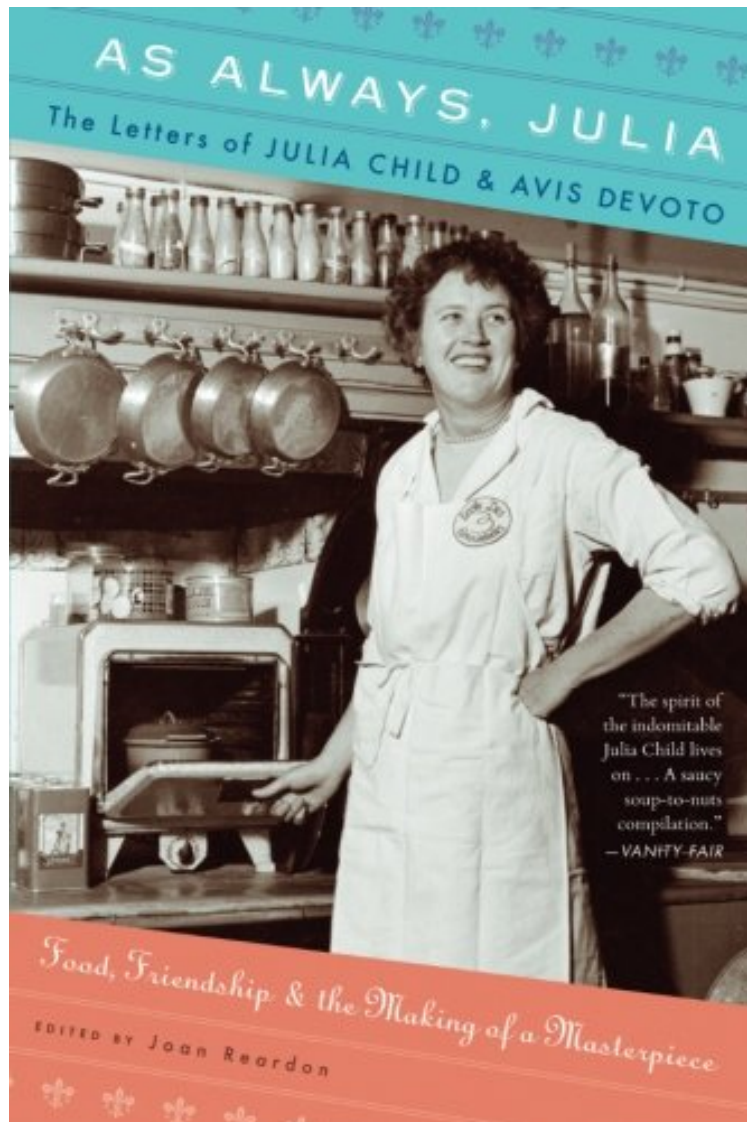


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As Always, Julia: The Letters of Julia Child and Avis DeVoto

Joan Reardon

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Joan Reardon : As Always, Julia: The Letters of Julia Child and Avis DeVoto before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised As Always, Julia: The Letters of Julia Child and Avis DeVoto:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An Historical Chronicle of Epic Proportions By AvidReaderEarlier I reviewed this book based on having read 21% of the content; which remains embedded within this updated review. Now, with the entire book completed, I see more depth in the totality of letters exchanged between Julia Child and Avis DeVoto than was evident in the early letters. This is a "book of many colors". It is historical. It is political. It is

about relationships. It contains elements of hope; frustration; despair; persistence; and, ultimately, triumph over what at times must have seemed like overwhelming odds. I am only 21% of the way through these fascinating letters by Julia Child and Avis DeVoto so this is but a very brief review of this work, however, it is also the only time I have been so engrossed in a book that I find it valuable to write a review as a "work in progress". As an amateur cook given to experiencing will numerous styles of cuisine, I am not sure what I expected when I ordered this book in Kindle format but I assure those who read this that what I received is far more than what I believed the book would be. I guess I expected, well, a cookbook. To this point in my reading I have come to see this work as something far more important and, for those interested in history and travel, something totally unexpected. If you are familiar with Julia Child through her cookbooks and PBS shows, then you, like I, don't know Julia as a person outside of her known field of expertise. Born in the mid-1940's, much of what is discussed in the letters relative to the political climate of the United States, post-World War II resonates with what I, and every other "Baby-Boomer" grew up with in the 50's and beyond. It provides an interesting perspective of what Julia and Avis (both obviously staunch Liberals) see as dangerous within the U.S.; Julia as an American living abroad with her husband working for the State Department, and Avis living in the U.S. married to a successful, if too liberal, author. Highly recommended for cooks and those who aspire to be cooks; historians and those who think history is boring. The preceding 4 paragraphs are from the original review. Throughout these letters and Reardon's commentaries, we see a progression as the "pen-pal" friendship blossoms. The letters become more intimate. Attitudes and prejudices surface revealing much about both Julia and Avis. Julia loves France but seems, at times, to dislike the French. Avis mentions friends with a "certain condition", namely, that they are lesbians - revealing the deep-seated prejudice against gays and lesbians prevalent up until very recently (when viewed in the context of history). The use of the word "gay" in some of the letters is quickly explained to mean the true definition of the word as opposed to the sexual orientation it has come to represent. Nothing in these letters serves to diminish the accomplishments of Julia, Simca, and Avis in the authorship and publication of Julia's and Simca's recognized masterpiece; nor, Julia's success as a star on PBS. These letters show what life was like from the late 40's through Avis' death and, in the Epilogue, beyond to further discuss (in commentary) Julia's continued success as an author and television personality. Deserves more than 5-stars but that's all that are available. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Informative but fun! By Piepie Beuttel This is the story of a beautiful friendship between iconic, larger-than-life "French Chef" Julia Child and her confidant Avis de Voto. These two women had corresponded by mail before ever meeting each other in person. In this unique series of letters they discuss politics, family (including their husbands!), friends, and of course... food. If you've read "My Life in France" or watched "Julie Julia," you'll probably get more out of this book. It was a fun - albeit long - read. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Nice historical friendship book. By elib Though I doubt if I read it again, this was a thoroughly enjoyable book. I found the letters and recipes fascinating. I had caught a few of her cooking shows when I was a little girl, but was unaware of just how interesting her life was. I did not know about her husband's career nor of their travels, so it was very cool to read. The little story of the knives and how it bonded the two women as friends is just one small aspect of the book. This is entirely a correspondence book and if that kind of thing turns you off, then don't read this book. The letters are divided up into sections for each woman, instead of just chronologically inserting the letters... I wish they would have done that.

A National Bestseller Winner of an International Association of Culinary Professionals Award for Literary Food Writing An absorbing portrait of an unexpected friendship. Entertainment Weekly Julia's inimitable voice shines through . . . These letters offer [a] glimpse of how the truly great can merge heart and soul in the pursuit of excellence. Wall Street Journal Julia is known around the world by her first name alone. But how much do we really know of the inner Julia Child? Through this riveting correspondence between Julia and Avis DeVoto, her pen pal and literary mentor, we hear Julia's deepest thoughts and feelings and witness the blossoming of a unique and lifelong friendship. We see, too, the turbulent creation of one of the most influential cookbooks ever written. Frank, bawdy, funny, exuberant, these astonishing letters show an America on the verge of political, social, and gastronomic transformation and two women deeply engaged in the making of that new world. [Child] comes booming back to life in these dishy missives . . . A delicious read. People (3 of 4 stars) Blazingly alive and entirely irresistible. Boston Globe