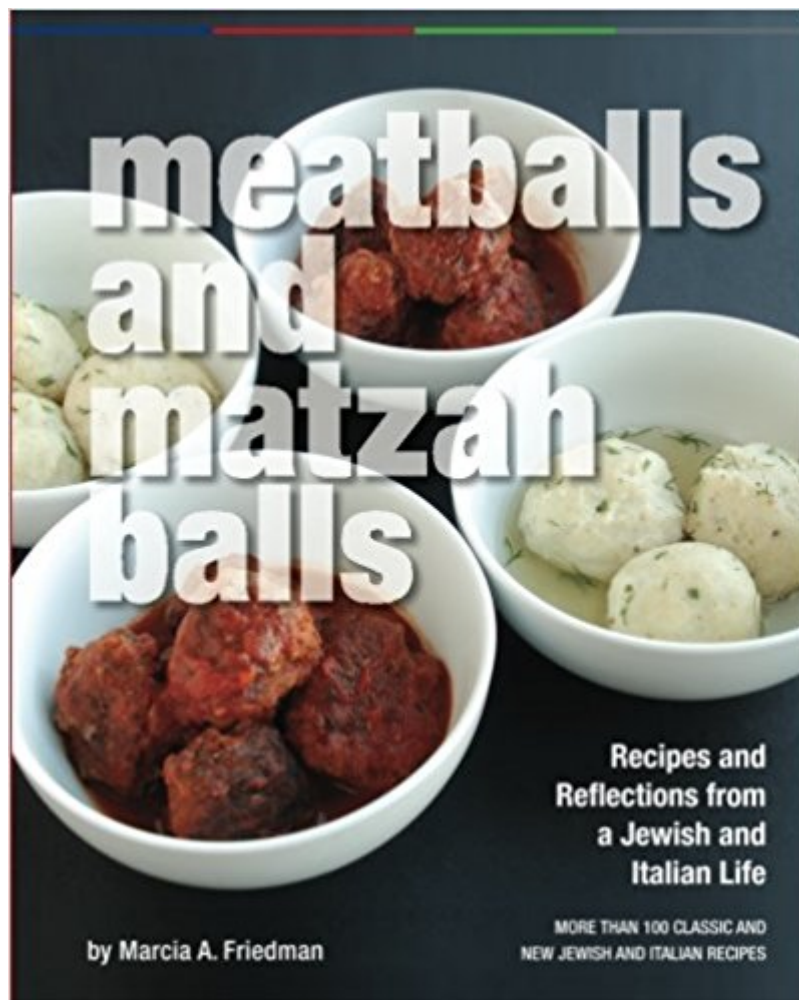




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Meatballs And Matzah Balls: Recipes And Reflections From A Jewish And Italian Life



Synopsis

Meatballs and Matzah Balls shares Marcia Friedman's journey to unite her Italian and Jewish heritages through food after she converted to Judaism. In the book, she recreates and refines classics like latkes and lasagna, reinterprets and modernizes others, like balsamic onion polenta and almond Mandelbrot biscotti with white chocolate, and reinvents and melds still others to craft her own mouthwatering Jewish-Italian cuisine. You won't miss her original meatball (meat-stuffed) matzah balls. The book will charm you with warm, personal stories and more than 100 classic and creative winning recipes for holidays and everyday. Meatballs and Matzah Balls makes a great gift for anyone who loves food and stories and especially people new to Judaism or those looking for inspirational ways to blend cultures and traditions in their own lives. All recipes can be made kosher. Meatballs and Matzah Balls was named a two-time Finalist in the 2014 Indie Book Awards. "Italian by birth and Jewish by choice, Marcia has amassed a delectable feast filled with nostalgic reflections from both traditions." —Judy Bart Kancigor, author of *Cooking Jewish*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Marcia Friedman is a writer, photographer, home cook, and recipe developer, plus a 2014 Indie Book Award finalist. She's savored delving into both Jewish and Italian culinary traditions and finding creative ways to combine them. She's been featured in *Tablet*, *The Washington Post*, *The Jewish Daily Forward*, *American Food Roots*, *Washington Jewish Week*, *The Orange County Register* and *The Kojo Nnamdi Show*. Marcia continues writing about the

intersection of Jewish and Italian food and life at www.meatballsandmatzahballs.com.

This is the first cookbook that I have read from front to back. I first read each story for every section. Then I started to read the recipes. I love this cookbook as it is easy to use. The recipes are easy but delicious. The flavors are outstanding and I get amazing comments on my cooking. I changed some of my long standing recipes to the ones in this book. I plan to keep trying more recipes out of Meatballs and Matzah Balls. This is my go-to gift when visiting friends.

I really enjoyed this book. The stories are touching, the recipes are delicious, and the photographs are beautiful. After my friend saw my copy, I gave her one as a birthday present, then she bought one for one of her friends! I hope more people check this book out. You can tell there was a lot of love put into it.

It's a good try by Ms Friedman, but no more than a gimmick when we have such GREAT and authentic Italian-Jewish cookbooks as Edda Servi's Macklin's (Ms Macklin is a Jewish cook born and raised in Italy).

"Meatballs & Matzah Balls" is more than a collection of great recipes (too many excellent choices to single out any one...well, maybe the Peach Sangria deserves a quick mention!). Marcia also provides a fascinating narrative of two cultural cuisines merging together, quite happily and successfully, with a tone that is at once warm and inviting. An added benefit to learning about and making her food is how one's thoughts turn naturally to fond memories of one's own family foods and traditions, and realizing how much they matter.

I love this book! If you're looking for a cookbook that helps you easily impress your guests (and your family)...this is the one. With each course, the author uses the freshest ingredients and blends two delicious cultures integrating traditional Italian and Jewish influences to take you on a journey of wonderful dishes and memories that surprise and delight. The recipes are inventive, yet easy to follow, helping the most amateur cook appear adventurous and gourmet. Imagine serving Gnocchi at Seder, Risotto with Feta, Matzoh-rella Pizza, and the most luscious Latkes you'll ever taste. Two of my favorites have to be the Lemon-Ricotta Pancakes with Limoncello Cream and the Bittersweet Chocolate Torta both to die for yet simple. I'm thrilled to have this wonderful

little book in my library as it brings back fond memories after growing up in a similar warm, loving, Italian family that cherished tradition and lived for long, lingering meals with good friends and great food.

The recipes are great but what really makes them special are the personal stories the author has included in each section. She has so many interesting experiences and reflections on what it means to grow up Italian and then discover the Jewish heritage later in life. I bought this book for several friends who converted to Judaism when they got married and also for one couple that has a great Italian-Jewish marriage like Marcia and her husband. They have already made several of the recipes and called to say how much they liked them. I'll probably get more of these books for friends next year at Passover or at the end of the year for the holidays.

This is a wonderful cookbook with delicious recipes that are easy to follow. You can tell that this cookbook was a labor of love. The recipes come alive with the beautiful photography and the personal stories throughout the cookbook make it very special and unique. I highly recommend Meatballs and Matzah Balls and it would make a wonderful gift as well. Thank you Marcia!

I usually find cookbooks pretty boring reading that just results in me stuffing my face (or only looking at the pictures). I loved the inclusion of essays about the author's life, though of course each one left me with more questions and wanting to have a long chat with the author about her incredible journey. Even better, each recipe starts with a short note about the recipe, whether its history, its relevance to the author, or some helpful tips. And let's not forget the photos. I wasn't so crazy about the cover of the book (for some reason, I wish there were only two bowls instead of four...maybe it's the OCD?), but the photos inside are fantastic and mouth-watering. I subjected the rest of my family to a new picture every few minutes while I was reading! I think they were a little glad when I finished it. There are helpful tips throughout, which made me feel I could trust the author to not lead me astray with hard-to-follow recipes, no matter how complicated they look. Granted, most were not complicated sounding, but I'm a little gunshy when it comes to cookbooks. Which brings me to an important point: I would classify this as an Intermediate Level cookbook. If you don't know what a Dutch oven is or how to use one, I would recommend having Google/YouTube nearby and prepare to Phone a Friend, if not having the friend help out in person. In my life, that means calling my dad a couple of times per recipe when I try something new. Personally, I wouldn't attempt most of these recipes without some Lifelines the first time I made them. My longer review is available [here](#):

<http://crazyjewishconvert.blogspot.com/2015/01/book-review-meatballs-and-matzah-balls.html>. The author sent me a free book in the hopes that I would write an honest review, and lucky for her, her book is awesome!

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