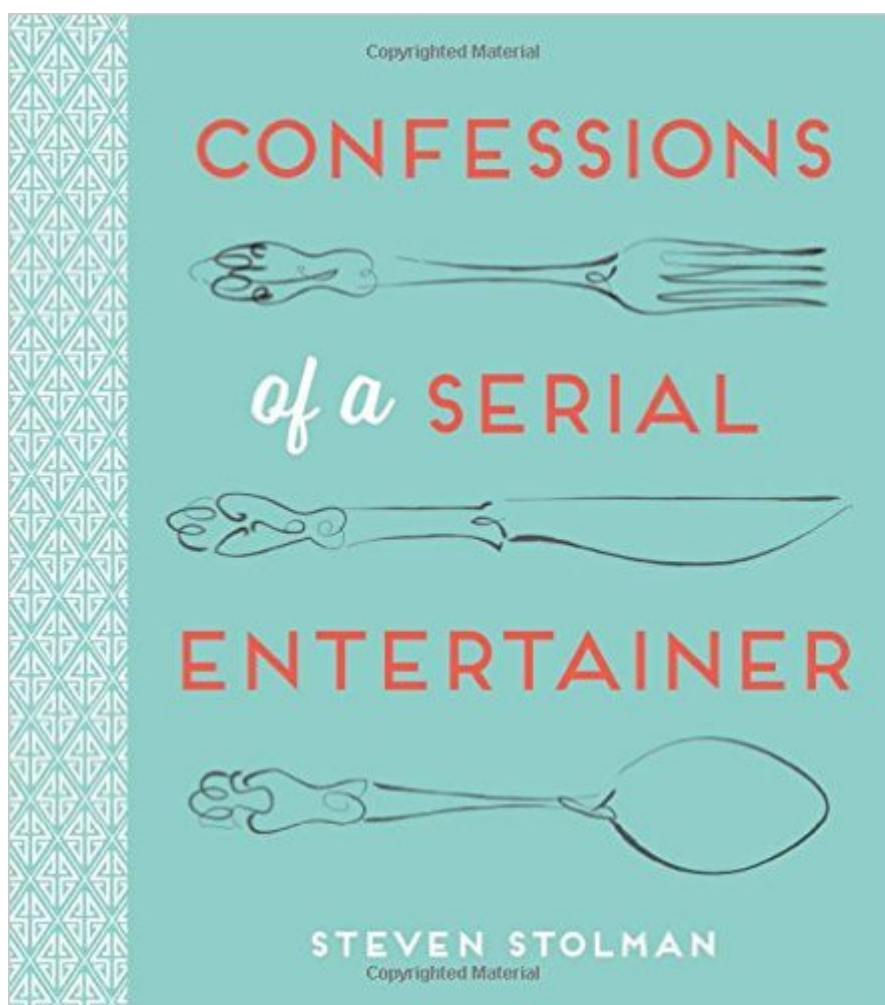


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# Confessions Of A Serial Entertainer



## Synopsis

Menus and anecdotes give away one man's secrets for entertaining in style. Steven Stolman has a gregarious personality. He loves to entertain: cocktail parties in Palm Beach, football game-day gatherings in Wisconsin, family Passover Sedars in Connecticut, and dinner parties in his New York apartment. "Of all our friends, we have the smallest places, yet we seem to do more entertaining than anyone." It's about the people and the food, he says. He also loves old community and church cookbooks from the 1950s to the '70s. And these are his inspirations for party food: dips and cheese spreads with crackers, family recipes for delicious roasts, breakfast casseroles, and desserts. What Stolman confesses is that he hates hostess gifts and isn't afraid to say so. He advises women not to take a purse to a party and just tuck it behind here to avoid holding it "thanks for ruining my furniture arrangement!" He advises about the importance of having silver serving pieces and how to dress for a cocktail party or a dinner party (at least try!). And he confesses that even when he has hired servers to pass hors d'oeuvres, he can't help but carry a tray around himself! This book will give any novice party host ideas and confidence, and it will inspire seasoned hosts to simplify and enjoy the party.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I found this book to be similar to a great dinner or cocktail party "engaging, entertaining, and enriching. I've always been a little nervous about entertaining, but author Steven Stolman offers tips, tricks, and teachings based in years of experience entertaining and being entertained, from his childhood until now. The book itself is lovely, and focuses on traditional entertaining recipes with a healthy update, that he "and his many guests "have enjoyed over the years. I believe I've

seen some of them served on *Bewitched*, *Mad Men*, and other shows set in the fifties, sixties and seventies. They're charming recipes everyone enjoys, which are both easy to make and serve. If you yearn for the return of regular entertaining, as in the fifties, sixties and/or seventies, as I do, then this is the book for you. Some of my favorite recipes include Hurry-Up Coq Au Vin, Kinda Cassoulet, and Sorta Strawberries Romanoff. I really enjoyed the Mock Mulligatawny, and my recent guests loved the Healthier Swedish Meatballs (no greasy gravy!). Further, he includes several pages of helpful and encouraging personal tips like, *What to Wear to a Dinner Party* (look great above the waist, dress comfortably below), *The Importance of Silver* (it's traditional, fun to collect, always looks fantastic), and an explanation as to why flowers are a terrible gift the night of your party, and a wonderful gift the next day (especially with a thankful note). Makes perfect sense! As, Mr. Stolman wisely notes, *A party given by a relaxed, confident host is a thing of beauty. There's nothing better.* I couldn't agree more!

I confess! I confess! I hate nothing more than a pompous chef pushing his (or her) latest cutting edge recipes, exquisite entertaining, must have darling, how did you ever survive without advice/cookbook. That is why I truly believe you will enjoy, *Confessions of a Serial Entertainer* by Steven Stolman. Stolman takes you behind the scenes to a well-thought out cocktail party, dinner for the boss, family get-togethers and even game day festivities. This book offers ideas on dealing with guests, insight to menu planning and recipes for any occasion. Stolman delivers his advice *À la carte* and sprinkled with humor. Some topics covered include: What to wear for formal or casual affairs, How to handle Hostess gifts, When the party's over (time for guests to leave)

LOVE This book! I "entertain" a lot - actually I just have groups of people over. I am always combing recipe sites for new ways to be creative and offer very good and tasty food to my guests while not overworking the occasion. This book is so practical - the tips and "how to's" on gathering people at your house are easy, stress free, and effective. Surprisingly - (it's been a long time since I've heard anyone give this suggestion) - Mr Stolman likes old-fashioned, standard favorite recipes from church and community groups - and those from the '50's and '60's. The simple classics of old that just taste good. How refreshing! (I guess they aren't considered classics for nothing!) Reading this book gave me new inspiration and great new (old) favorite recipes to try. This book covers a lot of info - presentation, essential key recipes for everything from dips to salads, from frou-frou sandwiches to hearty dinner for the boss, suggestions on serveware, stocking your cupboard, how to time your event, what to wear to a cocktail party and his take on hostess gifts. Most importantly - how to

RELAX and enjoy yourself with your guests. The presentation of the book itself is lovely; minimalistic - "less is more", beautiful and simple. It is my new favorite book - and I'm picky!

A fabulous cookbook from the ultimate host and entertainer, our own Steven Stolman! I have never known anyone that can whip up a cocktail party, or a dinner, or a lunch, or even a wedding with very little notice and get it done beautifully and with such ease as Steven. I hope that this is an international bestseller!

LOVE this book. The story is very interesting and there are some great recipes in here including the Chicken Provincial - one of the best chicken recipes I have ever tried or tasted in my 45 years of cooking.

What a disappointment. A recipe from this book was highlighted in the NY Times. I had no idea this would be about cooking with 1950's ingredients and the worst of retro cooking. I expected so much more. I am sure the author is delightful and if he invited me to dinner I am sure I would have a great time, but this is not a helpful book.

This is a fun book to read and makes a good gift to someone who likes to entertain. I bought it as a gift but ended up keeping it as I really like the recipes and the way it is written - enjoyable.

Such a fun book with great recipes that aren't too hard. Steven tells the stories behind the meals and makes the experience fun!

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