

## **Party Girl**

***By Sarah Mason***

When life hands her lemons, she makes a French martini. Life is one big party for event planner Isabel Serranti. Armed with cell and laptop, she's game to field any fete- including her next nearly impossible gig: an impromptu themed party. Five hundred guests? (No problem.) On a country estate? (Lovely!) Near her girlhood home and hosted by her infamous childhood tormentor Simon Monkwell? (Uh-oh. . . .)

Luckily, Simon is away for most of the planning, which leaves Izzy to cope with his kindly, eccentric family and their curious secrets. But when Simon- looking good enough to eat- makes a surprise visit, he's not quite the wretched oaf she remembers. And he needs her help to pull off something daring that requires clever planning, devious imagination, and a lot of panache. Naturally, they'll be working together very, very closely. . . .

*Available at Wayne in Fiction*

## **Invitation to Provence**

***By Elizabeth Adler***

This is the story of Rafaella Marten and her home in Provence, *Chateau des Roses Sauvages*. Rafaella has lived a long and interesting life, but she feels it is ending badly, and loneliness drives her to invite her remaining family and friends to a three-week party at the chateau. In the time leading up to the party, readers meet each guest as characters interact and set the stage for future conflict. As the party date draws nearer, it seems that Rafaella's invitation has instigated a series of events, some dark, some lovely, that will change the lives of all involved.

*Available at Wayne in Fiction, Large-Type and on Audiobook on Cassette*

## **The Bachelorette Party**

***By Karen McCullah Lutz***

Zadie Roberts is an attractive high school teacher who finds herself fantasizing about the young Abercrombie model in her English class as the rest of her friends pair off in grown-up relationships and get hitched. Not that she's against monogamy—her soap opera star fiancé recently abandoned her at the altar, leaving her a little bit bitter and a lot horny. When she learns her best friend, Grey, is getting engaged to her perfect, prudish cousin Helen, Zadie thinks the world as she knows it might truly have ended. To make matters worse, Zadie must attend Helen's bachelorette party, complete with tea, yoga and the type of "dull women who have two-hour conversations about the contents of their children's diapers." But then the party takes a naughty turn, and chaste and virtuous Helen sets out to prove that she isn't the "uptight" girl everyone thinks she is. When all is said and done, Zadie must decide if her loyalties lie with her cousin or her best friend. Will she save Grey from a future of unhappiness or simply ruin their friendship forever?

*Available at Preakness in Fiction*

## **One Last Dance**

***By Eileen Goudge***

Just before their 40th anniversary, Lydia Seagrave freely admits to shooting her husband. Grown daughters Daphne, Kitty, and Alex must try to determine why their mother killed the man she, and they, loved. Along the way, the sisters must examine their feelings for their parents and others they love. Each must also decide if she is ready to pursue what she truly desires in life. Ideal for readers looking for a fairy tale: lovely, talented women, handsome men who love them, and little permanent trauma from a violent death and the awful secrets it unleashes.

*Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction*

## **Silver Wedding**

***By Maeve Binchy***

The arrangements for celebrating Desmond and Deirdre Doyle's forthcoming silver wedding anniversary fall to Anna, their eldest daughter, who works in a pretentious London bookshop. Anna proceeds to make a list of guests, most important of whom, besides her parents and herself, are her sister Helen, brother Brendan, and three other participants in the wedding ceremony: the best man, Frank Quigley; Maureen Barry, the maid of honor; and Father Hurley. Each leisurely chapter deals with one of these characters, detailing their lives in the 25 years since the Doyle's marriage. At the silver wedding celebration, when the obligatory photograph is taken for the family album, the reader knows well what fears and doubts, secrets and achievements lie behind the happy smiles.

*Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction*



## **Larry's Party**

***By Carol Shields***

This tale follows 20 years of Larry Weller's life, culminating in an unforgettable party. Larry goes from work as an ordinary man, a floral designer, to become a noted architect of garden mazes. Like the mazes he designs, his life becomes increasingly complex—a symbol of what it is like to be a Caucasian male in the late 20th century. His inter-actions with his parents, his sister, the two women who (consecutively) marry and divorce him, and his son are paralleled by the additional textures and colors he builds into the hedges he designs. The chapters gradually reveal the threads of the protagonist's identity. This well-written, satisfying novel is replete with telling metaphors, memorable phrases, and gentle satire.

*Available at Wayne in Fiction and Large-Type*



## **Wise Children**

*By Angela Carter*

Dora and Nora Chance are twin septuagenarians, the illegitimate and estranged daughters of Sir Melchior Hazard, England's most celebrated actor. The occasion of Melchior's one-hundredth birthday inspires Dora to take stock of her colorful family's ribald lore. Full of vim and vigor, not to mention sass and mischief, Dora takes us by the hand and leads us through a dizzying dance of adultery, secret patrimony, and high jinks of all sorts. The course of her tangled tale follows the decline of the Hazard theatrical tradition from the tragic end of the glorious days of Shakespearean acting to Hollywood shenanigans and pathetic TV appearances. The theatrical gene in the sisters' blood was just strong enough to bring them to the stage as showgirls, and they proceeded to party their way across England and the U.S. until their retirement. Mesmerizing, lusty, and charming, the plot is as knotted and absurd as any melodrama, with a friendly nod and wink to Shakespeare, and liberally spiked with shrewd observations about the nature of families, love, and the tireless energy of women.

*Available at Wayne in Fiction*



## **Back When We Were Grownups**

*By Anne Tyler*

After recovering from the shock of becoming a widow in her mid-twenties, Rebecca "Beck" Davitch has spent several busy decades occupied with managing both her quirky clan of in-laws and their party-hosting business. She has become the heart and soul of the extended family and of *The Open Arms*, the family's historic row house, which is still popular as a rental for special occasions though the surrounding neighborhood is deteriorating. At 53, Beck is feeling a little rundown herself. She wonders what became of the serious college student she once was and whether she took the right path when she followed her heart to the altar at 19. Beck thus embarks on a quixotic interior journey, with results both funny and touching, as she explores the differences between being herself and playing the roles assigned to her by the family.

*Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction and Large-Type*



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# Time to Party!

Drink, and dance and laugh and lie,  
Love the reeling midnight through,  
For tomorrow we shall die!  
(But, alas, we never do.)

*~Dorothy Parker*



On with the dance! let joy be  
unconfined;  
No sleep till morn, when Youth and  
Pleasure meet  
To chase the glowing hours with  
flying feet.

*~George Gordon Byron, Childe  
Harold's Pilgrimage*