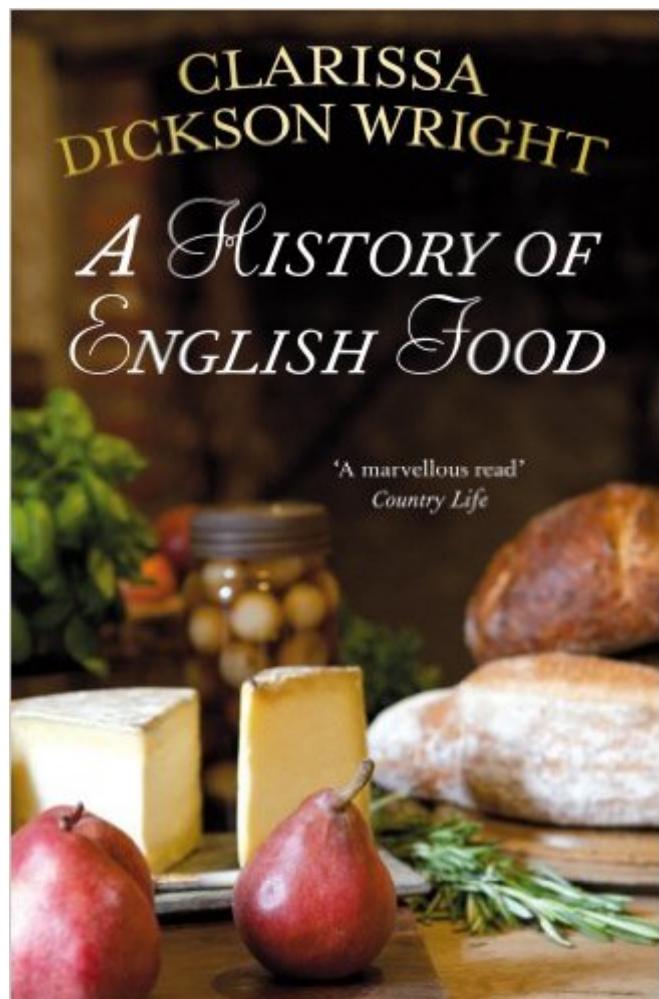


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A History Of English Food



Synopsis

A sumptuously presented personal history of English food, from medieval times to the present day, by a beloved food writer of the Two Fat Ladies. In a major new history of English food, Clarissa Dickson Wright takes the reader on a journey from the time of the Second Crusade and the feasts of medieval kings to the cuisine "both good and bad" of the present day. She looks at the shifting influences on the national diet as new ideas and ingredients arrived, and as immigrant communities made their contribution to the life of the country. She evokes lost worlds of open fires and ice houses, of constant pickling and preserving, and of manchet loaves and curly-coated pigs. She also tells the stories of the chefs, cookbook writers, gourmets, and gluttons who have shaped public taste, from the salad-loving Catherine of Aragon to the foodies of today. Above all, she gives a vivid sense of what it was like to sit down to the meals of previous ages, whether an 18th-century labourer's breakfast, a 12-course Victorian banquet, or a lunch out during World War II. Insightful and entertaining by turns, this is a magnificent tour of nearly 1,000 years of English cuisine, peppered with surprises and seasoned with Clarissa Dickson Wright's characteristic wit.

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Customer Reviews

If you are both a foodie and history lover you will enjoy this book. If you loved the Two Fat Ladies in addition, then you will LOVE this book. I'm in the latter category. It is a well constructed, easy to follow and understand history of food in Britain. She blends the history of the day with the food that was consumed, by both low and high borne, and includes quite a number of excerpts from recipe

books of the time. Highly recommended.

Clarissa Dickson Wright is one of my favorite authors. Her books and the Two Fat Ladies cooking series are amongst my favorites. She is honest and knowledgeable. I have always loved England, history and food, so this book fills the bill. Love it.

Clarissa does it again. For all anglophiles this is a must have. I love English food and she writes with such knowledge and humor. She is a feisty old bird. Such a character. So sad she is no longer around to entertain and cook for us. May she rest in peace in foodie heaven

I have read several of her books as well as own two cookbooks by The Two Fat Ladies. Clarissa's intelligence and wit come thru in this book plus the bits of history one is not likely to find in most history books. The history of English food, plus some British history plus some recipes...a great volume to add to your collection!

So much information about English food! Clarissa Dickson Wright knows her English Food Stuff. Fascinating. I am an unabashed fan of The Two Fat Ladies - regularly watch the series for the witty banter as much as the delicious food and recently decided to get their cookbooks before they fall out of print. Clarissa brings the same tone and wit to this book. If you love The Two Fat Ladies, you'll love this. And if you've not yet experienced The Two Fat Ladies, but enjoy learning new things, food and dry wit - this is for you, too. As could be expected, I found my interest waning slightly as the food presented became more familiar, but that's not to say that there wasn't something interesting to be said for our contemporary period of food. I just happened to find it more fascinating to read about how James I/IV was responsible for so much of the evolution of English food - who knew?! And with loads of juicy intrigue asides that made me go do some research. Recommended for anyone interested in food and English history.

Informative, very thorough and surprisingly clear and readable about what can be (even here, occasionally) a sleepy subject. I hear Clarissa's voice as I read it, with her wit and winks here and there about the origins of food and meals and rituals and royals going all the way back to the twelfth century. If you have an interest in food beyond "Two Fat Ladies" give Clarissa's acumen and accomplishment a shot (as well as post-TFL food specials online) - there was so much more to her than a sidecar.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading Clarissa Dickson Wright's history of English food. I love eating and enjoy cooking and after watching "two fat ladies" a number of years ago, this was a revelation regarding how and where food came from and how it developed through the ages. She writes well, and apart from a number of amusing anecdotes included in the book, it was an interesting and informative read. I read "Spilling the Beans" before I read this book. If you're interested at all in reading about the series "Two Fat Ladies" then this is the book for you. She is very frank about her alcoholism. You do not pity her but can more readily understand where she is coming from. I, for one, am really glad she managed to stop drinking, as I am more than sure she is too.

Chef's 'History of English' food debunks the 'no flavour' style of cooking. Clarissa is wonderfully eccentric, but also she's engaging, which comes through even in her books. Great book Clarissa, keep up the good work, and keep the stiff upper lip! Glenda Lee Vollmecke

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