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## A Curious Invitation: The Forty Greatest Parties in Fiction

By Field, Suzette.

Harper Perennial. 1 Paperback(s), 2013. soft. Book Condition: New. Great literature is filled with feasts and parties an endlessly useful device for the writer, not only for social commentary and satire but also as an occasion where characters can meet, fall in or out of love, endure public revelations, or occasionally get themselves murdered. Suzette Field, herself a great party arranger for the London elite, here invites us to 40 memorable fêtes in fiction: some are depictions of real events, like the Duchess of Richmond's ball on the eve of battle with Napoleon in Thackeray's *Vanity Fair*; others draw on the authors' experience of society Lady Metroland's party in Evelyn Waugh's *Vile Bodies*, for example, or, like Douglas Adams's flying party above an unknown planet in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, come straight from the writer's imagination. "With panache, attention to arresting details, and a flair for mixing literary classics with pop-culture hits, prominent London event planner Field invites readers to forty fictional parties. She quotes lavishly from her sources to splendid effect." *Publishers Weekly* 302.

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