

These may be the weirdest cookbooks ever

BY JENNIFER MASTROIANNI
REPOSITORY FOOD WRITER

Imagine a cooking time measured in miles rather than minutes.

That's what awaits cooks who try recipes from "Manifold Destiny: The One, The Only, Guide to Cooking on Your Car Engine." The book's petal-to-the-metal cuisine includes Hyundai Halibut with Fennel (55-85 miles); Cruise-Control Pork Tenderloin (250 miles); and Poached Fish Pontiac (40 miles).

Weird, yes. In fact, it's the weirdest cookbook in the world according to AbeBooks.com, the online book dealer that recently released its picks for the top 10 most bizarre cookbooks of all time.

"Manifold Destiny," published in 1989, is out of print, and that's where AbeBooks comes in. The site sells new, used, rare and out-of-print books.

The idea for the Top 10 list came about quite naturally, said Richard Davies, an executive with AbeBooks.com, located in British Columbia.

"About two years ago we were featuring weird books in general, like one on how to avoid large ships and one on how to bomb-proof your horse," Davies said. "People really enjoyed the feature. Then I heard about 'The Roadkill Cookbook.' We looked a little deeper and found many, many more."

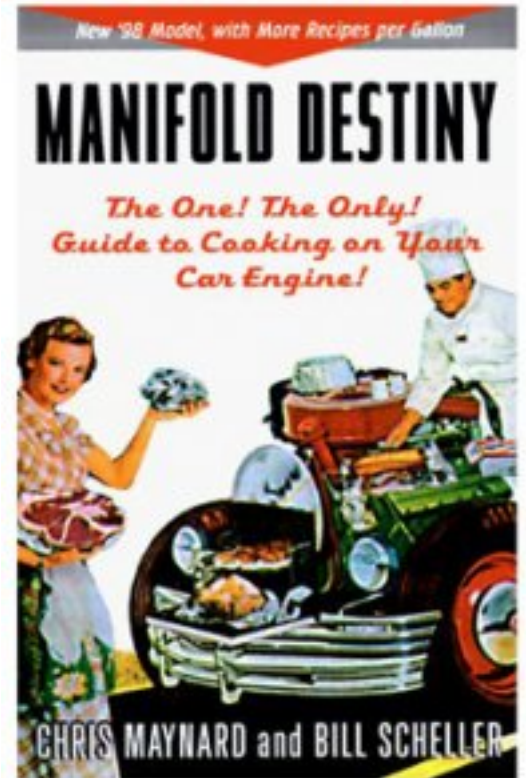
"Manifold Destiny" won top honors because "it's just a crazy mad cookbook," Davies said, and it's for real. "It came about when the author took part in road rallies around the United States," Davies explained. "They would race long periods each day and had little time to eat, so they actually cooked food on their car engine."

In case you were wondering, does engine-cooked food taste like gas and oil? Actually it's the other way around, say author Bill Scheller. Your car smells like food.

The fourth book on the list, "The Special Effects Cookbook" by Michael Samonek, will appeal to foodies with a bent for science. Samonek takes traditional recipes and applies visual effects to the cooking process. Recipes include Green Dragon's Breath Cake, Beating Heart Cake and Glow In The Dark Gelatin.

"Cooking in the Nude" presents a bevy of playful recipes, complete with flirtatious titles like "Appetizers" and "Wok on the Wild Side." Star Wars fans will either be happy or offended that "Star Wars Cookbook: Wookiee Cookies and Other Galactic Recipes" made the list.

Book prices vary according to availability. For instance, the out-of-print "Manifold Destiny" sells for \$74.56,



"Manifold Destiny: The One, The Only, Guide to Cooking on Your Car Engine."

while "Mini Ketchup Cookbook" is just \$1.91.

WOOKIEE COOKIES

2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 cup unsalted butter, at room temperature

1 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup granulated sugar

2 large eggs

1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

1 cup milk chocolate chips

1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Place flour, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon in a mixing bowl. Stir with wooden spoon until well mixed. Set aside.

Place butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar in another mixing bowl. Using the electric mixer set on high speed, beat together until well blended and creamy, about 3 minutes. Beat in eggs and vanilla extract. Add flour mixture and stir with wooden spoon until blended. Stir in chocolate chips.

Drop by rounded tablespoonful onto a baking sheet, leaving about 1 inch between cookies because they spread as they bake. Bake until golden brown, about 10 minutes. Place cookies on cooling racks. Let cool completely. Makes about 3 dozen cookies.

From "The Star Wars Cookbook: Wookiee Cookies and Other Galactic Recipes" by Robin Davis

Top 10 Weirdest Cookbooks

1. "Manifold Destiny: The One, The Only, Guide To Cooking On Your Car Engine" by Bill Scheller & Chris Maynard. Gives new meaning to the phrase "meals on wheels."
2. "The Roadkill Cookbook" by Buck Peterson. Truckers know where their next meal is coming from.
3. "The Eat-A-Bug Cookbook" by David George Gordon. "Waiter, there's a fly in my soup ... and a spider, and a cockroach, and some centipedes, too."
4. "The Special Effects Cookbook" by Michael Samonek. Food that snaps , crackles and pops, and we're not talking about Rice Krispies.
5. "Cooking in the Nude for Playful Gourmets, the Fun and Lusty Approach to Gourmet Dining For Two" by Stephen Cornwell & Debra Cornwell. Shouldn't they at least wear an apron?

6. "Cooking to Kill: The Poison Cook Book" by Ebenezer Murgatroyd. It's a joke, but if you ever do need to stew the mother-in-law...
7. "Star Wars Cookbook: Wookiee Cookies and other Galactic Recipes" by Robin Davis. A long time ago in a kitchen far, far away...
8. "Mini Ketchup Cookbook" by Cameron Pearl. Ketchup with everything...
9. "Cooking for Cats" by Elisabeth Meyer. Work all day, struggle home through traffic, then slave over a hot stove - for the cat!"
10. "Strange Foods: Bush Meats, Bats and Butterflies" by Jerry Hopkins. Genuine dishes and recipes from far-flung places around the world.

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This page was created June 13, 2007

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