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Vintage Tea Party



Synopsis

Everyone loves a tea party. Mix-and-match crockery, bone-handled knives, lace and linen, sweet peas and roses, home baking and a slug of gin in the tea cup - they're all back in vogue. Indoors by the fire in winter or outside in summer sunshine, hosts and guests can relax together with none of the formality of a dinner party. In *Vintage Tea Party*, Carolyn Caldicott shows readers how to recreate a world of nostalgic comfort, old-fashioned elegance and delicious treats. Try her recipes for cucumber sandwiches, Victoria sponge, rose petal jelly, strawberry and champagne jam, Earl Grey tea with gin and lemon, and much, much more.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Carolyn and Chris Caldecott, owners of the World Food Cafe in London's Covent Garden, present this enchanting little book, describing the British tradition of tea time, the crockery and utensils used for the occasion, the cakes served and the recipes for them, and also convenient ways for those on tighter budgets to enjoy them. Via Carolyn's text, we learn how Britain's love affair with tea began in the mid-17th century, when green tea first arrived on merchant ships from China, but was banned by Puritan Oliver Cromwell, who thought it too decadent, even in the face of arguments that it was good for people's health, and was later revived by Charles II whose new wife, Catherine of Braganza had a tea chest as part of her dowry. Eventually tea became affordable to the masses as the British established tea plantations in India and Ceylon (Sri Lanka), as they broke China's global monopoly on the tea trade, and tea was promoted by supporters of the Temperance movement as

an alternative to beer, and served with boiling water as a safe way to drink water. Anna, Duchess of Bedford, and lady-in-waiting to her lifelong friend, Queen Victoria, inadvertently started the tradition of the 4:00 tea in 1840 when tea, bread, butter, and cakes were brought to firstly to her private rooms at her home, Woburn Abbey. The timing of the early breakfasts, late dinners, and the scant amount of attention paid to the light midday meals left her hungry by the aforementioned time.

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