## STUFFED PEPPERS WITH PARMESAN AND OLIVES

Adapted from <u>Rose Elliot's New Complete Vegetarian</u> Serves 4

## **Ingredients:**

4 large peppers, any color

1/4 c. olive oil

1 onion, chopped

2-3 garlic cloves, crushed

6 oz. breadcrumbs (I used panko, Japanese plain breadcrumbs. You do not need the already-seasoned breadcrumbs that come in a can for this. If you haven't got any breadcrumbs, whirl a few slices of bread in your food processor and toast them in the toaster oven to make some.)

4 oz. pitted olives, green or black (this came to about 1/2 cup) - use good ones! it's worth it!

4 small-to-medium tomatoes, cored, seeded and chopped

4-6 oz. grated cheese (I used 4 oz grated Parmesan, I know because the package said so)

1 T. chopped parsley or scallion

Salt & freshly ground black pepper

Dash of Tabasco sauce (I substituted ground chipotle pepper - if you have this I highly recommend it - it adds a nice smoky flavor along with a bit of heat!)

Cooking spray

**Equipment:** 8x11 casserole dish, aluminum foil for propping up the peppers, medium saute pan.

## **Method:**

**Prepare the pepper shells:** Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Spray your casserole with cooking spray. Cut each pepper in half lengthwise. Remove the stem, core, and seeds (you can also leave the stem if you like - just cut right through it. I forgot and took it out. You could probably stuff them even fuller if you leave it in.). Place the pepper halves cut side up in your casserole pan. You want them to be fairly upright as they cook so if they are roly-poly, place some crumpled-up foil in the bottom of your casserole and nestle the peppers into it (spray the foil with cooking spray too).

**Prepare the filling:** Heat the olive oil in your medium saute pan. Saute your onion over medium heat for 8-10 minutes or until softened and just starting to brown. (You need the pan to be a bit larger than your onion needs, because you'll be adding other things to it.) Add the garlic when you've got about 2 minutes left and continue to saute. Remove the pan from the heat and stir in the breadcrumbs or panko, chopped tomatoes, grated cheese, olives, parsley or scallion. Add salt, pepper and Tabasco or chipotle to taste. The filling will be pretty, with flecks of red and green from the tomato and parsley/scallion.

**Stuff and bake the peppers:** You might be thinking, How am I going to get all this stuffing into these peppers? Fear not! It is exactly the right amount, but you have to pack it in. Pick up a half pepper, add some stuffing and use the back of a small spoon to pack it in, then add more. Once the stuffing is well-packed and even, place the pepper back in the pan, and repeat for all the pepper shells. Once you're done, admire how awesome they look. Then bake at 350 degrees for 40-45 minutes or until the top of the stuffing is crisp and golden brown and the peppers are soft. Your kitchen will smell heavenly as this is going on. Serve and enjoy!

Original post: http://radishrose.net/2014/09/01/stuffed-peppers-with-parmesan-and-olives

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