



## **Ten Dollar Dinners: 140 Recipes and Tips for Delicious, Budget-Friendly Meals the Whole Family Can Enjoy**

*Melissa d'Arabian , Raquel Pelzel*

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Melissa d'Arabian, host of Food Network's "Ten Dollar Dinners" and season 5 winner of "The Next Food Network Star," makes good on the \$10 promise of dinner for four in her eagerly awaited debut cookbook. For home cooks who care about what they feed their families and want to stretch their dollars, Melissa is the best guide for putting delicious meals on the table.

With four young girls ages six and under, and a hit show on Food Network, Melissa d'Arabian focuses on savvy budgeting, efficient shopping, and full-flavored cooking. "Ten Dollar Dinners" has 140 recipes and more than 100 creative, practical tips on great money-savers ("Clear-Your-Pantry Week"); inventive takes on old standby dinners (try her Moroccan Meatloaf); and how to get ingredients to last longer (keep your green onions in a glass of water and they will regrow several times over). And with a coding system to help you create your own \$10 menu, "Ten Dollar Dinners" celebrates spending with purpose, cooking with love, minimizing time spent in front of the stove, and savoring your homemade meal.

Melissa is a pro at creating satisfying meals that adults and kids alike will enjoy, using everyday ingredients and transforming them into delicious dinners. Her Potato-Bacon Torte (which, at 50 cents a serving, was one of her winning recipes on "The Next Food Network Star") shows how basic and inexpensive supermarket ingredients can be turned into an amazingly satisfying dish. Her Roasted Vegetable Tian is a great way to take advantage of deals in the produce aisle. The Four-Step Chicken Piccata offers a plan for getting food on the table in just minutes, using almost anything in the pantry.

Anyone can use this book--especially those who want to save money--and feel great about cooking sensibly for elevated, simple meals that are healthy family-pleasers.

## **Ten Dollar Dinners: 140 Recipes and Tips for Delicious, Budget-Friendly Meals the Whole Family Can Enjoy Details**

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## From Reader Review Ten Dollar Dinners: 140 Recipes and Tips for Delicious, Budget-Friendly Meals the Whole Family Can Enjoy for online ebook

### Jennifer Rayment says

#### The Good Stuff

Good variety of recipes for every taste

Simple easy to follow instructions

Ingredients are easily available in any grocery store

Once you have ingredients in house, recipes are inexpensive to make

Great tips and tricks for stretching your food budget

Excellent pantry list - items that you should always have in your pantry in order to easily put together  
affordable, delicious meals

Lots of pictures (Not one on every page though, which would have made my wife even happier - the women  
cannot make a recipe unless she sees a picture of it)

Recipe Cost index is interesting (see note in not so good stuff below)

My kids will probably eat some of the recipes, the picky little heathens

Well organized and easy to look through -- all the pictures make the recipe look extremely appetizing

Wife thinks the index is good (she is making me put this in the review -- don't tell her but yes a good index is  
important in a cookbook)

#### The Not So Good Stuff

Recipe Cost Index took a few seconds to figure out - would have been nice to have it listed more obvious  
meat terminology is American -- than again not really a bad thing, just a pain in the ass when you go to the  
store looking for the item and it's called something else

Not sure you can really say they are 10 dollar dinners as food here in Alberta is really expensive

#### Favorite Recipes

Moroccan Meatloaf (DELISH & easy to make)

Zucchini Carpaccio

Sole Napoleon with Tomato-Caper Crudo

Four-step Chicken Piccata

Bruleed Mandarin Oranges and Sabayon

Black Bean Brownies (For the love of god don't tell the kids there were beans in this recipe - they loved  
them)

#### Who Should/Shouldn't Use

This cookbook is perfectly suited for the beginner to intermediate cook -- nothing fancy for the more  
experienced cook

A great cookbook for those on a budget (and that we are since we are now a one income family)

Highly recommended for inclusion into the inventory of a public library (yes that one is from the wife)

4.5 Dewey's

I received this from Random House in Exchange for an Honest Review

## **A.j. says**

Nice idea. Some of the recipes are to "fancy" for my tastes

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## **Kristin says**

This is a great cookbook! I made several recipes and they were delicious. I am excited to try several more.

My Rating: Great! If you are into cookbooks like I am.

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## **Kasey says**

I've flipped through this book twice now. My thought was maybe I was just in a snit the first time and wasn't giving it a fair shake. But here I am post second thumbing and I still just don't have a warm and fuzzy vibe. The pictures are great, although I think they should have edited the one where she looks like her eyes are closed. There definitely are a number of recipes and they cover all the categories I expected. I think though for me it came down to reality.

I haven't studied abroad.

I've never been to France.

And while many of the meals are probably really good, I'm just not this kind of cook. I don't buy my beans dry & cook them myself, then store them frozen because it's cheaper than buying them canned, or heaven forbid put them in things like brownies and smoothies. I just can't see myself living this kind of kitchen/cooking life.

I'm sure her cooking is super duper healthy too. Did I mention those smoothies have spinach in them too? But I'll stick with what works for me and just hit the club a couple extra times.

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## **Crown Publishing says**

Melissa d'Arabian, host of Food Network's Ten Dollar Dinners and season 5 winner of The Next Food Network Star, makes good on the \$10 promise of dinner for four in her eagerly awaited debut cookbook. For home cooks who care about what they feed their families and want to stretch their dollars, Melissa is the best guide for putting delicious meals on the table.

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ingredients can be turned into an amazingly satisfying dish. Her Roasted Vegetable Tian is a great way to take advantage of deals in the produce aisle. The Four-Step Chicken Piccata offers a plan for getting food on the table in just minutes, using almost anything in the pantry.

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## **Samantha Penrose says**

Page 81 Slow Cooker Tortilla Soup  
Page 101 Chopped Salad with Chicken, Salami, and Mozzarella  
Page 110 Grilled Romaine Salad over Grilled Garlic-Rosemary Bread  
Page 141 Crispy Chicken a l'Orange  
Page 161 Chicken Meatballs  
Page 166 Spinach and Cheese-Stuffed Chicken with Lemon Butter  
Page 174 Pork Loin Milanese  
Page 182 Succulent Pot Roast-style Pork Shoulder  
Page 221 Steamed Broccoli with Garlic Aioli  
Page 302 Chocolate Pain Perdu  
Page 304 Double Chocolate Pound Cake  
Page 306 Muriel's Yogurt Cake with Chocolate Chips  
Page 328 Croque Madames

Also, Pork Tamale Pie suggestion, page 181

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## **Rachel P says**

I won a free copy of Melissa d'Arabian's "Ten Dollar Dinners" as a first-reads giveaway.

I'm glad I won this giveaway as this cookbook is filled with a lot of good recipes, ideas, and advice. I really like the variety of foods presented and the budget-friendly tips. I already made the "Sweet Zucchini Saute" and it came out fantastic! (Although I used 2 tablespoons of olive oil instead of 3 and 2 was plenty, 3 would've been way too much.) And I plan on making "Crispy Chicken a l'Orange" next week.

That said I was a little disappointed with the lack of vegetarian recipes. At least half were sides and one of them was a "recipe" for broccoli and parmesan cheese. Seriously? Also, the layout of some of pages was confusing where the list of ingredients and directions would unexpectedly continue on the next page. And I'm not sure that all of these meals can be accomplished for \$10 or less. I thought the whole dinner was supposed to be \$10 but most of the recipes are not complete meals (i.e. a chicken dish or a salad, etc.). Maybe most of them fit the budget but some of the main dishes with really long lists of ingredients I'm not sure how it can be done. Perhaps the author measures the cost of the recipe by the amount of ingredients used i.e. ½ cup of dry white wine only costs a certain percentage of the bottle which can cost over \$10 by itself.

Overall, this is a very comprehensive and easy to read cookbook. There's a good mix of foods and types of meals and there are definitely a few recipes I want try.

## J. Dorner says

While cooking is outside my comfort zone (especially the indoor kind), I enjoyed this book. There's more than just recipes, there are stories and tips. This made it fun to read. I'm planning to try the *spinach and cheese stuffed chicken with lemon butter* first.

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## Tima says

Melissa became known when she won season 5 of The Next Food Network Star. But she's been making simple, inexpensive meals for her family for years. In fact, her homemade yogurt recipe is probably what landed her a spot on the show. Her cookbook simplifies cooking and gives a price range for each recipe so the cook can plan a meal that is fresh and under ten dollars. The book is filled with helpful cooking tips and glimpses into the d'Arabian family.

I am a very simple cook. If the recipe has tons of ingredients or instructions I pass. My family has some really picky eaters so I was surprised to have quite a few recipes earmarked to try. I look forward to testing them out. Most of the recipes in this book are simple and easy to make. This is a book for the simple cook, the family on a budget, and the mom wanting to prepare fresh food for her family.

I received this book free of charge from Goodreads in exchange for my honest review.

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## Natashya KitchenPuppies says

Melissa d'Arabian shows you how to make the most of your family food budget and deliver healthy and delicious recipe without breaking the bank.

While I think the actual cost of the food might vary from region to region, the book is filled with great cost-cutting ideas.

See my full review here - <http://livinginthekitchenwithpuppies....>

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## Michelle says

I loved watching Melissa d'Arabian's cooking show on food network so wanted to check out her cookbook as well. There were some really good and budget friendly recipes included that we really enjoyed and will make again!

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## Diane Hall says

**"I want my recipes to be clever examples of a bigger story, a celebration of resource responsibility and spending with purpose." -Melissa d'Arabian, from her introduction.**

This is one of the better cookbooks I've read this year because of it's great ideas and it's practicality.

Reasons I love this cookbook:

- So many great recipes and ideas
- Easy, very approachable recipe layout
- Offers many picture examples of recipes
- This will expand my palate. There are several recipes that look awesome and are things I don't normally cook at home but she makes it look so do-able.
- Almost every single recipe was tagged as something I wanted to make.

Recipes that stood out to me:

- Toasted Baguette with Garlic Confit (I mean, that sounds soooooo yummy).
- Tuna Panzanella Salad (made this several times for lunches at work: so so delish.)
- Salmon Cakes (saw this on her show and bought the salmon; I have yet to actually make it... this is a palate expander.)
- Chicken meatballs (we eat a lot of chicken and this is definitely a different take with a small amount of meat [2 chicken breasts!] a definite must-try.)
- Creamiest Slow Cooker Polenta
- White Beans with Cumin, Oregano, and Garlic
- Cardamom Caramel sauce (anything with cardamom screams "devour me")

A lot of these recipes are available online so if there were only a handful of recipes I liked, I would just print them off and add it to a folder... but I love all these recipes. It's a great cookbook to have on hand.

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## Desirae says

2.5 Stars

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## Lisa says

Great economical meal ideas. Did I make anything from the cookbook? Nah. But then, I usually don't.

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## Ivonne Rovira says

Melissa d'Arabian provides exactly what you want: Paris, France, dishes at a Paris, Texas, price. D'Arabian promises that she'll provide entire *dinners* that won't leave you feeling deprived for \$10 or less, and she delivers handsomely.

You'd never think that recipes like Cod in Garlic-Ginger Broth with Shitake Mushrooms, French-Cut Steak with Caramelized Onions, Pot Roast Carbonade, Shrimp Pad Thai, Everyday Roast Beef, Crispy Chicken a l'Orange, Shrimp Scampi Linguine or Simple Sirloin Steak with Shallot Butter could be budget items, would you? But d'Arabian's recipes cut costs without cutting enjoyment. D'Arabian, winner of Season 5 of Food Network Stars, lived in France and is married to a Frenchman. The mother of four beautiful girls, d'Arabian had already learned to pinch pennies from her own mother, a single mom. But d'Arabian never compromised on flavor or satisfaction. And thanks to her book, *Ten Dollar Dinners: 140 Recipes & Tips to Elevate Simple*,

*Fresh Meals Any Night of the Week*, neither do you.

The cookbook doesn't just include recipes. D'Arabian also instructs the novice on how to build a pantry on the cheap, how to stretch meats, how to secure great grocery-store bargains, and more. I only wish I could give this book six stars!

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