



Fictitious Dishes: An Album of Literature's Most Memorable Meals

Dinah Fried

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Fifty Iconic Culinary Scenes from Literary Classics Sure to Delight Readers, Foodies, and Photo-Junkies Alike

Fictitious Dishes serves up a delectable assortment of photographic interpretations of culinary moments from contemporary and classic literature. Showcasing famous meals such as the madcap tea party from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, the watery gruel from *Oliver Twist*, the lavish chicken breakfast from *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the stomach-turning avocado-and-crabmeat salad from *The Bell Jar*, and the seductive cupcakes from *The Corrections*, this unique volume pairs each place setting with the text from the book that inspired its creation. Interesting food facts and entertaining anecdotes about the authors, their work, and their culinary predilections complete this charming book, which is sure to whet the appetites of lovers of great literature and delicious dishes.

Fictitious Dishes: An Album of Literature's Most Memorable Meals Details

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From Reader Review Fictitious Dishes: An Album of Literature's Most Memorable Meals for online ebook

Beth Knight says

This book is appealing on a few different levels. Anyone who loves books and reading would appreciate it because it contains quotes from a variety of books. But foodies and photography lovers would be fans as well because the quotes and photographs are all about the food that's mentioned in the books. The book is small, only 117 pages, half of which are the photographs, so it can easily be read in one short sitting. A few of the books mentioned in the book are Moby Dick, The Secret Garden and To Kill a Mockingbird. I have two favorites: Chicken Soup with Rice (Maurice Sendak) because that was one of my favorite childhood books, and The Namesake (Jhumpa Lahiri) because not only was that a great book but the food talked about and mentioned sounds so good (an Americanized version of bhelpuri, which is a snack made with puffed rice, vegetables and tamarind). There's also interesting facts about the books, authors and foods underneath each quote, which adds to the overall interest. If a sequel comes out I'll definitely purchase that one too. This is a book I'll look at several times when the mood strikes.

Monika says

"Reading and eating are natural companions, and they've got a lot in common. Reading is consumption. Eating is consumption. Both are comforting, nourishing, restorative, relaxing, and mostly enjoyable. They can energise you or put you to sleep. Heavy books and heavy meals both require a period of intense digestion. Just as reading great novels can transport you to another time and place, meals - good and bad ones alike - can conjure scenes very far away from your kitchen table. Some of my favourite meals convey stories of origin and tradition; as a voracious reader, I devour my favourite books."

That paragraph from the book defines my relationship with food and books so well. Fictitious dishes is a an effort from Dinah Fried on cooking and clicking meals from an album of literature's most memorable meals. I thought I will finish this in an hour but I spent days with it. Reading and re-reading texts from my favourite books. Drooling at the pictures she plated and then imagining what would I do with the meal. Absolutely delightful this book. It's my sisters and I am ordering my own copy soon and oh "Namesake" was a surprise entry in it :)

Katie says

My two favorite things, food and books, together. I should have loved this, right? But this book just didn't really have a spark for me. It was an excerpt from a book, a few facts about the book and the food mentioned, and a picture of a recreation of the meal from the book. Even writing this now, I feel like that's a cool idea. But it just wasn't very exciting.

The photos felt very static. Now that I'm really thinking about it, I think maybe the issue was the distance the camera was from the food. If the pictures have been more close up of the meals, I think that would have

made them better.

James McIntosh says

Although it may be a bit difficult to stay fully interested all the way through it, this is a neat book. I can appreciate the vision, imagination, creativity, effort, and skill that was put into its making. Fried had to do her research, locate interesting items for the photos, and then arrange and take the unique photos.

There are many interesting, and sometimes fascinating, facts about authors, books, foods, and history. I also discovered some new books through this one. And although there is no variation in their perspectives, many of the photos are enjoyable to look at and see how Fried envisioned and recreated the scenes copied from the various pieces of literature, bringing them to life in a new way. (The tiny icons created for and associated with each one are also fun.)

Lesa says

What a charming, fun book! And, I wish I could remember where I read about Dinah Fried's *Fictitious Dishes*. Subtitled "An Album of Literature's Most Memorable Meals", Fried combines photos of meals from literature, quotes from the work, and fascinating notes about the book, the food, and its history.

In the introduction, Fried says "Many of my most vivid memories from books are of the meal the characters eat." And, she tries to bring together books and eating in her photos. There are two pages dedicated to each book. One features the quote mentioning that food, along with background information. The facing page includes her dressed-up photo, whether it's on a special tablecloth or a rug. The author carefully laid out every photo.

Curious about the matched books and photos? There's Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, with apple pie and ice cream. Of course, Proust's *Swann's Way* features madeleines and tea. The photo from Beverly Cleary's *Beezus and Ramona*, a lively children's book, features a plate of food surrounded by crayons on a tablecloth that screams '50s. There's a note accompanying Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* that says canned foods date back to the Napoleonic Wars (1803-15). Unfortunately, one note is out-of-date as of this week. It's with *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and says, "Despite her success, Lee never wrote another novel." Did you know that Welch's created modern jam in 1918 during World War I for US Army rations? That note is paired with *Bread and Jam for Frances* by Russell Hoban.

The photos are perfect, completing the quotes from some of my favorite books from childhood, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle, C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, and Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. But, there are heavier pieces as well such as James Joyce's *Ulysses* and Jane Austen's *Emma*. And, there are book summaries for the entire list of books at the end.

Not every meal nor every book will suit every reader. But Dinah Fried's small collection, *Fictitious Dishes*, is a charming reminder of memorable moments featuring food in literature.

Rose Ray says

Don't read this book when you're hungry. That's probably obvious to most people, but I'm known to ignore common sense. Fried's photography is colorful, symmetrical, and aesthetically beautiful, and all of it looks absolutely delicious. She does not neglect a single detail and I couldn't appreciate it more. I was surprised for American Psycho's dish she didn't depict the scene where he describes cooking and eating human flesh in his apartment, but that may have been a bit too unsettling to create, even with fake "human meat", although her photograph is a decent recreation, since Bret Easton Ellis devotes about 25% of the book to describing elaborate restaurants and meals that after a while were simply beyond this low-class reader's imagination. Fried's quips about the books' authors and the history of the dishes that she photographs are fascinating and show her devotion and research to each photograph and the story behind it. I found the cult following around Anne of Green Gables and the idea of the Anne-inspired weddings complete with red wigs to be particularly disturbing.

It really makes me want to create my own fictitious dishes. I'm already picturing using a cow heart for my own interpretation of American Psycho, but as with most art projects I would probably get frustrated within the first stages of assembly and completely abandon it, which would leave me with the problem of disposing a cow heart in an inconspicuous way. And I'm pretty sure I'd end up on some sort of government list if I went to Ralphs' deli counter and asked for a cow heart.

Allie says

4 stars for the concept. This is a really fun book, and it's really fun to take a particular aspect of fiction and make it real. The photos are really cute and clearly a lot of thought went into them. Unfortunately some of them are just not very good. A few tend to be a little on the nose, and it seems like she crammed in as much detail as possible into some of them. Often enough the photo speaks for itself; extra junk isn't needed to communicate the point.

There were a few that stuck in my craw: The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo, Blueberries for Sal, and American Psycho. The staging of the GWTDT was so clean. I know they're Swedish, but that book is so dark and grimy a perfectly clean setting just doesn't make any sense. Blueberries for Sal quotes the fact that she puts three blueberries in her bucket then eats them, and in the photo the bucket is full of blueberries. Three blueberries! That's all you need. American Psycho was interesting, but there was a business card for the main character next to the place setting. Ugh, the reader need not be hit over the head.

Still! A fun book and a worthwhile project.

Marie says

What a fun book! The author took passages from over 50 much-loved, familiar, and often classic pieces of literature and re-created the memorable meals from them. I had such a good time flipping through and looking at all the pictures.

Fictitious Dishes opens with an introduction by the author in which she explains how this project came to be, and how she went about re-creating the settings. It's not an overly long introduction, and I love getting the "inside scoop" on books!

Each book/photo pairing is set up the same in Fictitious Dishes. On the left page you have the book title, author, and excerpt and on the right side you have the photo of the place setting and meal. A **bonus** (I love bonuses!) is that you also get fun facts relating to the book/author/food! For instance, on The Secret Garden page you learn that the author was a Christian Scientist, that the potato was the first vegetable grown in space, and that a hen can lay as many as 335 eggs per year-one egg every 26 hours.

I was so excited to see so many of my personal favorites featured in this book, such as Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery and East of Eden by John Steinbeck and Gone With the Wind by Margaret Mitchell and many more! (If you're curious, the featured "meal" for Anne of Green Gables is the currant wine scene... You'll need to pick up a copy of the book to see the picture!) I give this book a double thumbs up and recommend it to all my bibliophile friends out there.

Kate says

Find pictures and links here: <http://booksaremyfavouriteandbest.wor...>

If I was going to write a book (and was also an ace photographer and a brilliant stylist), it would be exactly like Dinah Fried's Fictitious Dishes. There couldn't be a more perfect book. Why? It's best summed up with its subtitle – 'An Album of Literature's Most Memorable Meals'.

This gem of a book combines literature, food, beautiful photographs, memorable quotes, and historical and factual detail about the books and foods included. It's a masterpiece. And difficult to review because I find it tricky to get passed the brilliance of the whole thing.

I stumbled across the book late last year and immediately placed my order. Then I forgot about it for a bit. One day I opened my letterbox and there it was. The afternoon was lost as I became totally engrossed in buttery crumpets from Daphne du Maurier's Rebecca; Kerouac's apple pie; sweet potatoes served with Gone With the Wind style; and a meal of grapefruit, a la Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas.

Fried has selected a range of fifty books, from classics (Lolita, Moby Dick, Emma, Ulysses) and contemporary literature (The Corrections, Valley of the Dolls, American Psycho, Heartburn) to children's literature (Bread and Jam for Frances, Beezus and Ramona, Anne of Green Gables). A culinary moment from book is recreated and photographed, the detail in each is meticulous.

My favourites are of course from books that are also my favourites – I love the simple roast potatoes pictured for Frances Hodgson Burnett's The Secret Garden, a book that captured my imagination at a very young age; the Southern-fried goodness of the spread for To Kill a Mockingbird; and the array of hors-d'oeuvres for The Great Gatsby.

4.5/5 As a 'foodie' read, this is the ultimate.

Heather says

Julie recommended this to me approximately a decade ago and I finally got around to it. Such lovely, fun quotes. I often end up reproducing food from books I read and I'm glad it's not just me! There were a few

inconsistencies between the quotes and the pictures that bothered me (but I think that's just me). Entertaining otherwise and super clever.

Sunil says

Very interesting assortment of photographs, like an Instagram of meals from various fiction books - ranging from Moby Dick to Ulysses. The facing page typically covers a few interesting trivia about the food or the context of meals in the books. I don't remember or know all of the meals in the context but they surely look quite appetising. The book is slightly dear at the moment but I feel it's worth the investment, will make a good coffee-table book or something to flip through with new guest or to discuss on a date.

conrad says

I squealed at the page dedicated to Confederacy of Dunces.

This is a beautiful tribute, and with the wide variety, excellent choice of excerpts, and detailed pictures, this holds well as a coffee-table book or a casual flip-through and reread.

Maggie says

Oddly lovely and denser than one might expect from a rather high-concept book. Each two page spread is a quote about a meal from an iconic book, with a photo of (or riffing on) said meal. But what takes it to another level is the quite delightful and idiosyncratic footnotes - about the book, or the food, or food in general. Did you know that JD Salinger's father was a ham and cheese importer? Or that there is a Japanese anime Anne of Green Gables postage stamp? Or that blueberries were called "star berries" by Native Americans "thanks to the five-pointed shape of its blossom"?

Aziff says

Fictitious Dishes is a humble but beautiful book. D. Fried picks out fifty the most illustrious passages of food from acclaimed literature. Its concept is absurdly simple: carefully crafted food photography, the referred passage from the literature and food trivia. What you have is a beautiful collection of these wondrous dishes in literature, illustrated. This is a perfect book for foodies and literature lovers alike.

Elizabeth A says

This book is like following an Instagram user who loves books and food. The author selects texts that talk about food from fifty books (you've either read, or at least heard of them all), and then creates a meal from the text and takes a photo of said meal. The book is a collection of these texts and photographs, and it's quite fun to see how the text is interpreted. I especially enjoyed the little factoids at the end of each text. A note for

foodies, recipes are not included.

This little book can be read in one sitting, but I'd suggest taking breaks to eat and nap between readings/viewings.
