

2015 Tables of Contents – Books and Host Blurbs

Saturday, April 25th



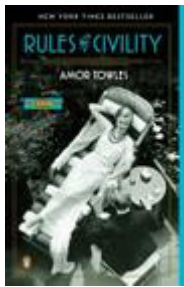
[Rick Steves' Greece](#) - Have you been to Greece or is it on your bucket list? Either way, your hosts will help you enjoy an evening of conversation, connection, and good food, all inspired by the guidebook of that preeminent traveler Rick Steves, who notes that the Greeks were responsible for democracy, mathematics, medicine, theater, and astronomy, among many other accomplishments. Please bring along your own Greek travel treasures and mementos, your stories, and your questions—or your copy of *Oedipus Rex*! You may want to sample a traditional retsina or a glass of ouzo, but Greece is also well-known for some lovely, simple wines that are sure to please.



[The 100-Year-Old-Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared](#) by Jonas Jonasson - Climb out your window and disappear! In the style of Jonas Jonasson's *The 100-Year-Old-Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared*, we promise an unpredictable and playful evening. This "mordantly funny and loopily freewheeling novel about aging disgracefully" will provide the perfect springboard for a night of spinning yarns and celebrating our days. Slippers encouraged.



[Bel Canto](#) by Ann Patchett - Join us for an evening of music and food inspired by Ann Patchett's brilliant novel *Bel Canto*. In the book, a group of strangers are assembled for a celebratory birthday party somewhere in South America when a band of terrorists interrupt the festivities. With lyrical writing that intrigues and captivates, Ms. Patchett explores how different characters react to prolonged captivity and how romance and compassion can arise from tense circumstances. We promise we won't hold you hostage!



Rules of Civility by Amor Towles - Join us for a night inspired by the exhilaration, frustration, inspiration and growth that comes with coming of age as a twenty-something in New York City. We'll enjoy some jazz as we kick off the night but keep the music evolving to match our mood over the evening, all to accompany a NYC-inspired menu full of flavor and flair. This book read like a crisp, delicious glass of bubbly for me – so there will be plenty of that to accompany

our dinnertime discussion and delights. Oh – and we'll be leaving the fleece, clogs and Upper Valley casual wear in the closet and donning something a bit more fun – we hope you'll be inspired to have a little fashion fun too!



City of Thieves by David Benioff - A thriller-page turner. Neither my husband nor I could put it down. “*City of Thieves*” follows a character named Lev Beniov, the son of a revered Soviet Jewish poet who was “disappeared” in the Stalinist purges, as Lev and an accomplice carry out an impossible assignment during the Nazi blockade of Leningrad. Before Lev begins to tell his story, however, a young Los Angeles screenwriter named David visits his grandfather in Florida, pleading

for his memories of the siege. A Spring dinner that promises no borscht.

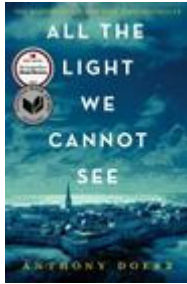


To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee - While we wish we could discuss *Go Set a Watchman*, this dinner occurs before its publication on July 14th. So to help us prepare for the prequel/sequel – already a New York Times Best-seller – we will revisit Harper Lee’s amazing novel and eat genuine southern food. Yes, we will open our copies of the Junior League Cookbooks from Memphis, Pensacola and Charleston. Don’t worry, we won’t deep-fry anything – except maybe

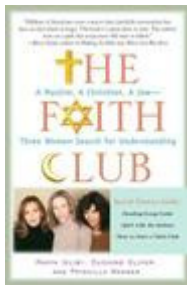
the hush puppies - but will show you what southern hospitality entails.

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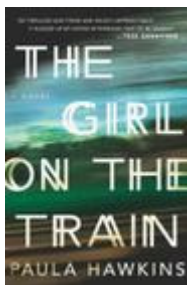
Saturday, May 2nd



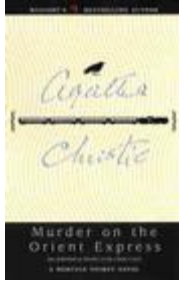
[**All the Light We Cannot See**](#) by Anthony Doerr - Engage all of your senses as we seek the unseen world. We will taste France and discuss chance encounters that change lives. We might grapple with how time, technology, obsession, or risk, connect us all with invisible threads.



[**The Faith Club**](#) by Ranya Idliby- We've all been raised with a few ground rules of etiquette: say please and thank you; don't chew with your mouth open; and don't ever talk about politics or religion at the dinner table! We're inviting you to break the rules and to join us for an evening of cross-cultural food and meaningful conversation inspired by *The Faith Club*. This compelling book tells the story of three mothers, their three religions, and their quest to understand one another. Amidst challah and couscous, shish kabobs and hot cross buns, we're looking forward to tasty treats and great conversations!



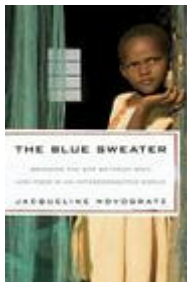
[**The Girl On The Train**](#) by Paula Hawkins - Rachel takes the same commuter train everyday to and from London. The train stops briefly beside a row of suburban houses that allows her to see the same couple day after day. She even fantasizes that she knows them and gives them names. Then one day she looks at their house and sees something shocking. And her whole life spins out of control. This book speeds along like a commuter train. You can't wait to turn the next page. And you can be sure to start our evening we will be serving Rachel's favorite, gin and tonic in a can.



[Murder on the Orient Express](#) by Agatha Christie - What could be more fun than fussy Hercule Poirot traveling first class on the Orient Express? Join us for an elegant evening to celebrate this classic Agatha Christie novel. Who did it?



[A Study in Scarlet](#) by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle - *A Study in Scarlet* is the book that introduced Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson to the world, and launched a whole genre of detective fiction. Come along and share a Victorian English dinner while we discuss the great detective, his various TV and movie incarnations, and anything else that comes up – perhaps other great fictional detectives past and present.



[The Blue Sweater](#) by Jacqueline Novogratz - A story of persistence as a former Wall Street banker works to make a real difference in Africa. *The Blue Sweater* is a colorful reminder that making small differences in the eyes of many Westerners can make a big impact in reality. Let's break bread together and inspire each other to make the world a better place through small acts of giving and a little creativity.