

# Sacramento Book Review



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## **The Quilter's Kitchen**

*By Jennifer Chiaverini*

*Simon & Schuster, \$19.95, 224 pages*

In preparation for remodeling the Elm Creek Quilts kitchen, owner, Sylvia Bergstrom Compson, and newly hired chef, Anna Del Maso (introduced in *Circle of Quilters*), discover treasures from the past and menu plans for the future. A mildewed tablecloth, a favorite casserole dish, and more trigger memories for Sylvia and inspire Anna's culinary creativity. Pieces from Sylvia and Anna's backgrounds are revealed, perhaps hinting at upcoming stories in the popular Elm Creek Quilts series.



At the end of each chapter, recipes are given relating to the chapter, usually enough for a full meal and drinks. Recipes lean toward the gourmet, but with readily accessible, fresh ingredients. The Spicy Meatballs recipe calls for panko bread crumbs, kosher salt, and freshly chopped Italian fresh leaf parsley, among other ingredients. A recipe index at the back of the book makes it easy to locate any recipe.

More recipes than story, *The Quilter's Kitchen* doesn't advance the plot in the Elm Creek Quilts series beyond preparing to renovate the kitchen. The book does a nice job of piecing together some of the background of Sylvia and Anna's characters and mixing it with tasty recipes sure to satisfy the palettes of quilters and non-quilters alike.

Reviewed by Jamie Engle