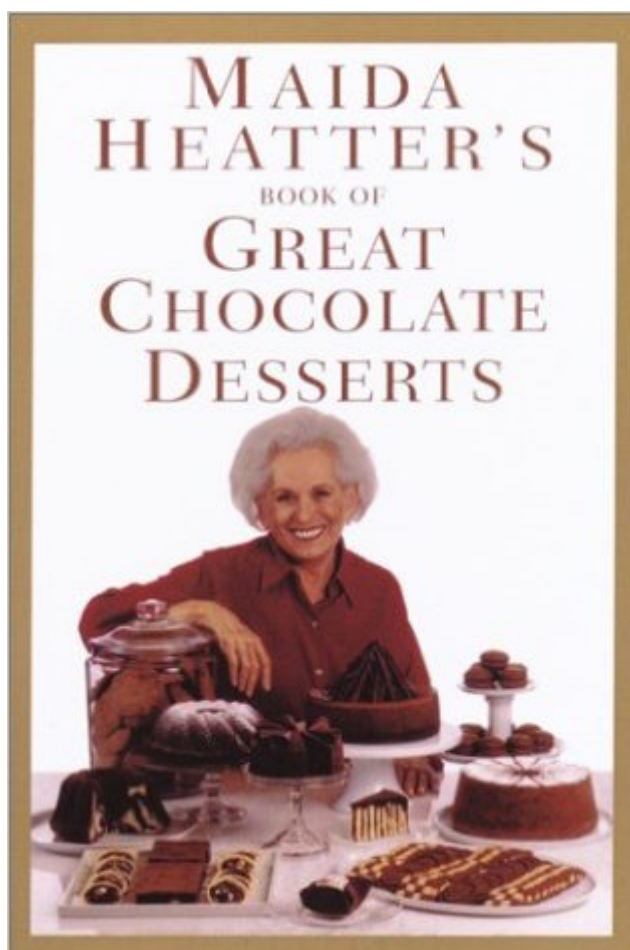


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Maida Heatter's Book Of Great Chocolate Desserts



Synopsis

Chocoholics rejoice! Heatter's perennial favorite has everything for the chocolate-loving cook--cakes, cookies, pies, puddings and more. Each recipe is precisely detailed, and Heatter provides valuable advice on cooking techniques, ingredients and equipment.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've had this book for 20 years and made nearly everything in it. The only recipe which I think must have a mistake in it is the "pepper" brownies. I've never been able to make them come out, and I've varied the cooking times, the temperature, the ingredients etc. Ok, my favorite is the "French Chocolate Mint Truffles." You can vary this one to your heart's content. First, you can roll the results in "dipping chocolate" get a bar of high quality chocolate heat on a double boiler and use a fork to dip the cured truffle, place on wax paper to cool. Second, you can use almost any flavoring, almond, coconut, orange, lemon, peppermint, etc. Third, you can use milk chocolate, if the mix starts to thin when you heat it, add a tablespoon of powdered sugar. Fourth you can use white chocolate although this is tricky and requires a lot of powdered sugar to get it to "set" like a 3 to 5 tablespoons of powdered sugar. (With the coconut ones I mix in a 1/4 cup of grated coconut.) Ok, then the basic brownies, ooooh you'll never buy a box mix again. Then the flourless cakes, so rich, its incredible. On to the "Pots of Cream" Yum, you'll have people begging for more. The trick here is to use a pan to hold the pots in, put the pan with the pots in it in the oven, then add "boiling water" and cook for exactly 22 minutes. The centers will be smooth and look runny but they'll finish cooking as they cool. Also be very careful getting them out of the oven, hot water will go right through your oven mitts. I

use a canning jar lifter to get the pots of cream out of the pan. But in any case please be careful the burn you could get is bad. I could go on and on, but if you can follow directions they all seem to come out fine.

I must disagree with the review posted by Jerry I.H. in Aug 2004. All of the sins of omission that he mentions are covered in great detail in the ingredients chapter. For example, there is one page on sifting and measuring flour, a paragraph on egg size as it applies to the way Heather writes recipes, and a page on beating egg whites. Ms Heather is known as one of the "Three Fussbudgets" at my house (Rose Levy Berenbaum & Lynn Rosetto Kasper being the other two) because her instructions are sometimes detailed to the point of being fussy. Her directions yield beautiful results however, and provide techniques that can be used in other recipes to good effect. (Her pan-lining trick for bar cookies comes to mind.) The Palm Beach Brownies have become the only brownie I bake now as they are so wonderful. Her detailed instructions yield a reliably, decadently fudgy brownie, with a marvelous espresso kick. I would buy this book if only for this recipe. (Incidentally, versions of this recipe are available on the internet, but they modify the ingredients and skip significant portions of the instructions such that I cannot believe a comparable brownie would result.)

I've baked quite a few of the cookies and cakes from this book and they've always turned out great! The directions are always clear and Maida introduces each recipe with some background information, telling the story of how she came upon the recipe, what the finished product looks like, serving and storing suggestions, etc. These descriptions help when trying to decide which chocolate dessert to make when choosing from such a wealth of choices. I love the orange chocolate loaf cake and since Maida says the recipe can easily be doubled I always do. This cake goes quickly and it pays to have a spare! A friend of mine gave one of these recipes to her caterer for her wedding cake -- people are still talking about that incredible cake!

I have yet to fail at reproducing a Maida Heather recipe. She brought me from being a non-baker to a supremely confident baker. This book, as are all of her books, is a must-have for the beginner.

Maida Heather has written an excellent book on chocolate desserts. I made the chocolate buttermilk cake for coworkers, and two people told me it was the best chocolate cake they had ever tasted. That's worth the cost of the book alone! I can't wait to try more of her chocolate dessert recipes.

The greatest virtue of Heatter's cookbooks is that the recipes work flawlessly if the directions are followed. This is a great beginner's book. Although the long descriptions may intimidate beginners, the detail informs and encourages.

I've come to this page because my copy of "Great Chocolate Desserts" is falling apart from so much use & I need to replace it. I use it so much because I trust it completely. Every cookbook should be written like this one. Before each recipe Heatter describes the end product. Her instructions are incredibly thorough & easy to follow. She even gives advice on which brands of chocolate work best. And the results are terrific. I've earned the reputation of being a superb dessert-maker only because I rely so heavily on this book!

How do you rate a cookbook that you use almost everytime you have company? This book has some of the best, most foolproof chocolate dessert recipes that I know. Heatter's brownies are outstanding as are many of her cookie recipes. Chocolate Souffle Alice is the chocolate souffle against which we compare all others! We have found a few blah recipes (chocolate oatmeal cookies didn't seem to make it with my family) but the many wonderful ones outweigh the few disappointing ones. Try the Mexican icebox cookies alone make this book worth the price!

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