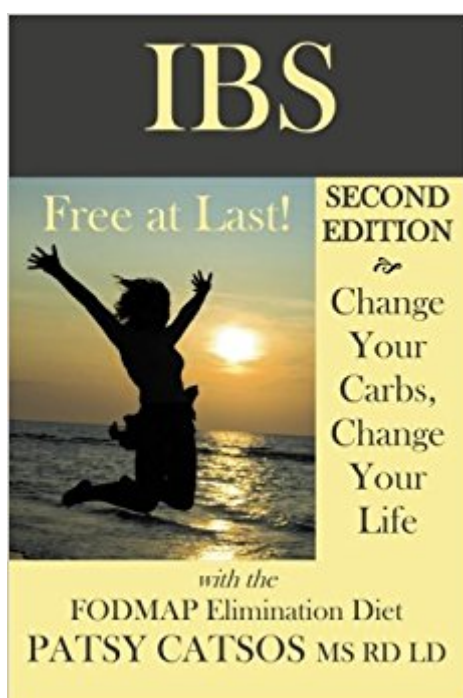


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IBS: Free At Last! Change Your Carbs, Change Your Life With The FODMAP Elimination Diet, 2nd Edition



Synopsis

The updated and expanded edition of *IBS--Free at Last!* is now available! The new edition is titled *The IBS Elimination Diet and Cookbook*. It includes the same 8-step program as *IBS--Free at Last!*, and is redesigned for better usability. It now features 56 recipes and full-color photography. Search for *The IBS Elimination Diet and Cookbook* to start your journey to eating well and feeling great. When *IBS--Free at Last!* was published in 2009, it ushered in a new era of treating IBS through diet instead of medication, and quickly established itself among doctors and other specialists--as well as home users--as an invaluable tool for anyone suffering from IBS (an estimated 35 million in the United States), as well as those with Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, SIBO, and gluten sensitivity. Now available as *The IBS Elimination Diet and Cookbook*, this is the landmark guide to the low-FODMAP diet.

Book Information

Paperback: 180 pages

Publisher: Pond Cove Press; 2 edition (April 11, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0982063520

ISBN-13: 978-0982063521

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.4 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.7 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 256 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #88,508 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in *Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Irritable Bowel Syndrome* #72 in *Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Abdominal* #28361 in *Books > Textbooks*

Customer Reviews

"IBS--Free at Last! is a must-read for anyone who thinks they have tried it all. This book truly is life-changing. Catsos' practical advice and realistic approach is inspiring and empowering; it offers the IBS-sufferer something that is so often elusive--hope!"--Niki Strealy, RD, LD, the Diarrhea Dietitian

Patsy Danehy Catsos is a registered dietitian in private practice; her special area of interest is gastrointestinal health. Her trailblazing book, *IBS--Free at Last!* (Pond Cove Press, 2009), introduced U.S. health care providers and consumers to FODMAP-restricted diet therapy for irritable

bowel syndrome (IBS). Patsy is the editor of the blog IBSfree.net, and an expert contributor to Sharecare.com, an interactive social Q/A platform created by Jeff Arnold and Dr. Mehmet Oz in partnership with Harpo Studios, HSW International, Sony Pictures Television, and Discovery Communications. Ms. Catsos earned a B.S. in Nutritional Science from Cornell University and an M.S. in Nutrition at Boston University. She completed her internship at Boston's Beth Israel Hospital. She is a professional member of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America and the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly known as the American Dietetic Association); she is past-president of the Maine Dietetic Association.

The FODMAP elimination diet, and this book, saved my life. Chronic swelling and constipation and pain have followed me for 50 years. Going strict gluten-free for 3 years only made it worse in the end. I had NO IDEA what was causing my gut such distress. My doctor (an internist, not a GI doctor) suggested looking into FODMAPs. OMG. The second day I was on the FODMAP elimination diet, at 4:30 in the afternoon--by which time my gut had ALWAYS swelled up, I looked down at my still-flat abdomen and said out loud, "WHOSE BODY IS THIS???!!!" I am so, so grateful; there are no words. Tip: since FODMAPs are cumulative in the gut, it make take you a bit of practice to find out what is an okay cumulative amount in a day, and what is not. When you find you're having symptoms, you overdid it. Reduce your total FODMAP intake the next day. I found out that I was overdoing even the allowed fruits; I went without fruit for a couple of days, and had zero pain. Then I proceeded with caution with the fruit. If these fermentable sugars and fibers are your problem, you're on the road to Glory Land! Good luck!

This book changed my life! I knew something I was eating was destroying my digestive system but I had no idea what it was. I knew eating more fiber wasn't going to help me because I'd tried that and my symptoms got drastically worse. I'd gone gluten free and dairy free and [processed] sugar free at different points in my life and while I would feel better for a few weeks but eventually all of my symptoms would come back within a few weeks. I felt like I was going insane. I knew SOMETHING I was eating was causing my distress but had no idea what. I would get bloated and gain 8 lbs in 2 days after eating proper portion sizes of fruits and vegetables and lentils and everything I was "supposed" to eat. Enter this book: all of the research for the book is based off of ACTUAL MEDICAL RESEARCH being conducted in Australia. This is not a fad diet. This is not an anti-carb book. This is not a lose weight book. This is a book that guides you on how to do a proper elimination diet if you suffer from IBS to figure out what it is you can and cannot digest easily. Within

two months of starting the elimination diet (two weeks VERY boring food stuff then the first round of testing a week, followed by another boring week for a total of 4 testing weeks), you will know which groups of foods you can and cannot eat. Turns out I can't eat apples, pears, stone fruits, mangos and mushrooms. All things one would think are perfectly acceptable! Nope. Not for me. If I eat mushrooms, I will actually get nauseous. If I eat a delicious, oh-so-crunchy organic apple, my stomach bloats and my digestive system freezes for 2-3 days. But what *I* can/cannot eat is different from what YOU can/cannot eat. It's all in how the molecules are shaped and how each individual's digestive system reacts to the way those molecules are shaped. I did not lose weight after I figured out what my trigger foods are but my weight stabilized. Before I did this book my weight would fluctuate sometimes 10 lbs in less than a two week period (and I wasn't eating gallons of ice cream followed by days of starving myself). I now have normal lady weight fluctuations of 2-3 lbs based on my cycle. When I got pregnant, I had to see a nutritionist because I had hyperemesis gravidarum (think Princess Kate and vomiting for 9 months straight). When I told her I had IBS and did an elimination diet she looked at me kinda side eyed and wanted to recommend a book to me, the only book she ever recommends to IBS sufferers: THIS is the book she recommends. When I told her this was the book I used, she was relieved and then believed me when I knew what my trigger foods were. It is easy to read and follow. I would recommend buying it in print form (I bought the Kindle version) because you will reference it often and I found it annoying to "flip" around the pages of the digital copy.

Does the title of this review sound trite to you? Does it sound unrealistic? I certainly hope not. I hope it will give you the courage to buy the book and embark on finding out WHY your gut feels the way it does and HOW to make it feel the best it can possibly feel. I've read this book from cover to cover at least four times now. I've highlighted, underlined, put on sticky notes, you name it. I have not compared this book to any other so I can only speak to what is inside this one, but I can tell you it has positively changed my life and I expect that will continue. The first time I read through the book there was so much material for me to absorb that it was a little overwhelming. All of the terminology was new to me. I certainly recognized myself in some of the testimonials and the list of symptoms, but with IBS one size very positively does not fit all. Each person is an individual and it is up to each person to apply the information according to how the foods react with their own gut and symptoms. I began the Elimination Diet and within three days knew I had found a way to address my problem. It was so fantastic to feel normal again that I began to have a fear of adding back foods from the challenge lists in order to home in on which specific categories and individual foods are IBS triggers

for me. I stayed in the elimination phase for two weeks because it was so nice to feel normal. Patsy Catsos makes a very strong case for not getting stuck in the elimination phase though, she encourages trial and error so that the full range of foods becomes available again. The challenge with fructans was the first I chose because I was so sure I had a problem with wheat. No, passed through with flying colors. Next came lactose. I now know that I am lactose sensitive, but by judicious food selection I can easily include all the foods in that category in my diet---just not all of it on the same day! My surprise category was fructose so I'm still experimenting with the foods with the lowest fructose content and working my way up to the ones which I simply cannot tolerate. The galactans/GOS challenge was another one where I didn't have any problem, but polyols have also made me go slow and pretty much try one food at a time. Certain dietary carbohydrates are responsible for my IBS symptoms. This book has given me the tools to know what food is in what category, how to determine which foods I can have in my diet, in what quantity, and which are better left out or substitutes found. I can now read food labels and spot ingredients that I know are tolerated by my system and those which are not. I've learned that producers of foods don't always provide good, detailed information on their food labels and now it is my choice whether to take a chance on trying that food with the mystery ingredients all listed simply as "spices". I live in the South, who knew that High Fructose Corn Syrup is often the first listed ingredient in bottled barbecue sauce? I certainly had never looked and I certainly had no idea I would have such a drastic reaction to HFCS. I understand now that if I have a reaction to something I ate I can retreat for a few days back to the elimination diet to settle my system back down, but I can't hide there for the rest of my life. Is this book perfect? Probably not since there is no way every single food can be shown on one list or another. Some foods just don't contain the carbohydrates which normally cause IBS problems. By starting with those "pure" foods (my terminology, not the author's) I can allow myself the most varied diet possible to ensure good nutrition. If that is what you want too, try this book. If you already have a diagnosis of IBS and you are willing to do your own trial and error experimentation, this book is your road map. If you have other digestive conditions, this book may still give you valuable information regarding FODMAPs (Fermentable Oligo-, Di-, and Mono-saccharides And Polyols). After six weeks I can confidently say my digestive life has changed and I expect this book will continue to be my personal dietitian-in-residence.

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