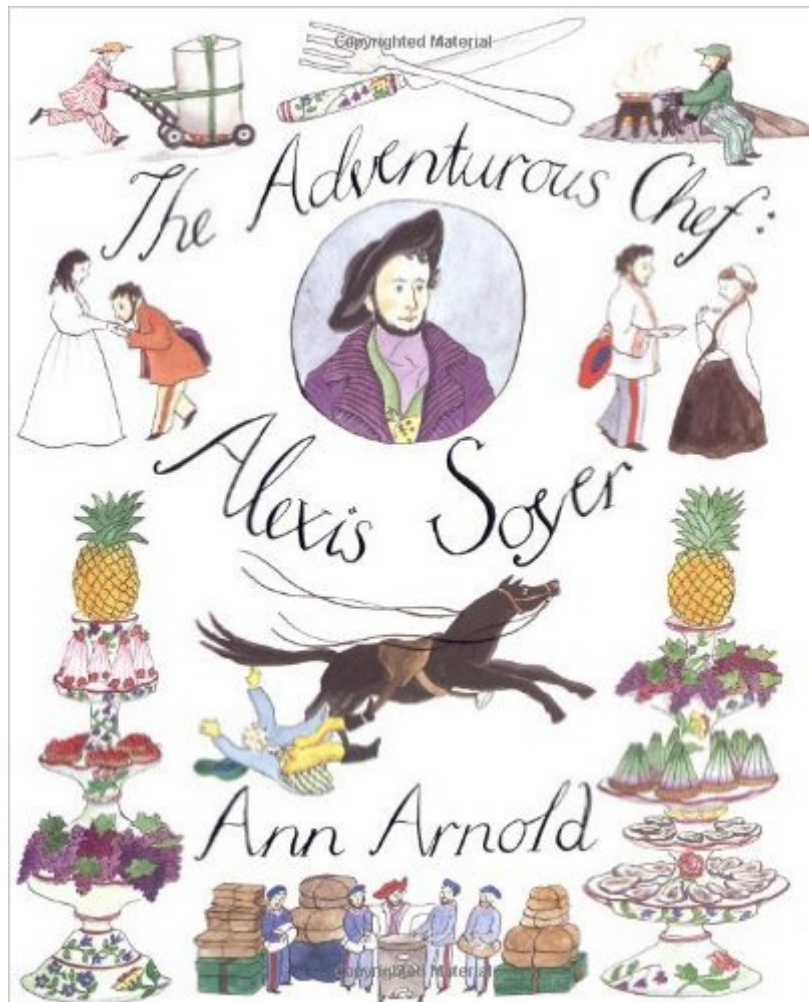


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# The Adventurous Chef: Alexis Soyer



## Synopsis

In 1837, when Alexis Soyer was just twenty-five years old, he became head chef at the exclusive Reform Club in London on the condition that he be allowed to participate in the design of the kitchen. The result was a showplace filled with Soyer's clever inventions, such as the drainer and the multi-egg poacher, and it became the most talked about kitchen in all of Europe. Soyer quickly established himself as a star, but for all his flamboyance he was practical and large-hearted, cooking for the starving populace as well as the aristocracy, opening soup kitchens during the Irish potato famine, and teaching the army how to feed itself in the Crimean War. Filled with biographical detail and lively illustrations, *The Adventurous Chef* tells the story of a remarkable man who was determined to revolutionize the culinary world and who remains one of the greatest cooks of the nineteenth century.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: Farrar, Straus and Giroux (BYR); 1st edition (September 19, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0374316651

ISBN-13: 978-0374316655

Product Dimensions: 8.7 x 0.4 x 12.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #911,788 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #382 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Europe](#) #583 in [Books > Children's Books > Children's Cookbooks](#) #5247 in [Books > Children's Books > Biographies](#)

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## Customer Reviews

My son and I loved this book. For people who want something more than the bland products of children's book publishing in the Corporate Age---\*this is it\*. It's a leap into history (London of the mid-nineteenth century, the Crimean War, the Irish potato famine---even a glimpse of Florence Nightingale...) through one of the great kitchens of all time: that of the Reform Club in London. There's a sumptuous two-page spread of this amazing kitchen, which was full of Soyer's ideas and inventions, and was something of a tourist attraction in its time. The illustrations are irresistible in

beautifully detailed and luminous watercolors. And the landscapes---scenes of London, of Balaclava harbor---and period costumes are just as gorgeously depicted as the spectacular feasts and banquets! A \*must have\* for anyone who loves children's picture books...

Somehow I thought this book would be for adults. Imagine my surprise when it turns out to be a picture book written at a child's level. What a disappointment. I had expected to learn about the life of the man that "inspired" Pie in the Sky.

This book is wonderful. We have bought six of them to give to friends as gifts.

Picked this up because I loved her illustrations for the Alice Waters children's book. What a wonderful story! I couldn't believe how much I learned and how pleasant it was to look at. I loved every page. I think it would make a great gift for cooking-interested adults and older children, maybe age 9?

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