more recent books are just as full of detail, helpful hints and delicious recipes, I really have to say, if you're looking for a pie book you'll use the

rest of your life, go find yourself a copy of this "As Easy As Pie." Sure, it might be easier to buy a new book, but this one's worth the effort.

I love this book so much! It has all of the core recipes and all sorts of unusual items. It is great for browsing to brainstorm or just for making the recipe as directed. It's a perfect "manual" for beginning bakers or for more experienced bakers like me. She also has a cake book that I like a lot.

I am a chef specializing in low-fat, gourmet cuisine, and I love this book! The recipes are so yummy and so low fat. My clients can't get enough of these recipes and fortunately, I don't have to give away my secret source--so my phone keeps ringing.

I really love this book. When I first got it, it didn't have the appeal of other, newer, more fun pie and pastry books. But I've tried recipes from many of them, and this is the one that doesn't let me down. It's not a light, fun read. It's a little more like a dry text book. But it is filled with useful information and great, reliable recipes.

I This book is very well organized and I found it easy to get into. Like the way it is organized and considering all the recipes, I didn't feel overwhelmed. Especially interested in the meat pies--good introduction to British and Irish meat style pies.

This is the ultimate pie book. It has everything from pies to puff pastries and so much more in between. If you can obtain this book, do so. Purdy TEACHES you how to make the best pie crust, the best filling and more. (Something these new books are lacking). It is filled with a ton of info. which might turn some people off, but I love to learn. Since I am no cook or pastry chef, I love books that teach me what to do and tell me what is taken place in the process. I'm such a nerd :) ... I have her original cake book and am totally happy with it. I have made some very good and more importantly, edible, cakes from it, while learning. Susan G. Purdy takes you on a wonderful journey from scratch to wonderfully edible desserts. Enjoy!

I'm on my second copy for myself (first fell apart from over-use) and I had this copy sent to my niece (a trained baker). She loves it. I especially love the section on continental fruit tarts and galettes.

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