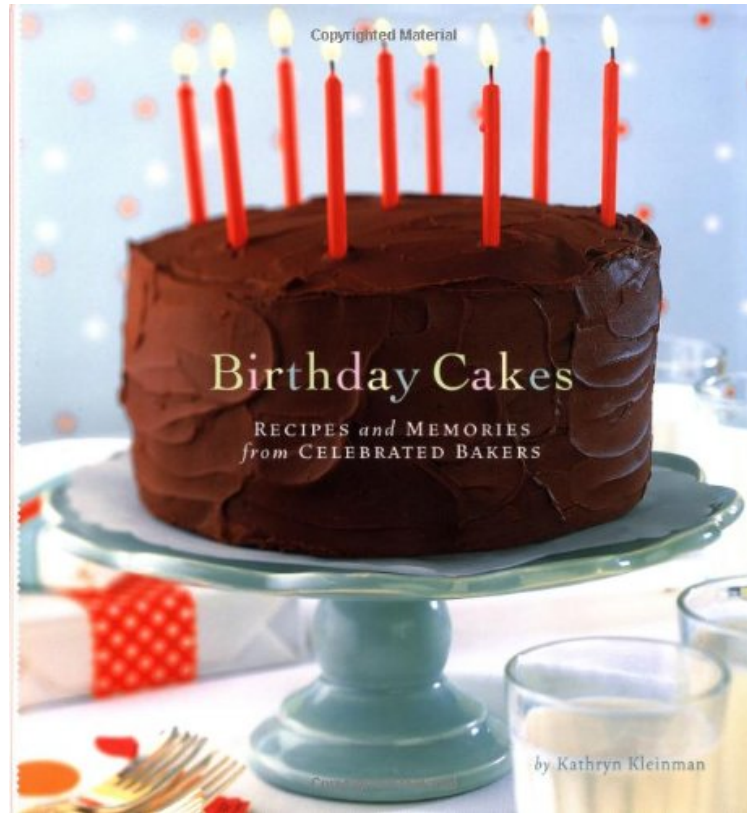


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## Birthday Cakes: Recipes and Memories from Celebrated Bakers

*Kathryn Kleinman, Carolyn Miller*

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**Kathryn Kleinman, Carolyn Miller : Birthday Cakes: Recipes and Memories from Celebrated Bakers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Birthday Cakes: Recipes and Memories from Celebrated Bakers:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Hannah KvammeA great variety of birthday cakes. Easy and beautiful!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful photos, yummy looking recipesBy CindyThis is a beautiful book! I look forward to trying some of these recipes.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic Book!!By DCCorpMomI almost didn't buy this book because of some of the lukewarm reviews, but I'm glad I did! This is a wonderful book with numerous recipes that are easy to make and delightful. The "1-2-3 cake" is one my children love to make. All the recipes are clear and should be easy enough for anyone who knows anything about baking. The decoration ideas have really helped me take my creations up a notch. I promise you'll enjoy this book from the beautiful pictures right down to the delicious finished products!

Exquisitely illustrated with more than 55 color photographs, *Birthday Cakes* features memorable, celebratory cakes and birthday stories by renowned chefs, cookbook writers, and passionate bakers -- including the likes of Julia Child, Alice Waters, James Beard, Alice Medrich, and Jim Fobel. This elegant yet easy-to-use cake-making book invites us

to celebrate everything birthday: the making and presentation of the cake, the warm glow of the candles, the whispering of a wish, and the heartwarming ritual of cutting and sharing the cake. Everyone will enjoy oohs and aahs when a Meyer Lemon Pound Cake is served, a beautiful, sophisticated cake that can be decorated with glazed flowers and long French birthday candles. A fabulous three-day cake-making extravaganza for the truly dedicated is Gayle Ortiz's Princess Cake, a Swedish sweet-sixteen tradition. For happy smiles all around, there's a simple, delicious chocolate cake dressed in luscious frosting, just like grandmother used to make. Sprinkled with fun ideas and tips for decorating, this collection of cake recipes and personal birthday memories will inspire cakes so special friends and family will wish they had more than one birthday.

From Publishers Weekly Pretty to look at and brimming with inspiring ideas on throwing a proper birthday fete, Kleinman's book could be equally at home on a coffee table or in kitchen. The book features 38 recipes for birthday cakes, contributed by such notable cooks as James Beard, Alice Waters, Tasha Tudor, Patricia Wells, Julia Child and others. The cakes vary from traditional to unusual, so parents looking for a kid's birthday cake will delight in Birthday Cupcakes, German Chocolate Cake and Pineapple Upside-Down Cake, while sophisticated chefs will be happy to find recipes for Aunt Frances's Ricotta Cheesecake and Benoit's Upside-Down Caramelized Apple Tart. Mini-essays by the contributors accompany each recipe, and a nostalgic theme runs throughout, as Robbin Gourley recalls her Aunt Florence's "prized and famous" Jelly Roll and Elizabeth Falkner recounts how her mother always made a Lincoln Log Cake because Falkner shares Abraham Lincoln's birthday. The recipes themselves are a mixed bag; generally, they're not very detailed and leave home cooks to figure out for themselves what instructions like "Roll the cake up with the edge of the paper" mean. The photographs and layout, however, are lovely. The Comforts Coconut Cake with Cream Cheese and Coconut Frosting is a pink and white fantasy; Grandmother's Chocolate Cake is divinely simple; and the Green Cake, with its shelled pistachios and light green icing, is exquisite. Kleinman (a food and floral photographer) and Miller (Chocolate; Espresso; Salt Pepper) offer a picturesque meditation on an annual rite. Copyright copy; Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Kathryn Kleinman has been a dynamic part of the world of food and floral photography for over two decades. A James Beard award winner, she is the photographer of eighteen books, including the critically acclaimed Chronicle Books titles Sushi, Backyard Bou Carolyn Miller is a writer, book editor, and award-winning poet living in San Francisco. She has written several cookbooks, including Chocolate, Espresso, and Salt Pepper, all from Chronicle Books.