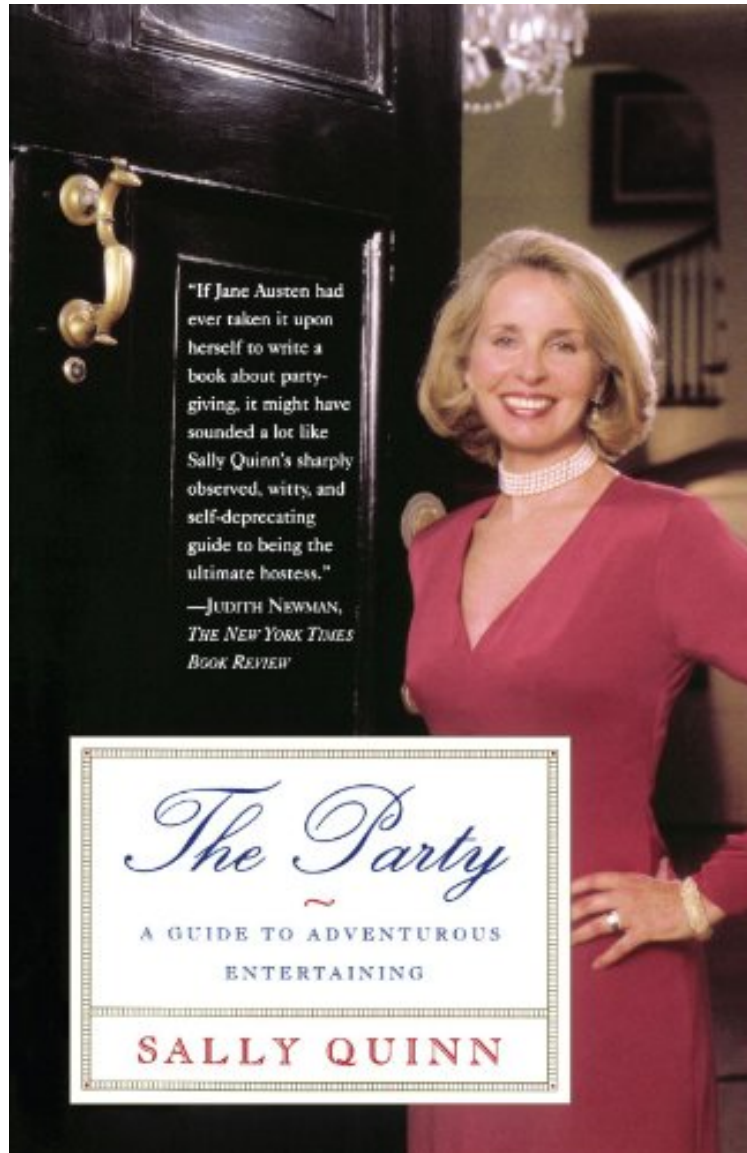


[Download] The Party: A Guide to Adventurous Entertaining

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Sally Quinn

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Sally Quinn : The Party: A Guide to Adventurous Entertaining before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Party: A Guide to Adventurous Entertaining:

8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. "Get Over It" By Michela Near the end of her book, "The Party: A Guide to Adventurous Entertaining," Washington "hostess" and Southern belle Sally Quinn discloses for whom she

has written this book. Ms. Quinn says that ". . . many newcomers to Washington, whether they are members of Congress or administration types or diplomats or journalists, do find the whole notion of Washington and Georgetown dinner parties terribly intimidating." Through her outspoken and irreverent memoir-guide, she hopes to demystify "what goes on here." Ms. Quinn does mention "names"; she says she does so in order to level the playing field, to show that anyone can drop the ball when entertaining. Her book is filled with anecdotes as well as practical tips. She exhorts would-be hosts and hostesses to follow the Golden Rule: "Treat your guests the way you would like to be treated." Much of the book repeats commonsensical rules that those of us who entertain already know. However, I did pick up some pointers, such as ". . . no matter how bad the food is or what disaster befalls you in the kitchen, when all else fails, make sure you have plenty of booze on hand, and the party won't be a total bomb," and "[e]veryone in your home must be treated like a celebrity, must be made to feel wanted and special." "The Party" may not appeal much to experienced party-givers and party-goers. However, it is an amusing addition to more "serious" books on entertaining. For someone who is starting out as a host or hostess, I think he or she will find some good tips here. As Ms. Quinn says, "the point is to have a good time." If one cannot do so, then she says to "get over it." If you don't know what a "P.R.F." is, then that is reason enough to get this book. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Snobbery, name-dropping, gracious condescension Its all here. By Yankee Dame This book is not only bad, it's irritating. It's like sitting next to a fading social butterfly on a long flight and listening to stories of her life. At first it's sort of interesting-- I mean, let's face it, this dame's been around. But after a while the endless name dropping starts getting to you, till finally you just want to snap, "Will you just shut up already?" The world of Washington society-- a world filled with women named "Mitzi" and men named "Huntington"-- she describes is a hot house, in-bred world in the grips of a Versailles mentality. This is no where better seen than in one of the last stories of her book. She and her husband were giving a New Year's Party for a hundred or so of their "dearest friends". Suddenly an older, rather modest, couple show up, introduce themselves and are hesitantly admitted. Neither Quinn nor her husband nor any of their glittering friends have any idea who these...these "people" were. As a result, says our hostess with the mostest, "I was so annoyed that I ignored them all night." Turns out that due to a computer error Mr. Mrs. Nobody actually had been invited. This elderly couple from the heartland weren't gate crashers. "I still haven't forgotten how rude I was," sighs Quinn. Still, she reminds us brightly, "There is no such things as perfection." 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Adventurous, indeed.... By A Customer Formerly of Washington, D.C., I couldn't resist reading this lighthearted romp into Sally Quinn's world of entertaining. I don't believe Quinn wanted to write a book that laid out clear "do's and don'ts" la Judith Martin, but instead wanted to lead by example - sharing stories of her party successes and misfires. Some of the stories are absolutely priceless, especially the ones involving Colin Powell. Quinn stresses overall the Golden Rule of Hosting: treat others as you would want to be treated. Another one of my favourite tips is "no matter how bad the food is or what disaster befalls you in the kitchen, when all else fails, make sure you have plenty of booze on hand, and the party won't be a total bomb." So very, very true. If you have some down time in your own world of adventurous entertaining, pick up this book and settle in for a good time.

In *The Party*, Sally Quinn turns her trademark sharp wit on the Washington social scene and offers an irreverent look at what goes on at the parties you read about in the columns. From seating debacles to real-life scandals, she reveals her firsthand experiences as a member of the Washington power elite to illustrate how to entertain for any occasion. No one knows better than Quinn how to make parties work. She has thrown some of the most talked-about parties and has attended most of the others. As Quinn writes, all that is necessary is that the host live by the golden rule: "Treat your guests the way you would like to be treated." *The Party* provides a checklist of ideas to help make the important decisions such as what time of day (or night) or month and how to choose the invitations, the place, the food, the booze, the setting, the table, the entertainment, and, above all, the guests. Within these guidelines, Quinn tells about her own adventures, stories, and techniques from all kinds of different parties from the elaborate, formal dinner to the impromptu get-together. Her playful, poignant, and often hilarious accounts of party disasters from her own and others' parties will strike a chord with anyone who has ever entertained. *The Party* is not only an amusing and lively glimpse into the party scene but also a useful and practical guide to making your own parties a success and guaranteeing that your guests will want to come back.

.com Before she married Ben Bradlee, former executive editor of the Washington Post, and became a society hostess herself, Sally Quinn made her living going to parties and reporting on them for the Post's "Style" section. Her years of experience as both guest and hostess have put Quinn in the perfect position to counsel others on the dos and don'ts of entertaining, and she does so with gusto in *The Party*. Granted, the average reader won't be faced with some of the problems Quinn and her beltway buddies cope with regularly--the president of the United States staying longer than expected at a pre-dinner cocktail party, for example, or the ambassador to Great Britain getting drunk and making out with a reporter (not his wife) in the spare bedroom. Still, Quinn points out, some things are universal, whether you're entertaining in an embassy ballroom or a one-room apartment in Queens: good food, good drink, and good company make for a great party. And even if you don't throw parties like Quinn does, you can still enjoy getting the dish on

after-hours Washington . The Party is the next-best thing to being invited to Sally Quinn's house for dinner. From Library Journal Having started her journalistic career covering the Washington social scene for the Washington Post's style section and now married to former executive editor Ben Bradlee, Quinn knows a thing or two about parties. "Over the years I have gone to thousands and given hundreds. And over the years I think I have been able to figure out what makes things work." Here she shares with anxious would-be hosts or hostesses her tips for throwing a successful party. Stressing the importance of making sure your guests have a good time, Quinn details elements to consider: the setting, food, booze, table, entertainment, and guests. She interposes her advice with gossipy stories of celebrity-laden disasters and hits. At times the name dropping becomes excessive ("Dick Cavett drove all the way from Montauk with his dog in the car, Swedish actress BiBi Anderson was there"). And how many of us entertain the president of the United States? But, unlike Martha Stewart, Quinn at least has a sense of humor. An optional purchase. ?Wilda Williams, "Library Journal" Copyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus sTrite, trivial, and tasteless describe this unrewarding effort of a society reporter, novelist, and ``sometime Washington hostess." That latter label horrified Quinn (Happy Endings, 1991) when she heard it applied to her on Good Morning America. She was, after all, a ``serious journalist," and ``hostess" was synonymous with ``frivolous" in her view. She was, alas, somehow persuaded otherwise. Quinn has organized a book about giving parties that begins with a credible mantra from her party-giving parents: ``A guest can do no wrong." It's downhill from there. Names--from the Clintons to Princess Margaret, Henry Kissinger to Lauren Bacall, and Washington pundits too numerous to mention or remember--are scattered profusely, but many of the anecdotes are pointless and without context. One secret of legendary hostess Perle Mesta's success, she tells us, was to hang a lamb chop in her window to signal a party--but why? Perhaps lamb chops have a kinky sexual connotation not revealed here. More likely, it was WW II and meat was rationed, making lamb chops a surefire lure for partygoers. No hint of that historic motive from Quinn, whose party success meter seems to be how many guests ``in black tie and . . . evening gowns were reclining all over the living room floor giggling." Moreover, in a chapter alluringly titled ``The Booze," her vaunted motto regarding the immunity of guests stops short at large cocktail parties, where she refuses to serve red wine because ``people spill," and coffee after dinner, because ``it kills the party"--presumably sobering everyone up. Other chapters deal equally improbably with table settings, entertainment after the meal, and where to have the party. Beginning and ending chapters are titled ``The Point" and ``The Point (Again)," but Quinn seems to have missed it both times. Go to Miss Manners for a useful guide to party giving or to almost any celebrity bio for better anecdotes about parties-I- have-known. (bw illustrations) -- Copyright 1997, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.