



Dear Readers:

Thank you for reading [Minette's Feast: The Delicious Story of Julia Child and Her Cat](#). I hope you have as much fun reading it as I did writing it!

When I was a kid, my whole family used to watch “The French Chef,” Julia Child’s cooking show on TV. She was enthusiastic, skillful, funny and confident, and I looked up to her in more ways than one – because she was over six feet tall! Best of all, she loved to cook and eat, just like me.

Years later, I met Julia when I designed the flower arrangements for her 80th birthday party. It was a dinner party for 300 people, and there were *lots* of flowers. At the end of the evening, she was presented with a birthday gift I’d made for her: a gigantic whisk, four feet long, decorated with flowers and pearls. With a mischievous grin, she slung it over her shoulder. It was so exciting to meet one of my heroes and find out she was just as wonderful in person as she was on TV.

Ever since, I’ve wanted to write a children’s book about Julia, something playful and funny, like her. Then I read about her first cat, Minette, who lived with Julia and her husband Paul in their creaky old apartment in Paris. Julia and Paul adored Minette, who liked to hunt mice and play with a Brussels sprout tied to a string. Julia even cooked up special meals for her beloved pussycat – scrumptious things like fish head stew. But who wants fish head stew when there are mice to eat?

I gathered the ingredients of this tasty story from books about Julia, and from her letters and memoirs. Then [Amy Bates](#) added the perfect herbs and spices with her beautiful illustrations, and together we cooked up a special dish just for you. We hope you enjoy *Minette’s Feast: The Delicious Story of Julia Child and Her Cat*. *Bon appétit!*



Your friend,

[Susanna Reich](#)