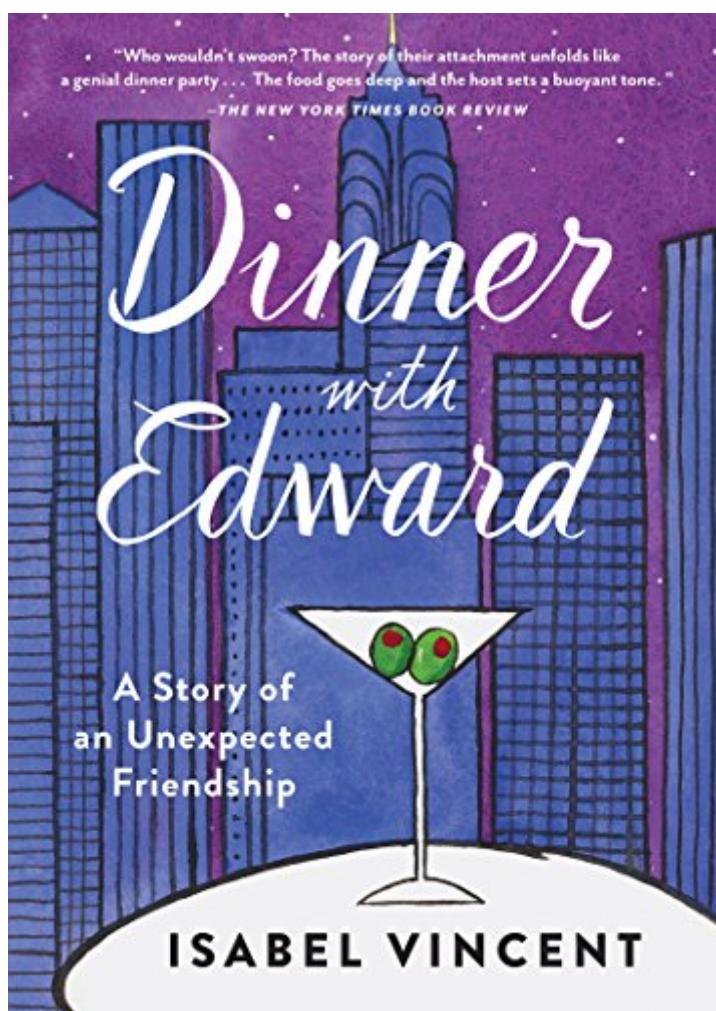


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Dinner With Edward: A Story Of An Unexpected Friendship



Synopsis

“I loved every moment of this book . . . Everyone deserves their own Edward--and everyone deserves to read this book.” •Susannah Cahalan, bestselling author of *Brain on Fire*

When Isabel meets Edward, both are at a crossroads: he wants to follow his late wife to the grave, and she is ready to give up on love. Thinking she is merely helping Edward—his daughter—who lives far away and has asked her to check in on her nonagenarian dad in New York—Isabel has no idea that the man in the kitchen baking the sublime roast chicken and light-as-air apricot soufflÃ© will end up changing her life. As Edward and Isabel meet weekly for the glorious dinners that Edward prepares, he shares so much more than his recipes for apple galette or the perfect martini, or even his tips for deboning poultry. Edward is teaching Isabel the luxury of slowing down and taking the time to think through everything she does, to deconstruct her own life, cutting it back to the bone and examining the guts, no matter how messy that proves to be. *Dinner with Edward* is a book about love and nourishment, and about how dinner with a friend can, in the words of M. F. K. Fisher, “sustain us against the hungers of the world.” • “A rare, beautifully crafted memoir that leaves you exhilarated and wanting to live this way. Edward is a marvel of resilience and dignity, and Vincent shows us that the ceremony of food is really a metaphor for love. The key is to live your life generously.” • Rosemary Sullivan, author of *Stalin’s Daughter*

“Isabel Vincent delves deeply into matters of the kitchen and the heart with equal and unabashed passion . . . Rich with description of meals savored, losses grieved, and moments cherished, it’s at once tender, revealing, and utterly enchanting!” • Gail Simmons, judge on *Bravo’s Top Chef* and author of *Talking with My Mouth Full*

“One of the most stylish and emotional works of nonfiction I have ever read. I savored every page.” • Bob Colacello, author *Holy Terror: Andy Warhol Close Up*

“Although the food (I am partial to the roast chicken, lovingly described) is excellent, it is the charming and effortlessly wise company that makes this sweet read a charming way to pass a day.” • George Hodgman, New York Times bestselling author of *Bettyville*

“Delightfully combining the warm-heartedness of Tuesdays with Morrie with the sensual splendor of Julie and Julia. This is a memoir to treasure.” • Booklist, starred review

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Customer Reviews

Hard to know how to rate this book because on some levels I loved, and on other levels I despised it. I loved most of the writing, and am always a sucker for good food writing. I also loved the premise of the story of how a middle-aged woman in crisis met and formed a mutually beneficial bond with a 92-year old widower also in crisis after having lost his wife of more than six decades. What I really did NOT like about this book was that it was clearly the story of a lonely, miserable and tormented middle-aged woman about to and going through a divorce who formed what seemed to be a profound bond with a very gentle and kindly elderly man but who, as she got her bearings, gradually dumped him. Initially she lives near him and there is lots of contact. Then she moves further away as she is getting her life together, and she admits that she started to neglect him. Lastly, she falls in love with a new man, and again she is pretty honest that she then hardly had any time for elderly Edward. To me the most painful was when Edward fell and was bed-ridden for months, and she does not even go to see him. While there was considerable charm to this book, I have known too many people who used others in this way, the supposedly deep friendship when they are need, only to fizzle out when the person is no longer hurting. This left a very bad taste for me.

Loved the way the chapters all started with a menu for dinner. Then proceed to describe cooking

said dinner, all the while weaving in the story. Weather you like to cook or not, you will enjoy the story of this sweet friendship.

Took a bit to get into but by the end I couldn't put it down. Beautifully written, lots wisdom imparted and even some good cooking tips. I read a review that disparaged the younger friend of Edward for abandoning him at the end after she found Mr. Right. I didn't come to that conclusion at all. Edward and his younger friend whose name I didn't see in the book, came together when they most needed each other. Their relationship blossomed and each became less dependent on each other over time. But the platonic love affair never ended and never became less important.

We all have some passed relative that reminds us of "Edward" and the family favorites they made for the holidays or at least the old Sunday family dinners. This book is worth the read just for the descriptions of the food, but even without them it would be worth reading, just a lot shorter!

Heartfelt story about love and loss. I read one chapter each night, and hated that it ended. As an added joy, each chapter heading had a menu that Edward fixed. I can actually make some of the dishes. I will not forget the tenderness and love in this story.

I love this book.. beautiful feast of characters and I love Edward.. I think this book made me a better friend and daughter.. and made the idea of growing older less frightening... knowing it is up to me to reach out to people and surround myself with life. I wish I had the patience or finesse to prepare a meal like Edward.. alas... I will have more parties, drink more wine and cater more.

I chose this book because I had been reading two books which were somewhat "dry" and I felt like I needed a book with real LIVE HUMAN BEINGS in it. Both people in this book were lovely, and I so appreciated how they brought out the best in each other. I am not a great cook, but their dishes were enchanting, too.

Enjoyable easy read. True story. Inspiring menus and wine pairings. Found the emotions relatable for my own circumstances.

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