

THE  
ENTERTAINING TALES  
OF TABBY, PRISSY & PEACHES®

*You are happily invited to a*  
THANKSGIVING  
FEAST

*Thursday, November 27*

*12 until 6 p.m.*

*Whiskers Manor*

*Sleepy Hollow Road*

*Green Valley*

*Tabby & Tobias Whiskers*

*Dinner at 1:00*

*Dessert at 4:30*

*R.s.v.p.*

*Dressy casual*

*Please bring your favorite harvest food  
to add to the buffet table*

A TABBY, PRISSY  
AND PEACHES TALE  
FOR NOVEMBER

Grandfather Tobias and Grandmother Tabby always hosted the Thanksgiving Dinner. There were great hopes that the whole extended Whiskers family was going to attend this year's festivities. Tobias' brother, Dr. Toby Whiskers, is the town doctor. His wife Samantha is an artist who loves painting the beautiful local landscape. Tabby's sister Abigail Paws

and Abigail's husband, Hudson, own the famous Sleepy Hollow Country Inn and Restaurant where many of the family who weren't staying with Tabby or Peaches would stay.

Of course Tabby's two sons and their families were coming. Winston and his wife Winnie would be coming home from the Isle of Argyle where Winston is ambassador. And their daughter Prissy and her husband Thomas and their two children would be coming from New Oak City. And Prissy's brother Aaron and his wife Abby and family would also be coming from the state capital where he has a law practice. Their other son Leo and his

wife Libby would be coming from the big state university where Leo is the head of the agriculture department and Libby is a professor in the literature department. (In fact, Peaches met her husband Rufus who was a student of her father's when he brought him home one year for Thanksgiving dinner). Peaches' brother Hamilton and his family would be there. Her brother is an author who has written many books on the life and history of Green Valley.

When everyone would R.s.v.p. they would always tell Tabby what dish they were bringing so she could adjust her menu accordingly. Dinner would start with a wonderful pumpkin soup. Then everyone would serve themselves from the two huge buffets on each long wall in the large dining room of Tobias's and Tabby's Victorian house. There would be all varieties of roasted vegetables, breads and rolls, sweet potato and pumpkin dishes and various relishes. And, of course, everyone's favorite – big bowls of mashed potatoes and stuffing. Tabby and Peaches would do most of the cooking for the meal for the items that were not brought by relatives. Tobias and Tabby Whiskers lived in a very large Victorian house in an area of restored historic houses. The house had a large wrap around porch and Tabby would hang a wreath of oak and maple leaves on the front door. Pumpkins and pots of mums would be arranged on the porch welcoming visitors into the house. Inside Tabby always cleared out the large hall coat closet so the guests could hang their coats. Tabby's whole downstairs was painted in various shades of green so she could always make decorations for any season look good. On a table in the hall would be a large autumn floral arrangement. The guests would then go to the living room which would be resplendent in autumn décor with the fireplace mantel being the center of attention with its decorations of pumpkins and gourds and leaves and more pots of mums. While the guests were waiting for dinner they would be served either hot mulled cider in locally crafted pottery mugs or cold cider in shrub glasses.

The adults would sit in the big dining room and the children would sit at the big farmhouse table in the kitchen dining area. The dining room table would have Tabby's best ecru linen tablecloth. She would use her fine cream-ware china and crystal. For the center of the table she would use a long runner

in an autumn leaf pattern. On that she would be pillar candles in alternating rust and gold colors and in between she would arrange miniature pumpkins and gourds with sprigs of permanent botanical orange berry branches. At each place there would be a miniature pumpkin that would serve as place cards with the name of the person to sit there written on it. The napkins would be in colors of rust, gold, burgundy and green to reflect the colors of autumn leaves and to tie in with the colors of the table center decoration. The food would be put on two large buffets that she had on the two long walls in the room. At the center of each buffet would be a large pumpkin sitting in a low basket filled with autumn leaves. Each food bowl or platter would have a placecard in front of it stating what it was and if there were in any ingredients in it that might be a problem for anyone.

All the children were seated at the large farmhouse table in the kitchen. The table was in a big bay window area and they had a beautiful view of the Whiskers' back yard. As they sat down to eat snowflakes had started to fall and that caused much excitement among the children. Grandmother Tabby set the children's table with pottery dishes that had pumpkins painted on them. For the children's table the centerpiece was a variety of pumpkin figures made by putting three miniature pumpkins together and drawing faces on them and adorning them with hats of various styles. For the children's table Grandmother Tabby used large paper napkins with beautiful autumn designs on them. The parents helped the smaller children fill their plates from the buffet set up for them on the kitchen hutch.

Then the adults were called to dinner. The first course was already at their places. It was small bowls of Grandmother's Tabby's famous Harvest Pumpkin Soup. Everyone enjoyed their soup while remarking about how beautiful the candlelit dining room looked in all its autumn splendor. The day outside was turning dark & gray with the snow starting to fall so it helped to add to the warm and cozy feeling of the house.

The feast was enjoyed by all. Everyone ate until they said they could not mangle another bite of food. The rest of the afternoon was spent in discus-

sions of many things and checking on the children and spending some time with them. At 4:30 dessert was served. It was an array of so many delicious things that everyone wondered where to start. Grandmother Tabby knew to cut small portions of everything as everyone would be taking more than one dessert. There was pumpkin pie and apple pie, pumpkin cake and gingerbread cake, (with large bowls of whipped cream to put on top of the pies and cakes), cut out sugar cookies and gingerbread cookies in shapes or autumn leaves and acorns and pumpkins and frosted in colorful colors (the children liked these), and a large fruit compote.

After everyone lingered over dessert (and going back for seconds and thirds and just a little taste of this or that), it was obvious that the younger children were getting tired and so everyone began saying their thank yous to Tobias and Tabby and leaving saying what a wonderful time they had had. Prissy, Peaches, Libby and Abby stayed to help Tabby clean up. While they worked in the kitchen doing the dishes and putting everything back in order the husbands retired to Tobias' study to discuss the latest news in the sports world.

Finally everything was done. Tobias and Tabby sat down wearily in their chairs to reflect on the day. Grandfather Tobias' thoughts went to how wonderful it was to have family together and how glad he was to see everyone. Grandmother's Tabby's thoughts went to how she was going to have to start clearing away all the autumn decorations and get out the winter and Christmas decorations for the parties she would be having during December.



## GRANDMOTHER TABBY'S ETIQUETTE TIP #13

When giving a dinner be sure to think about everyone food preferences and allergies or medical diets and offer something for everyone. This is why a buffet dinner is better than a sit down dinner as people can take only that which they want or can eat.



*Coming up in the December issue of **Entertaining Tales:***

*Peaches has a Christmas cookie exchange and Prissy hosts a Viennese Dessert Buffet after a Christmas concert.*