

HOTTEST BOOKS FOR SPRING

Liesl Schillinger, book critic for The New York Times, told of upcoming must-reads on *The Early Show* on Friday, April 17, 2009:

The big literary trend this spring: women's memoirs about cooking. The best thing about these books: not only are they wonderful reads -- they also feature the authors' favorite recipes throughout!

Schillinger discussed her top four, then paid homage to the book that really spawned this genre, "Julie and Julia: My Year of Cooking Dangerously by Julie Powell." Set for release in August of 2009: a movie based on the book starring Amy Adams as the author, Julie Powell, and Meryl Streep as the author's inspiration, Julia Child.

Schillinger's top four:

"I Loved, I Lost, I Made Spaghetti," by Giulia Melucci

So many women will relate to this. Giulia Melucci, a lovely New York woman who's 42 and still single, spent two decades cooking for boyfriends. When she realized a couple years ago that the men were gone, but the recipes remained, she wrote this book. I saw a video -- her meatballs in sauce look fantastic.

To read an excerpt, go here:

http://www.amazon.com/I-Loved-Lost-Made-Spaghetti/dp/0446534420/ref=pd_bbs_sr_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1239952338&sr=8-1#reader

"The Pleasure Is All Mine: Selfish Food for Modern Life," by Suzanne Pirret

Suzanne Pirret doesn't care if the way to a man's heart is through his stomach or not. She cares about the way to her own taste buds! She gives 100 decadent meals you can cook for ONE -- folded in with anecdotes from her life in New York, L.A., Paris and London.

To read an excerpt, go here:

<http://browseinside.harpercollins.com/index.aspx?isbn13=9780061687129>

"Spiced: A Pastry Chef's True Stories of Trials by Fire, After-Hours Exploits, and What Really Goes On in the Kitchen," by Dalia Jurgensen

It sounds so romantic -- being a pastry chef at a fancy place like Nobu. But Dalia Jurgensen shows that romance in the work kitchen can leave you scorched. Her souffles are brilliant, but her love affair with her boss collapses. This book is really more of a salty memoir -- a "kitchen tell"? -- it doesn't have recipes.

But another book, "**Under the Table: Saucy Tales from Culinary School," by Katherine Darling**, is packed with recipes for Flourless Chocolate Cake, and "Perfect Chicken" -- things you can make for your family. Despite the spicy title, this book is on the sweet side -- it's about a good girl who graduated first in her culinary class -- then got married, skipped the restaurant step, and took her gourmet skills straight to her own kitchen and husband and kids.

To see Jurgensen's blog, go here:

<http://www.myspicedlife.com/>

To read an excerpt of the Darling book, go here:

<http://books.simonandschuster.com/Under-the-Table/Katherine-Darling/9781416565277/excerpt>
"Under the Table" is published by Simon and Schuster, which is owned by the **CBS Corporation**,
as is **CBSNews.com**.