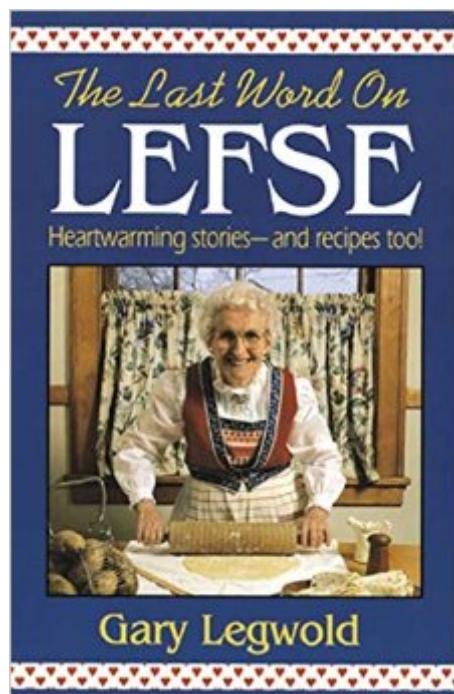


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Last Word On Lefse: Heartwarming Stories--and Recipes Too!



Synopsis

The Last Word on Lefse is a joyous book dedicated to preserving the traditions of this Scandinavian food. This time-honored book includes: * Recipes covering everything from potato lefse to hard lefse you (gasp!) dip in water before serving. * A "How to Make Lefse" chapter with photographs and tips from the experts. * Corny songs, poems and jokes. Did you know lefse is an antidote to lutefisk? * Classic photos of lefse-making tools from museums. * An original lefse skit for you and your family. Delight in meeting fascinating characters: * The Boys of Starbuck, who made the World's Largest Lefse on the shores of Lake Minnewashka. * Carl Knutson, who wrote lefse songs while selling lefse out of the back of his '47 Chevy. * Bitten and Torbjorn Norvoll, who related stories of how lefse helped feed people in occupied Norway during World War II. * Anna Alden, who make lefse on roller skates. * Grocer Merlin Hoiness, lefse bootlegger. For the love of lefse, you owe it to yourself and your family to make this book a well-worn addition to your library. Learn to make lefse and pass on the heritage, history and humor of the people who continue this fine-and-flavorful tradition. The author--concerned that lefse-making was a dying out--traveled to small towns in the Midwest in search of the best lefse makers. As they made lefse, he studied their techniques, copied their recipes, sampled their lefse and coffee, noted their lefse-inspired stories and humor--and put all of it in this heartwarming book. Lefse is a festive food that in the dead of winter brings to life a warm, loving heritage and inspires wink-wink humor and even some verse. Never alone and seldom sad, The life of a lefse maker isn't so bad.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Last Word on Lefse is a delightful book that captures an abiding and lasting love of lefse. The book is written with the same casual, familial voice that the people of the Midwest themselves reflect, and the memories and thoughts of several esteemed Iowa and Minnesota lefse-makers are respectfully, if bemusedly, chronicled. I enjoyed the subdued charm and humor of the book, and I was tickled by the lyrics to songs that I had heard as a child at the Nordic Fest in Decorah. The half-dozen or so recipes for lefse were also a welcome addition to this basically pleasing book.

I picked up this book at my Grandparent's home recently and fell in love with it! Rolled lefse with butter and sugar is a treat that brings on nostalgic memories of childhood - yet while I loved the food, I had no idea how to make it or how it came into being. "The Last Word on Lefse" compiles everything from the history of this Scandinavian food, to funny antecedents from Norwegian-Americans who excel at making the stuff, to corny jokes and songs and, of course, a number of recipes that I am looking forward to trying. I have yet to boil and rice the potatoes for my first batch of lefse, but after reading this book, I can't wait to get cooking and recapture some of my Nordic heritage.

I very much enjoyed this book, as I did the author's other one on lutefisk... though as far as reputation goes, the foods could not be more different! Everyone likes lefse! and lutefisk... well, not so much. This book combines stories about lefse, some of its history both in Norway and here in the States, with humor (including lyrics to songs about it, and a "play" about Christmas lefse). The humor is understated, as Midwestern humor generally is, and the tone of the book as a whole reminded me of the way people spoke as I was growing up in MN. Now, ethnically I'm Swedish, but I always adored lefse. I am very much looking forward to making my own! I did try once, and they were not good... but that was before I read all the tips and advice here. I know they'll help! The book ends with a compilation of lefse recipes, including the one used by the guys who made the World's Biggest Lefse, many in more accessible quantities, and 3 for other versions of lefse of which I had never heard before! Including one that, though it lacks potatoes, is shelf-stable for months! I am very pleased with this book, and it has joined the one on lutefisk as a permanent part of my cookbook library... though I expect it'll see more use than the lutefisk one! Now, if only the author would do one on rye-crisp...

Awesome book! Filled with tidbits and recipes on how to make Lefse. Just a great addition to my

gourmet library. It reminds me of my childhood growing up hovering around the kitchen while my great grandmother and grandmother bickered, laughed, and produced the most incredible lefse in the world. I have vowed to try making it myself this Christmas while bickering and laughing with my family. This book will most certainly help in my endeavors.

As a third-generation Norwegian but native Californian, I reconnected with my roots as I read this charming book. I've only recently tried to recreate the lefse my mother so lovingly made. She left no written "recipe" -- just the words she spoke as I watched her knead potatoes with "just the least amount" of flour needed. "The Last Word on Lefse" not only touched my heart, but provided practical suggestions as well, and made me realize "perfect lefse" takes on many forms! I bought copies for my brother and cousin, as well. My brother proclaimed it "a treasure" because he has "lefse in his heart." I wholeheartedly agree.

A bit of education, a bit of history, humor, advice and recipes. You get it all in this book. Fellow potato lefse makers will find the other recipes interesting (and the history behind potatoes in lefse)...at least we did. Enjoy! :)

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