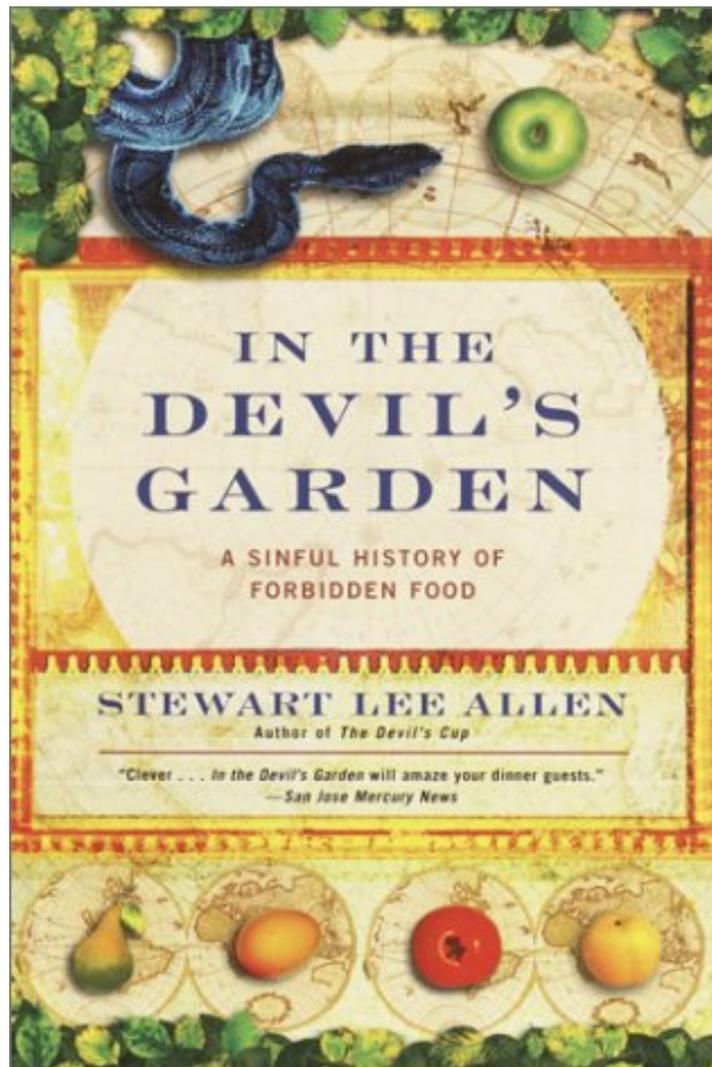


In the Devil's Garden: A Sinful History of Forbidden Food

by

Stewart Lee Allen



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Synopsis

Deliciously organized by the Seven Deadly Sins, here is a scintillating history of forbidden foods through the ages—and how these mouth-watering taboos have defined cultures around the world. From the lusciously tempting fruit in the Garden of Eden to the divine foie gras, Stewart Lee Allen engagingly illustrates that when a pleasure as primal as eating is criminalized, there is often an astonishing tale to tell. Among the foods thought to encourage Lust, the love apple (now known as the tomato) was thought to possess demonic spirits until the nineteenth century. The Gluttony “course” invites the reader to an ancient Roman dinner party where nearly every dish served—from poppy-crusting rodents to “Trojan Pork”—was considered a crime against the state. While the vice known as Sloth introduces the sad story of “The Lazy Root” (the potato), whose popularity in Ireland led British moralists to claim that the Great Famine was God’s way of punishing the Irish for eating a food that bred degeneracy and idleness. Filled with incredible food history and the author’s travels to many of these exotic locales, *In the Devil’s Garden* also features recipes like the matzo-ball stews outlawed by the Spanish Inquisition and the forbidden “chocolate champagnes” of the Aztecs. This is truly a delectable book that will be consumed by food lovers, culinary historians, amateur anthropologists, and armchair travelers alike. Bon appétit!

What people say about this book

Dean Bucu, "and best of all. I adore this book. It was captivating, humorous, and don't sleep on it's re-readability. I keep going back to it time after time. This book started my fascination with bizarre foods long before I knew who Andrew Zimmern was and taught me what an ortolan was long before it was referenced on Hannibal or American Dad (god help me, I need more books to balance out the unhealthy amount of TV I watch, don't judge me). It's got sex, religion, history, and best of all, food. What more could you ask of a book?"

Amina T., "this is a great history of rather innocuous seeming food. Delectably entertaining. If you're a foodie, this is a great history of rather innocuous seeming food: apples and tomatoes for example. And of course, the noble potato. Most of the recipes provided are fascinating, but I don't feel inclined to try them out."

Erika Kissam, "love this book. gave it as a gift, love this book."

Ebook Tops Reader, "interesting book. I've bought this book 3 times now to send to others. Terrific book."

cf, "witty, intriguing. If you're into food and history, this is a good book. I read it through in one sitting some years ago after checking it out at the library. I had to have a copy for my library!"

lelder, "Awesome. This book has such a unique and awesome look at food history. It's very well written and I can't put it down."

Ralph Blumenau, "A feast of a book. Written in an informal and witty style, this book is hugely enjoyable, full of fascinating information about the favourite foods, food taboos, food superstitions and food symbolism in many societies and many ages. After all the entertaining chapters, the last one notes that there are few food taboos in western mainstream society these days, and that allows us "a richer and more varied diet now than at any point in history." But the author wonders whether that does not also represent some kind of loss, in that the meaning of food, like that of sex, has been eviscerated: "As meals lose social and spiritual meaning, we spend less time eating together... As the communal family meal withers, so do our table manners and the general level of civility, leading to the creation of the fast-food hamburger culture, in which everything is immediate, rude, meaningless, and disposable.""

F. Papadopoulos, "Good for holiday reading. I bought this book looking for a serious anthropological treatment of food; I didn't find it. Instead, I got for my money a few hours of enjoyable reading. Steward Lee Allen often gets his facts wrong (but so did Herodotus)he does make a valid point however: food is important enough to be identified down the centuries as a

promising field of action by every elite that wants to reinforce its claim of control over the collective mind of a society. In this sense, he triggered for me the thought of reading food literature in conjunction with Durkheim. I don't know how fruitful this road will be, I've just started it. All in all then, I got (unexpected) value for my nine pounds."

Truman, "Garden state. This is an very enjoyable book, but I felt that it fell short of the high standards reached by the author's history of coffee, The Devil's Cup. That's not to say that this book is bad, more that it could have been better. It remains a fascinating analysis of food and its effect on our lives today and throughout history, so it's definitely worth a read - but get The Devil's Cup too."

Ebook Tops Reader, "Five Stars. Great book. Full of quirky interest and good to dip into.."

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