



THE EMPTY BED

BY NINA SADOWSKY

PARTY & BOOK CLUB GUIDE

Everything you need to throw a killer party!

EVA'S LONELY LONDON SPRITZER

A classic to get you through the long days and the book filled nights.

- 3/4 cup white wine
- 1/4 cup club soda
- 1 lemon rind garnish

To prepare: Add wine to a tall wine glass and top with club soda. Twist lemon rind over glass and add as garnish.



STEPHANIE'S HONG KONG ADVENTURE

An easy frozen cocktail inspired by Hong Kong's favorite pineapple buns.



- 1/2 tablespoon sugar (plus a little more for the rim)
- 1 1/2 ounces vodka
- 1/2 cup frozen pineapple
- 3 ounces pineapple juice
- 1 ounce lime juice
- 1/2 cup ice

To prepare: Throw everything in your blender, then serve with a sugar-frosted rim.

CATHERINE'S MEXICAN POPCORN

*Add some heat to this
party favorite.*



Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons melted butter
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 1 teaspoon lime juice
- 8 cups popped popcorn
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1½ teaspoon paprika
- ¼ teaspoon sugar
- ⅛ teaspoon cayenne

To prepare:

1. Whisk together melted butter, mayonnaise, and lime juice in a small bowl.
2. Pour over popcorn; gently toss to coat.
3. Toss popcorn with a combination of salt, paprika, sugar and cayenne.

MAGGIE'S BIG FAMILY TREE

*For a gathering as fun and warm as dinner with
Maggie's family.*

Ingredients:

- 1 head of cabbage
- 4 Italian sausages, boiled
- 4 Puerto Rican longaniza sausages, boiled
- Any other cocktail-sized snacks you desire!
- Your choice of dipping sauces
- 1 sterno
- 1 pack of skewers
(short length or cut in half)

To prepare:

1. Cut one end of cabbage to flatten as a base so that cabbage sits without rolling. On the opposite end, hollow out a space large enough for the sterno and place sterno inside.
2. Slice all sausages into bite-sized pieces. Stick sausages and your choice of other snacks on dull end of skewers. Stick pointed ends into cabbage, dispersing widely.
3. Light the sterno. Pull out a skewer and roast to desired crispiness. Dip in chosen sauces and enjoy!



PETER'S TRIAD

CHEX MIX

A salty, savory, dangerously addictive snack.

Ingredients:

1/2 stick of butter • 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
1/4 cup light corn syrup • 2 tablespoons soy sauce or tamari
1 tablespoon rice vinegar (or white vinegar) • 1 tablespoon sesame oil
3 tablespoon sugar • 1 tablespoon garlic powder
2 teaspoon onion powder • Red pepper flakes, to taste
3 cups rice Chex • 3 cups corn Chex
2 cups sesame sticks • 2 cups peanuts
2 cups almonds • 2 cups cashews



To prepare:

1. Preheat oven to 250 degrees.
2. Melt butter in a saucepan over medium heat. Add vegetable oil, corn syrup, soy sauce and sugar. Stir until the sugar is dissolved, then remove from heat and add sesame oil.
4. Mix dry spices in a separate bowl.
5. Mix together cereals, sesame sticks and nuts and spread over 2-3 cookie sheets.
6. Drizzle the sauce over the cereal-nut mixture, turning lightly to coat. Sprinkle dry spices over everything.
7. Bake the mix in the oven for 1 hour, carefully turning the ingredients with a spatula every 15 minutes.

JAKE'S JASMINE TEA CARAMELS

A sweet chewy treat to wrap up the mission.



Ingredients:

- 1 cup half & half
- 2 tablespoons loose Jasmine tea
- 1/4 cup butter, cut into cubes
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Dash of salt

To prepare:

1. Butter an 8×8 inch pan & line with buttered parchment paper.
2. Heat the half & half until near boiling, then submerge the tea and let steep for 2–3 minutes. Remove the tea, and set the half & half aside.
3. Combine the butter and brown sugar in a large, heavy saucepan. Melt while whisking.
4. Once melted, add the corn syrup, salt, and jasmine-infused half & half. Whisk to combine, then bring to a simmer (and stop whisking) and cook until a candy thermometer reads 244 F.
5. Remove from heat, stir in the vanilla extract, and pour into the prepared pan.
6. Once cooled, cut into small squares and wrap in wax paper.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



DON'T READ THE QUESTIONS BEFORE YOU'VE READ THE BOOK!

1. Jake questions if Catherine's methods of extraction are too extreme, even if they are for the safety of the target. With whom do you agree and why?
2. The members of the Harris family experience a massive life change in the name of truth. Do you agree with Steve Harris' choice? Would you be able to uproot yourself and your family in order to reveal a company's dangerous secret?
3. When Peter first discovers that Eva is missing from their hotel room, he's angry before he's worried. Do you agree or disagree with his anger? What did you think of his choice to go shopping and order room service before even talking to the police? What do you think the author was saying about the couple's relationship?
4. After Eva is first attacked in Hong Kong, she seeks out her former lover, Alex, instead of returning to her husband. Why do you think she was compelled to do this?
5. What were your theories on the disappearance of Betsy and Bear Elliott at different points in the book? Did you suspect a connection to Catherine?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

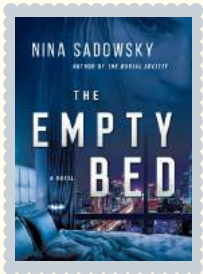
6. Of Roger Elliott, Maggie admits, "*I feel for him a little. Desperation makes people do stupid shit.*" (p. 234) At any point in the story, did you feel sorry for Roger Elliott?
7. It's clear from the contrast in their reports that Stephanie and Jake operate differently, and they struggle to get along when first paired together in Hong Kong. Who did you relate to more? Were you rooting for them to get along, or did you enjoy their sparring?
8. At one point, Catherine reflects on her relationship with Holly: "*I am broken. Therefore Holly must be too. How else could he ever love me? ... Have I idealized a man who represents the very things I despise?*" (p.226) Why do you think she feels that she is broken? Do you think Catherine's rigid morals ever get in the way of her happiness?
9. During the sequence at the Star Ferry Car Park, Peter exaggerates his hatred of Alex as part of a ploy. Did you believe him? Do you think there was some truth to his theatrics?
10. Derrick Cotter and Miranda Holcomb both die after their affair is revealed to Holly. Catherine admits that "the news of the deaths thrilled [her]" because of Derrick and Miranda's vile betrayal of Holly (p290). Do you understand her feelings? How did you react to Derrick and Miranda's "accidental" deaths?



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...to an
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book party!



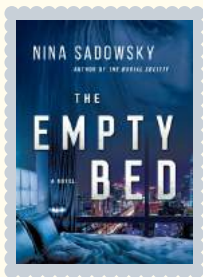


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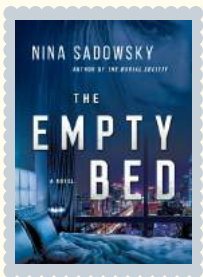


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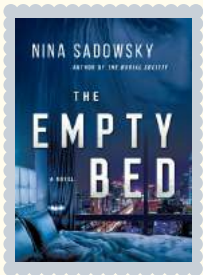




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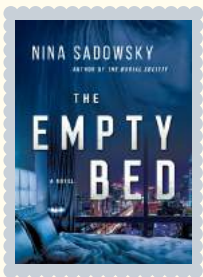




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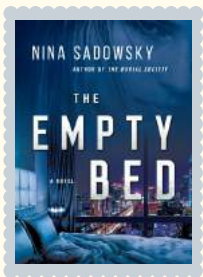


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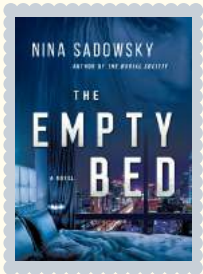





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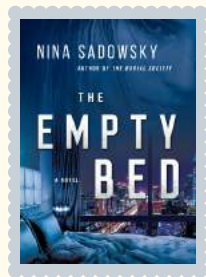




London, England

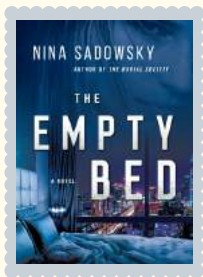
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