Elise Johnson is a Raleigh, North Carolina-based chef.

Chef Elise is becoming well-known for her TV cooking segments “Cooking With Elise”, her blogging at www.CookingWithElise.com and as Chef Spokesperson for BJ’s Wholesale Club. Chef Elise's first cookbook, You Never Cook Alone, is being released in April 2012. The book’s sub-title “Stirring Memories, Feeding Souls and Building Legacies – A Cookbook for the Well Fed Family” reflects Elise's mission of helping families understand and capture the powerful energy that cooking and eating together contributes to building emotionally and spiritually healthy families and friendships. Chef Elise grew up near Boston. A speech impediment kept Elise from talking until she was sixteen. Her Portuguese grandmother’s kitchen became her refuge. Elise's grandmother, who spoke little English, taught her to cook with the most important ingredient of all – love.

Elise put that same love into the meals she created for her own family. After numerous requests, Elise began teaching her friends, children and college students to cook. Now through personal appearances, classes, TV, the Internet and her new cookbook, she shares that love with others.

In an amazing transformation, the child-who-never-spoke has become the funny, passionate outspoken Chef Elise that some are calling the “Portuguese Paula Dean”.