



Cooking with Love: Comfort Food that Hugs You

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Carla Hall, co-host on ABC's "The Chew" and Bravo's "Top Chef All-Stars" "Fan Favorite," serves up her first cookbook, with 125 fantastic recipes that revolutionize comfort food by using ingredients that bring all-time favorites to a new level of deliciousness and taste sensation. Carla Hall originally won fans' hearts on season five of Bravo's "Top Chef" with her warmth, enthusiasm, and delicious food, and she went on to beat out contestants from all seven seasons to be named Fan Favorite of the 2011 All-Stars season. In 2011, Carla began hosting ABC's "The Chew" and is now a familiar face to daytime television viewers across the country.

Carla's specialty in the kitchen is enhancing great tastes while keeping preparation easy and getting reliable, accurate results. Carla believes that the only way to make transformative food is to cook it from the heart and in the spirit of joy and fun that she brings to the kitchen. "Cooking with Love" tells how, with tempting and inspiring recipes for all sorts of sumptuous dishes that "show the love." Carla also teaches and shares culinary basics while providing fun tips and funny and poignant tales of her personal experiences cooking with family, friends, and fellow chefs.

From appetizers that include a fresh take on Down-Home Deviled Eggs with Smoky Bacon to gorgeous Spicy Carrot Ginger Soup to Carla's famously succulent Chicken Pot Pie to mouth-watering desserts like her Granny's unforgettably luscious, buttery Five-Flavor Pound Cake, Carla's beautiful, delicious recipes revolutionize comfort food.

Comfort food never tasted so good

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From Reader Review Cooking with Love: Comfort Food that Hugs You for online ebook

Lisa says

I have been watching Carla on the Food Network baking challenge for Halloween and she was great. The few times that I watched the Chew, she annoyed the crap out of me. So when I was in BAM, and saw that it was on sale I bought it. Flipping through it I thought YUMM! In actually going through the book I cannot wait to get started with making the recipes from it. The flavors seem interesting, the food looks delicious. I am very EXCITED.

Tammy says

I loved this book. I bought it when I went to meet Carla, who was doing a signing at our local bakery. She is exactly the person she appears to be on "The Chew" and on "Top Chef." I enjoyed the stories in her book; they served as a perfect complement to the recipes. The recipes typically do not require specialized equipment nor do they call for items uncommonly found in grocery stores, and yet they are still sophisticated. My husband and I avoid dairy in our diets, so I appreciate the number of recipes that work with that choice, as well.

Suzze Tiernan says

I love Carla Hall! This cookbook has a lot of nice recipes, sophisticated but not fussy. I can't wait to try Granny's 5-Flavor Pound Cake. Interspersed among the recipes are lots of Carla's stories. Such fun! This doesn't come out until November 6, 2012, so mark your calendars!

Pam says

She admits she doesn't like chocolate, alcohol, or coffee. Not sure if I can trust her recipes. This would be a good cookbook for those who want to try new ingredient pairings, but the recipes are complicated.

Also, very disappointed that there are not pictures of the finished product, not many photos of what the finished recipe should look like.

Diane says

Hall is a co-host of ABC's daytime show, The Chew, but I first saw her on Bravo TV's Top Chef. She reminded me of an exotic bird, tall, thin and with her down-home Southern way, I think many people (including her competitors) underestimated her. She was voted Fan Favorite from the Top Chef All-Stars competition in 2011. It was her big heart and the way she "hugged you with her food" that made people fall in love with her.

She grew up in the South and learned how to cook from her beloved granny, and then she went to France to become a model. There she fell in love with a different kind of food, and returned home to train as a professional chef. She now owns Alchemy, a popular and successful catering company in Washington DC.

Hall sprinkles the cookbook with stories from her life: the amazing meals her granny made and taught her and her sister to cook, the difficult boss she worked for in the Bahamas (I wonder if he will read this book and recognize himself), some amusing anecdotes from *The Chew* and my favorites, some behind-the-scenes of her most famous *Top Chef* moments.

On the All-Stars edition, one task was to create a birthday lunch for Jimmy Fallon. Hall whooped with joy when she was drew Chicken Pot Pie as her meal; it is one of her specialties, and she shares one of her most famous recipes in this book.

Hall also gives some great tips, like serving deviled eggs on a bed of dried washed black beans on a platter and if you want to sell your house "pop a batch of buttery yeast rolls in the oven" before a showing.

Layering flavors is a key to her cooking, and I found it interesting that she starts a meal by thinking not about the meat she will cook but the vegetables and "then builds from there."

Some recipes I look forward to trying are:

Down Home Deviled Eggs with Smoky Bacon
Creamy Goat Cheese Grits
Creamy Mac & Cheese
Osso Buco
Black Bean Patties with Mango Relish & Tropical Vinaigrette
Creamed Chicken with Broccoli

This is a book for cooks who have some experience in the kitchen; these recipes require some skills and beginners may find it a bit too challenging. But if you enjoy cooking and are looking for some new recipes that will kick up your taste buds, this is a book for you.

May says

2.5 stars for the cookbook. 0.5 star for the name recognition.

Carla was one of my favorite contestants on *Top Chef* so I was really eager to check out her cookbook. There is a nice balance of text and photographs but I found the book was missing some of her "personality". I was expecting some more pizzazz or fun takes on classic recipes and all I got were kinda of the same staid recipes you found in any other first-time cookbook.

Lia says

I love Carla! While some of her recipes were just plain out of my comfort zone (I can't roast a whole fish...it's still freaking staring at me!), I love love loved her roasted Cuban pork and Buffalo wing burgers!

ReadingWench says

I really loved this cookbook. After all, who doesn't love Carla Hall? Her love comes through in all of these great recipes.

The only thing I wanted out of this book that was not there, was the recipe she did on TOP CHEF for peas. All the TOP CHEF fans out there can relate.

False says

Love her personality. Not so much her food. I made one of her soups and while it was all that it claimed to be, it used way too many ingredients and took way too long to prepare. I'm going to save a few recipes to try, but overall, this isn't the type of food I eat, so I'm not really qualified to judge it.

Jeslyn says

I do feel that I'm cheating a bit in rating cookbook before I've cooked anything, but I'm giving it four stars as a wonderful READ, and will probably update as I make some of the recipes.

When I received this for Christmas, I flipped through and found a few recipes that looked good, but didn't spend a ton of time on the book. However, I recently picked it back up and decided to read it like a novel, cover to cover, before I tried to make anything. By the time I'd finished, there were only a handful of recipes that I didn't want to try.

Carla's story is heartwarming, encouraging, and enthusiastic, and the recipes look terrific - sure, there are some that have quite a few ingredients, but overall the steps really aren't that difficult - perhaps I'll have a different perspective once the cooking begins.

My only wish is that there were even more photographs - the ones included are lovely!

***Dee's Reading Time Matters says**

Comfort food never tasted so good!

"Cooking with Love: Comfort Food that Hugs You" by Carla Hall gives fantastic recipes from the chef known for her caught phrase, "Hootie hoo" and her endearing philosophy of how she cooks with love.

5 good recipes stars *****

Denise says

Love the taste of her food. Easy to prepare or substitute what you have on hand. Love and made her Spicy Ginger Carrot soup all winter long. Also love the Buffalo Chicken burger - easy to prepare and tasty! Tomorrow I'm trying her Country Greens with chicken instead of turkey wings. Great ideas from an amazing lady.

Monique says

I LOVE CARLA and this cookbook didn't disappoint. The stories are from the heart and really paint a picture of how comforting food can be. There are a few recipes that are over the top for me but overall a well put together cookbook. I'm sure I will add 5 or 6 of these to my regular cooking routine. Thanks Carla for cooking with love!

Washington Post says

More than 100 recipes from the D.C.-based chef who has revolutionized comfort food.

“If you had to serve lunch to the Securities and Exchange Commission, what would you make? Not easy, right? I had this brilliant idea of bean salad with green beans cut into tiny coins. They're pretty that way and easy to scoop up.”

Barbara says

How can you not like Carla Hall? She is such a warm personality and her love of cooking and eating is shown through this book and her tv show. Great recipes but was comments before the recipes were the best. I want to be her friend. Maybe she would make her Granny's Five Flavor Poundcake.
