

THE
ENTERTAINING TALES
OF TABBY, PRissy & PEACHES®

Soup's On!
Please join us
Saturday, January 28

2 p.m.

Whiskers Manor
Sleepy Hollow Road
Green Valley

A GRANDMOTHER
TABBY TALE
FOR JANUARY

It was just after Christmas and Tabby was sitting there thinking about the get-together she and Tobias always had with three other couples that were their dearest friends. They always did this on the last Saturday of January to catch up with what went on over

the holidays, because as soon as January 1st came they were all involved in so many committees that they didn't really have time to see each other for a few weeks.

Over the years they all had taken turns at hosting this get-together and had prepared a formal dinner. But this year, Tabby was tired because she had been so busy during the holidays. She didn't quite know what to do and didn't like the thought of fixing a formal dinner in a couple of weeks, but she still wanted to get together with everyone. Tobias suggested that she talk to the other

couples and see what they thought about maybe doing something that took less effort this year.

So Tabby called her sister Abigail, her sister-in-law Samantha and her best friend Millie to ask if they would be agreeable to doing something a little less formal this year. She was surprised when they all said they would love to do something that involved less work for these January get-togethers. They agreed that they were much more up to doing something more formal in the spring, summer and autumn months than in the cold winter months after they had all been so busy with the holidays.

Many phone calls were made and ideas were tossed around. They finally settled on what they all thought sounded like a fun and relaxing plan. For years they had all been rotating in the same order who had this dinner. So they only hosted it once every four years. But they all agreed that as they got older they were slowing down a bit and would enjoy something simpler.

They decided they would all share by doing one thing for the get-together. Since it was Tabby and Tobias' turn to be the host they would still have it at their house but they would only be required to provide the house and the beverages. The next person on the list would provide the main dish and the third couple would provide a side dish and the fourth couple would bring dessert. They decided that they would use the same rotation schedule for every year so everyone would be doing something different during the four year rotation.

The menu would be easy and very casual - soup & breads, or spaghetti & salad, or chili & cornbread.

They also decided to make it a mid-day lunch instead of an evening dinner. That way they could all be home by early evening. And where before they had all dressed more formally, now they would dress in a casual manner.

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Tabby was very relieved. She did not have to do anything to decorate the house since her winter holiday decorations were still up. She, like most of the residents of Green Valley, left the holiday decorations up until Candlemas (February 2, Groundhog Day). They all felt that it made the house feel warmer and cozier to leave the decorations up in the bleak winter month of January. Plus, there was time to actually enjoy the decorations without the hustle and bustle of Christmas.

Abigail would bring the soup, Samantha the breads and Millie the dessert. All Tabby would have to do is have the table set and have beverages to drink with the meal, during the afternoon and with dessert. She chose mulled cider, an assortment of teas, and coffee.

On the day of the lunch, everyone arrived dressed comfortably in casual clothes. Abigail and Hudson had brought Rustic Vegetable Noodle Soup over the day before and Tabby had it warming on the stove. Samantha arrived with Flax & Sunflower Seed Bread and Crusty Garlic & Herb Bread. Millie brought Dutch Apple Pie and Mandarin Orange Parfait Pie.

They sat down just after two to eat. They had agreed on two o'clock as that would allow them to sleep in on Saturday, eat a small late breakfast and be ready for lunch. Then they could have dessert at 5 and would not have to go home to get supper as they felt they would be full from the leisurely meal and late dessert.

They remained at the table for a long time, taking more soup and bread and laughing and talking. About four o'clock the men went into the den to sit and talk while the ladies headed to the kitchen to do the dishes (isn't that always the way it is?). At five o'clock dessert was served and most took a small piece of each type of pie so they could taste both.

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At six o'clock the guests said it was time to leave and get home before night descended too much. They all agreed that for a cold winter month this was the way to entertain as it seemed to be much more casual and cozy and warm. And best of all at the end of the day all Tabby had to do was wash up the dessert dishes.