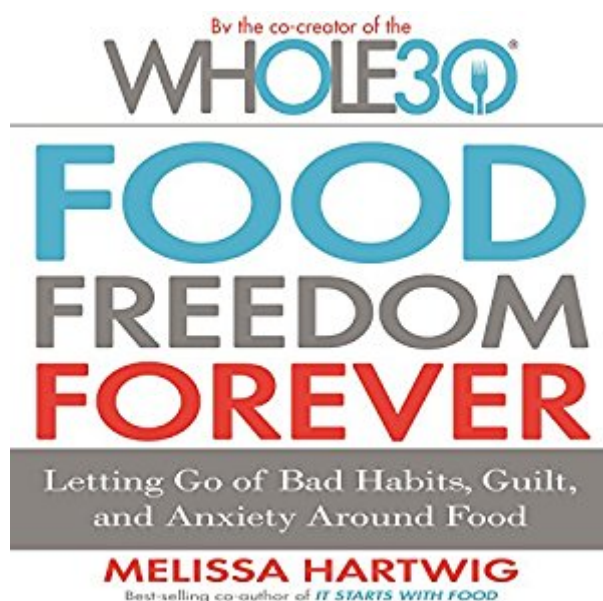


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# Food Freedom Forever: Letting Go Of Bad Habits, Guilt, And Anxiety Around Food



## Synopsis

End the yo-yo dieting cycle...forever. Welcome to the Food Freedom plan. Millions of people have successfully completed the groundbreaking Whole30 program and radically transformed their energy, sleep, cravings, waistlines, and health. Now, Food Freedom Forever offers real solutions for anyone stuck in the exhausting cycle of yo-yo dieting and the resulting stress, weight gain, uncontrollable cravings, and health complaints. In her newest book, best-selling author Melissa Hartwig defines true "food freedom" as being in control of the food you eat instead of food controlling you. Resets like the Whole30 can jump-start the process, but as anyone who has dieted knows, holding on to that freedom and creating healthy habits that last is the hard part. In her detailed three-part plan, Melissa will help you discover food freedom no matter how out of control you feel, walk a self-directed path that keeps you in control for months on end, gracefully recover when you slip back into old habits, and create the kind of food freedom that stays with you for the rest of your life. Food Freedom Forever shows you how to design your reset, making your short-term protocol maximally effective. You'll learn how to spot your specific triggers before they're pulled and strategies for dealing with temptation, strengthening your new healthy habits, and boosting your willpower. Melissa also shares advice for retaining your food freedom during holidays, vacations, periods of life stress, social pressure, and criticism from friends and family. By the end of this audiobook, you'll have a detailed plan for creating the perfect diet for you, finding your own healthy balance, and maintaining the kind of control that brings you real food freedom every day.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Note: I am a long time Whole 30/Melissa Hartwig fan. For that reason, I expected a lot out of this book. She originally said (and says again in the book) "I wrote this book for you"--people looking for the answer to "I finished the Whole 30--now what?" A lot of the concepts in FFF hinge on whether eating Food Xyz is "worth it" based on a number of factors (previous experience eliminating/reintroducing the food, the specialness of it, the circumstance surrounding your desire to eat it etc). She references the Sugar Dragon (a concept introduced in previous blog posts/books) and briefly touches on "food with no brakes" (another concept from her first book) but some of the advice in this book seems counterintuitive to those concepts, thus making everything kind of muddled. How can I eat a cupcake whenever I want, if I decide it truly worth it, but avoid waking the sugar dragon who loves when I eat food with no brakes, such as the cupcake. She references her previous drug addiction and some tools she learned in recovery that can be applied to your relationship with food. Except that you wouldn't tell an alcoholic they can have wine sometimes or an addict they can do a line if it's really worth it etc. An addict has to have a complete severing of the relationship with that they are addicted to--obviously not possible with food but maybe possible (or necessary) with some TYPES of food or drink or the ways in which you consume them. I feel there was a big opportunity missed here in this regard-- sometimes, when you have used food as comfort or reward or social lubricant or celebration etc, it's always worth it. You eat it/drink it even though it has consequences because it makes you feel better in the moment. I wouldn't necessarily label this disordered eating (which Melissa has said before none of her programs are for/address)--there's not a person on the planet who hasn't, at one time or another, eaten or drank too much, turned to chocolate or a cupcake when they've felt stressed or down or become attached to a food routine (a snack and tv in the evening, coffee every morning before anything else etc). So then instead of having a solution for managing these situations, the advice is do it, when it goes too far/get too bad go back to the beginning and reset. Another Hartwig-ism is "riding your own bike"--what you do after the you take off the training wheels of relearning about food on the W30. I felt like instead of advice for what to do when I'm getting tired riding my bike, or it starts to feel like I'm all uphill or on rough roads, the advice was ok go back to flat roads and training wheels. So it's just re-riding the same well worn path over and over and over again. I've levelled up. I'm not where I was when I came to whole 30. Respectfully, I was looking for guidance for this new level. If you've read the previous book and are a regular follower of w30/Melissa on social media, you have heard a lot of these concepts and ideas before. In fact, if you're coming to the book from W30 and/or the previous books, the first third-first half will be old news. I get it from a publishing perspective, that

they want the book to be able to stand on its own independently and not require previous knowledge, but it's kind of a downer when a significant chunk of your new book is stuff you've read/learned before. What I was looking for in this book was this: I've done the Whole 30, I lived the lifestyle for years, I am extremely well versed in which foods make me more or less healthy. Overall, my diet is on the "dirty end of paleo" which is to say very clean in terms of the majority of daily diets (ie the "bad food" I am eating is not highly processed artificially coloured food-like substances, it's eating the good foods too much or too often) The problem is, I don't know how to quit the ones that make me less healthy. I always think of the Robert Downey Jr quote

"It's like I've got a shotgun in my mouth, with my finger on the trigger, and I like the taste of the gun metal." My brain knows the right behaviour and why, and that I feel better when I eat whole30ish, but I can't stop turning back to sugar, or cream, or overeating. I've had to tell myself, I know those foods make you feel good, but not eating them feels good too, just in a different way. Maybe that wasn't Melissa's intent with this book, or it's beyond the scope of her experience or understanding. But with the title of the book being "Food Freedom Forever" and not "Eat a Cupcake if it's Worth It" I guess I was hoping for more. The book may still have value for people who are new to her ideas or are looking for tools to further their food experience beyond W30. When I read It Starts With Food it changed my life. FFF sadly did not. And Melissa, when you read this, I still love and follow you, the book just wasn't what I had hoped.

I pre-ordered this book months before its release. I love Whole 30. I follow the Instagram, Facebook, any account I possibly can. The recipes are AWESOME and Melissa knows her stuff, is well researched, and has a great narrative voice. My issue with his book is that it basically advocates, or at be very least, accepts yo-yo dieting as a way of life. I get it: it's not called a "diet" it's called a "reset" because the main goal isn't losing weight. And you technically aren't restricting CALORIES, but you are restricting a great deal of TYPES of food during the reset. There's a ton of research showing that overly restrictive plans don't last and as much as I love the Whole 30, every time I go on it, my brain does, well...all the rebelling a brain does when you tell it you can't eat something. So basically the idea is: restriction, reintroduction, relax a little until you eventually fall off the wagon, rinse and repeat. The same cycle chronic dieters have been trying to break. I will also say this: Melissa does state that Whole 30 isn't for people with a history of disordered eating. I would go so far to say that this book isn't for chronic dieters looking to break the cycle either. Once the shiny newness wears off, like it does with any diet...or reset, you're back in the same spot with your willpower spent. There's a great book called Intuitive Eating that helped me break the diet cycle AND

the remarkable thing is, I'm basically eating mostly Whole 30 recipes now a days, but not after a long process of learning to turn off the food police. I'd definitely recommend that one if this just isn't what you were looking for.

This is more like a self-help book than a "diet" book. It's kind of like food rehab. The author states this is not a diet, but really, it depends on your frame of mind. Anything I stay on for a limited time is still a diet to me, but YMMV. With that said, this Whole 30 isn't a fad diet, it focuses on whole foods and not limiting calories. You can do Whole 30 with just the companion Food Freedom Forever book. But to understand the entire program, you might want to buy or borrow Whole 30. Now, when a new eating program or diet comes out, everyone wants to know what can I eat and how much. What you can eat on Whole 30: -Meat, eggs, seafood-fruits (including coconut flour)- vegetables (including all forms of potatoes, but not lima beans, corn or peas)-black coffee and plain tea.- You can have green beans, snow peas and sugar snap peas, even though they are classified as legumes.- seeds and nuts (in moderation). This also includes almond flour- natural fats. Natural fats include olive oil, coconut oil, coconut milk (yum) and nut butters (no peanut butter). Natural fats do not include butter. You can have clarified butter or ghee. Personally, I think clarified butter is gross. But that's me.-There are some other unusual things you can have like carob, cacao and tapioca and others, but I found these in the Whole 30 book. Nothing else. No dairy, no sugar, no alcohol, no beans or legumes (as in peanuts), no soy, no grains (not even things like amaranth, sprouted grains, or quinoa), no butter, no sweeteners-not even stevia. Fruit juice can be used in recipes, but no drinking it. And no recreating forbidden food/junk food, like almond flour cupcakes. How much: Eat until satisfied. There are steps you take to reach your desired goal and within the steps are plans called resets. You choose which reset works for you. There is the Whole 30 reset or Design your own reset: Craving Buster Reset, an Anti-Inflammatory Reset, an Energy Reset, Vegan Reset, and a Basic Reset. Once you've gone through 30 days of a reset, you start with reintroducing other foods into your eating routine. There are steps and strategies to help ease you into it without going crazy and ruin all your hard work. Food Freedom Forever is limited in actual information on the Whole 30 plan. There aren't any big lists of food other than what I outlined in my review. There are no menu samples or recipes. You'll have to buy Whole 30 for things like that. This really is an abbreviated Whole 30 book to get you started in the Whole 30 mind frame. I have the Whole 30 book. I did the Whole 4 plan (I was able to stay on it for 4 days. LOL). I'll try again in the form of the Basic reset, which is a little less

restrictive by allowing gluten-free grains. It's designed for the person who "is hungry for a change but doesn't have the emotional capacity to go big." Yep, that's me. I'm too wimpy to go big. I admit it with no shame. Food Freedom Forever can be a real game-changer for some, but it means serious commitment. The author doesn't believe in allowing slips. In fact, in Whole 30 she expects you to restart the program if you do cheat. It's a food science and how your body reacts to non-approved foods thing. A real positive point for Whole 30 is it doesn't restrict calories, so you should never go hungry and your metabolism won't go into shut down mode. However, you will be doing a lot more cooking and planning. This is to be expected when you're eating little to no processed food. Overall, this is a great way to eat healthy and tame some of those bad habits as long as you can stick to it.

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