



## A Curious Invitation: The Forty Greatest Parties in Fiction

By Field, Suzette.

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From the ball at Mansfield Park (Jane Austen) to the Fifth Avenue Party in Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, in *A Curious Invitation* Suzette Field chronicles forty of the greatest fictional parties. For each party, Suzette describes the hosts, the venue, the guest list, the dress code and the food and drink served. It's the perfect book to sit and read straight through with a cup of tea, or, I love the idea of using it to inspire your next party. I created a little inspiration board inspired by the "Blossom Viewing Party" from *The Tale of Genji*. Cherry blossom season is right around the A Curious Invitation is an Arts Events company founded by Suzette Field. Suzette's career began in 2000 as a founder of The Modern Times Club, which *Tatler* dubbed "the Rolls Royce of cabaret". In 2007 she brought her expertise to the Last Tuesday Society and helped expand it from organizing tea parties to being one of London's premier promoters. As *A Curious Invitation*, her portfolio now includes an array of unusual ventures from London Month of the Dead, a series of death salons in the "Magnificent Seven" cemeteries, masked balls for up to 3,000 guests, talks with the National Trust and one o *A Curious Invitation* NPR coverage of *A Curious Invitation: The Forty Greatest Parties in Fiction* by Suzette Field. News, author interviews, critics' picks and more. *A Curious Invitation. Books. A Curious Invitation. The Forty Greatest Parties in Fiction.* by Suzette Field. Paperback, 301 pages, HarperCollins, List Price: \$15.99 |. Inviting readers to attend some of the most famous parties in literary history, this guide features 40 of the greatest fictional festivities from around the world through the eyes of the world's greatest writers. Read an excerpt of this book. Genres Forty of the greatest fictional festivities as seen through the eyes of the world's greatest writers. People love to party. And writers love to attend and document these occasions. The party is a useful literary device, not only for social commentary and satire but also as an occasion where characters can meet, fall in and out of love, or even get murdered. *A Curious Invitation* is a humorous and informative guide to literature's most memorable parties. Witty, entertaining, and full of fabulous detail, *A Curious Invitation* offers readers the chance to crash some of the great parties in literary history. Read More. Publisher Xviii, 301 pages : 21 cm. A humorous and informative guide features forty of the greatest fictional festivities in literature through the eyes of the world's greatest writers, including discussions of such works as "The Great Gatsby" and "Steppenwolf". "Originally published in 2012 in Great Britain by Picador ..."--Title page verso. Includes bibliographical references. Introduction -- Picking the parties -- 1. Trimalchio's dinner party, *The satyricon* by Gaius Petronius Arbiter -- 2. Gatsby's Saturday night partries, *The great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fit