## **Carrot Cake Oatmeal Cookies**

Two weekends ago, my mom started craving carrot cake. She talked about it at lunch, mentioned it at dinner, and finally caved at 9 pm and drove to Safeway to pick up a slice. When she arrived home, she grabbed a fork, plopped down in her favorite armchair, and slowly savored every bite, stopping with enough left to finish the following day.

Although Mom bought me a slice of my favorite 6-layer chocolate cake at the same time, I couldn't help but stare and hope with all of my fingers crossed behind my back that she'd offer me a taste. That cream cheese frosting... Those soft streaks of carrot... The tender cinnamon cake... It looked mesmerizing!

Despite enjoying every last morsel of my chocolate piece, I couldn't get carrot cake off of my mind. I pictured that square during every run (since my path went past the same grocery store) and whenever I stuck my head into the fridge for fresh fruit and veggie snacks.

I seriously contemplated baking my own again, but knowing that my self-control flies straight out the window with any type of cake, I went with the next best thing...

## Ingredients

 $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups all-purpose flour

- 1 cup white whole wheat flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> tsp. salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. ground cloves

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 $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups all-purpose flour 1 cup white whole wheat flour 1 tsp. baking soda <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> tsp. salt  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. baking powder  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp. ground cloves 2 tsp. ground cinnamon 1 cup quick oats (not instant) <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cup brown sugar  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup granulated sugar 1 cup coconut oil (or 2 sticks butter, softened) 2 large eggs 2 tsp. vanilla extract 2 cups grated carrot (3-4 carrots)  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup flaked coconut  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup chopped walnuts powdered sugar milk

## Instructions

Preheat oven to  $350^{\circ}$  F. In a medium bowl, combine flours, baking soda, salt, baking powder, cloves, cinnamon and oats. Mix well and set aside. With a mixer, beat together sugars and coconut oil in a large bowl. Add eggs and vanilla and beat at medium speed until light and fluffy. Add carrots, coconut and walnuts; blend until combined. Batter will be a lumpy. Add flour mixture and blend at a low speed until just combined. Do not overmix. Drop by tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheets and bake for 13-15 minutes. Watch them so they don't brown too much! Immediately transfer cookies to a cooling rack. If you want your cookies a little sweeter, blend a small amount of powdered sugar with a small amount of milk in a bowl. Add milk or powdered sugar until to the perfect consistency you like. Drizzle it over the cookies and serve.

Enjoy!

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