Books for the Food Lover

GARDEN SPELLS by Sarah Addison Allen
F ALL, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK
Claire Waverley and her family are a curious family; even their garden has a reputation. Famous for its feisty apple tree that bears prophetic fruit, and its edible flowers, imbued with special powers. Claire’s sister Sydney returns home with a daughter of her own, she and her sister Claire must deal with their history and try to move forward. – Kristin Redmond, CHPL

THE LOST ART OF MIXING by Erica Bauermeister
F BAU
Restaurant owner Lillian manages an unexpected challenge while sharing her days with a circle of friends and regulars, including ritual-performing accountant Al, heartbroken chef Chloe, and unobtrusive giant Finnegan. – Kristin Redmond, CHPL

THE PARTICULAR SADNESS OF LEMON CAKE by Aimee Bender
F BEN, LARGE PRINT, OVERDRIVE EBOOK, OVERDRIVE AUDIOBOOK
One day, Rose Edelstein, a young girl who feels a little lost, takes a bite into her mother’s homemade lemon-chocolate cake and discovers she has a gift: she can taste her mother’s emotions in the cake. This new gift turns out to be very difficult to manage. She is now realizing what raw emotions lurk behind people once she tastes their cooking. For the rest of her life, she must learn how to deal with food and eating. – Kristin Redmond, CHPL

VANITY FARE by Megan Caldwell
F CAL, OVERDRIVE EBOOK
Molly Hagan takes a copywriting job at a new bakery where she is trying to come to grips with being a single mother after her husband leaves her for a younger woman. Part of the job is working with a sexy British pastry chef, and she just might get her own “happily ever after.” – Kristin Redmond, CHPL
HOW TO EAT A CUPCAKE by Meg Donohue
F DON, OVERDRIVE EBOOK
When childhood friends Annie Quintana and Julia St. Clair reconnect as adults and decide to open a cupcakery together. Annie is grieving the death of her mother and Julia is about to marry. First they must overcome old betrayals, first loves, and a dangerous threat to their new venture. – Kristin Redmond, CHPL

LIKE WATER FOR CHOCOLATE: A NOVEL IN MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS
by Laura Esquivel
F ESQ
Each chapter begins with a recipe. This tells the story of Tita, the youngest daughter in her family. The family tradition requires Tita to remain unmarried to care for her parents. Her true love, Pedro, when told he can’t marry her, marries her sister instead to be close to Tita. She puts her passion into her cooking in this love story. – Kristin Redmond, CHPL

WHEN IN DOUBT, ADD BUTTER by Beth Harbison
F HAR, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK
Private chef Gemma Craig has built a nice business that keeps her busy most nights of the week for several clients. She goes home to an empty house and eats by herself. All of a sudden things are not so comfortable and a few clients aren’t happy. Can Gemma turn her business around and keep her clients happy, and herself? – Kristin Redmond, CHPL

CHOCOLAT by Joanne Harris
F HAR
The battle lines between church and chocolate are drawn by this British (and part French) author in her appealing debut about a bewitching confectioner who settles in a sleepy French village and arouses the appetites of the pleasure-starved parishioners. Young widow Vianne Roche’s mouthwatering bonbons, steaming mugs of liqueur-laced cocoa and flaky cream-filled patisserie don’t earn her a warm welcome from the stern prelate of Lansquenet-sous-Tannes. – Publishers Weekly
THE GLASS KITCHEN by Linda Francis Lee
F LEE, LARGE PRINT
Broke, divorced and disheartened, Portia Cuthcart leaves Texas for Manhattan, determined to sort out her life and finally embrace her magical way with food. Portia has inherited a magical gift from a long line of Texas women who offered advice and, inexplicably, the perfect healing dish, but a tragic event caused her to turn her back on this "knowing" and live a normal life. Sweet and intense, with delightful magical accents, a delectable romance—and yummy recipes. – Kirkus Reviews

POMEGRANATE SOUP by Marsha Mehran
F MEH
After fleeing Iran to Ireland, Marjan and her sisters hope to find peace in the green Irish countryside. The sisters set about opening a Persian café, which turns the small town upside down with such foreign food and divides the town in the process. Can they settle into small-town Irish life and make friends and will their past catch up with them? – Kristin Redmond, CHPL

THE LAST CHINESE CHEF by Nicole Mones
F MON
Maggie McElroy is a widowed American food writer who is suddenly confronted with a paternity claim against her late husband’s estate—by a Chinese family. Her editor offers her another reason to go to Beijing: write an article about a rising young Chinese-American-Jewish chef, Sam Liang. Don’t read this book while you’re hungry! – Kristin Redmond, CHPL

THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY by Richard C. Morais
F MOR
With his debut novel, longtime Forbes magazine correspondent Morais delves into a rich, imagery-filled culinary world that begins in Bombay and ends in Paris, tracing the career of Hassan Haji as he becomes a famed Parisian chef. There, the family settles, bringing Indian cuisine to the unsuspecting town, provoking the ire of Madame Mallory, an unpleasant but extremely talented local chef. Also a movie starring Helen Mirren (DVD DRAMA HUN). – Kristin Redmond, CHPL
ANGELINA’S BACHELORS by Brian O’Reilly
F O’RE, LARGE PRINT
Angelina D’Angelo finds herself widowed and very lonely at a young age. When her neighbors taste her fantastic meals, she is offered a job to cook for a neighbor. Her culinary gifts put her in popular demand in the South Philly neighborhood and she soon finds herself a new family to care for and be a part of. – Kristin Redmond, CHPL

DELICIOUS! By Ruth Reichl
F REI, LARGE PRINT, CD AUDIOBOOK
Billie Breslin decides to do what she loves and gets a job working as a public relations hotline consultant for a once-prestigious culinary magazine. She meets and works with quirky chefs trying new recipes and is now becoming aware of restaurateurs and artisanal food shops in NYC neighborhoods. During her research she unearths letters from World War II exchanged between a 12-year-old and the famed chef and culinary icon James Beard. Billie’s curiosity keeps her busy as she tries to make sense of the letters and learn the story of the young girl. – Kristin Redmond, CHPL

TOMORROW THERE WILL BE APRICOTS by Jessica Soffer
F SOF, CD AUDIOBOOK
Lorca spends her life poring over cookbooks, making croissants and chocolat chaud, seeking out rare ingredients, all to earn the love of her distracted chef of a mother, who is now packing her off to boarding school. In one last effort to prove herself indispensable, Lorca resolves to track down the recipe for her mother’s ideal meal, an obscure Middle Eastern dish called masgouf. Victoria, grappling with her husband’s death, has been dreaming of the daughter they gave up forty years ago. An Iraqi Jewish immigrant who used to run a restaurant, she starts teaching cooking lessons; Lorca signs up. Together, they cook, but they also begin to suspect they are connected by more than their love of food. Soon, though, they must reckon with the past, the future, and the truth--whatever it might be. – Kristin Redmond, CHPL