



The Pastry Queen: Royally Good Recipes from the Texas Hill Country's Rather Sweet Bakery & Cafe

By Rebecca Rather, Alison Oresman

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The Best Little From-Scratch Bakery in Texas

The pastry case in Rebecca Rather's bakery in Fredericksburg is packed with ultra-buttery scones, luscious cakes, cookies the size of saucers, brownies as big as bricks, and fruit pies that look as though they came straight out of Grandma's oven. Since the day Rebecca and her Rather Sweet Bakery and Café came to town, life in this Hill Country hamlet has been even sweeter and the townsfolk now know why she is the Pastry Queen. Everything she makes is a lot like her: down-home yet grand, and familiar yet one-of-a-kind.

A native Texan, Rather makes the most of her Lone Star state's varied traditions, whether looking to the kitchens of Texas's Mexican and German immigrants or to the cowboy culture of her own forebears. Best of all, her recipes aren't fussy—one of her best-selling cakes stirs together in a single saucepan. Add in a cupful of Texas attitude and her made-from-scratch-with-love philosophy, and you've got an irresistible taste of American baking.

What's best at Rather Sweet? Rebecca's customers all have their favorites (and she is happy to cater to their cravings), but here's just a taste of the perennial best sellers:

- Apple-Smoked Bacon and Cheddar Scones
- Texas Big Hairs Lemon-Lime Tarts (the only big hair Rebecca has ever had!)
- Fourth of July Fried Pies
- Peach Queen Cake with Dulce de Leche Frosting
- Turbo-Charged Brownies with Praline Topping
- All-Sold-Out Chicken Pot Pies
- Kolaches (pillowy yeasted buns with sweet or savory fillings)
- PB&J Cookies

With over 125 surefire tested recipes and 100 photographs that richly capture small-town life in the Hill Country, The Pastry Queen offers a Texas-size serving

of the royal splendor of Rebecca's baked goods—courtesy of the rather sweet gal behind the case.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This cookbook offers recipes for dozens of classic treats like oatmeal cookies, carrot cake and pecan pie—but often with novel twists: pineapple and coconut swirl through the carrot cake, the pecan pie takes the form of a brownie and the oatmeal cookies are fashioned into "crisps." Still, most of the recipes are pleasingly old-fashioned and sweet enough to send an unsuspecting baker into diabetic shock. The Grasshopper Pie calls for an entire cup of sugar, plus marshmallow crème and hot fudge sauce, and the Bananas Foster Shortcakes deliver sugary banana flavor amped up to maximum volume. The author is the proprietress of The Rather Sweet Bakery and Café in Texas, and she offers several signature Lone Star state desserts: a rich Fredericksburg Peach Cream Cheese Tart, crunchy Texas Pralines and Texas Big Hairs Lemon-Lime Meringue Tarts, with meringue piled as high as a Houston debutante's coif. The cookbook also offers a few non-dessert selections, mostly soups, salads, quesadillas and the like. Though these dishes are tasty—it's hard to object to Prosciutto Tostadas with Shrimp and Parsley or a warm, pleasing Wild Mushroom Soup—it's the sugary-sweet and fun-to-bake Texas-style desserts that make this rather sweet, and rather expensive, cookbook worth the splurge.

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Review

"Every baker, from country folk to city slicker, will find something deliriously delightful to bake in this book. Hail to the Pastry Queen—Rebecca Rather!"

—David Lebovitz, author of *The Great Book of Chocolate*

"Rebecca Rather personifies the great American bootstrap, built on grit and tenacity upon which communities are enriched and enlivened (and happily well fed). Anyone who bakes from this book will want to meet the Pastry Queen in person."

—Peter Reinhart, author of *The Bread Baker's Apprentice*

"Texans at their best are honest, friendly, helpful, and engagingly unpretentious. Oh, and pretty darned good cooks. Rebecca Rather, Hill Country *reine de patisserie*, is all of these things, as will be immediately apparent to anyone who dives into this delicious book—a rich, good-looking, sweet and savory masterpiece, full of baking lore, kitchen tips, charming stories, and (above all) irresistibly indulgent recipes."

—Colman Andrews, Editor-in-Chief, *Saveur*

From the Publisher

* More than 150 rigorously tested recipes and 50 fullcolor photos from the best little from-scratch bakery in Texas.

* Rebecca Rather was featured in the 2003 *Saveur* 100 (#43).

* The first baking book from Texas, a state with a rich baking tradition shaped by its cowhand culture, Mexican roots, and Czech and German settlers.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Matthew Ramey:

Now a day people that Living in the era wherever everything reachable by connect with the internet and the resources included can be true or not require people to be aware of each information they get. How people have to be smart in having any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Studying a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information specifically this The Pastry Queen: Royally Good Recipes from the Texas Hill Country's Rather Sweet Bakery & Cafe book as this book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Robin Almeida:

A lot of people always spent all their free time to vacation as well as go to the outside with them friends and family or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a new book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent the whole day to reading a publication. The book The Pastry Queen: Royally Good Recipes from the Texas Hill Country's Rather Sweet Bakery & Cafe it doesn't matter what good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to bring this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore easily to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book provides high quality.

Rose Bennett:

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Stephen Porter:

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