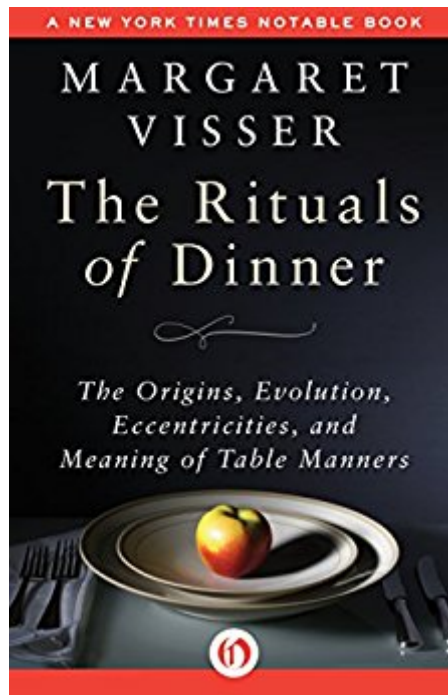


The book was found

# The Rituals Of Dinner: The Origins, Evolution, Eccentricities, And Meaning Of Table Manners



## Synopsis

“The book progresses like a feast. Read it, because you’ll never look at a table knife the same way again.” *The New York Times Book Review* This award-winning work by Margaret Visser is a wry and remarkable exploration of the way we eat. Solidifying her standing as a preeminent observer and scholar of everyday life, Visser takes on the sweeping history of table manners, from the civilizations of ancient Greece and medieval Europe to the ancient Ainu people of Japan and the cannibalism of the South Pacific. She writes of the development of mealtime manners across societies, the surprising origins of tableware, and the many cultural idiosyncrasies that surround the preparation and consumption of food. Blending folklore, sociology, history, and humor, *The Rituals of Dinner* is a feast of beguiling fact and observation on the origins and evolution of one of our most primal rituals: the meal.

## Book Information

File Size: 1422 KB

Print Length: 450 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0140170790

Publisher: Open Road Media (June 23, 2015)

Publication Date: June 23, 2015

Language: English

ASIN: B00X4YMQJ2

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #215,588 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #9 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Special Occasions > Tablesetting #47 in Kindle Books > Cookbooks, Food & Wine > Entertaining & Holidays > Tablesetting #56 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Nonfiction > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Customs & Traditions

## Customer Reviews

Margaret Visser writes on this quotidian activity with astonishing erudition. Her survey of our eating habits is global, spanning numerous societies, and she draws from all periods of our historical

development. (There are roughly a thousand entries in her bibliography.) She reminds me of Simone de Beauvoir, whose also has a humbling erudition, and who used it to address the subject of woman's role in society, as well as aging. Visser draws the reader in with the antithesis of the Emily Post approach; she details the cannibalistic practices of the Aztecs, as they were first revealed (and experienced) by Spanish explorers / conquistadors. The author devotes the first couple of chapters to our acculturation, drawing lessons from how monkeys learn to wash potatoes. She points out that children are "brought up," a passive construction, and taught the norms of social behavior. For some small segments of society, it is a never ending process; there "manners" are what set them apart from others, and re-enforce their power; others continue to try to break into society (p 69). Power relations surrounding food are just one of the recurring themes in this book. Consider: "In the modern world, where openly stratified hierarchy is an affront to the egalitarian myth, people are rarely permitted to display naked social ambition; snobbery must go decently disguised as creativity, free choice, good taste, and so forth. (p. 100). In the postscript she ruminates on the concept of "no time" in society today, and says: "Powerful people love impressing upon those needing their services that they have trouble finding time `to fit them in': making others wait because one's own time is more precious than theirs is one of the great hallmarks of desirability and success (p. 353).

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Rituals of Dinner: The Origins, Evolution, Eccentricities, and Meaning of Table Manners A Butler's Guide to Table Manners Dinner Recipes: A Collection of 3 Books For Egg Plant, Dim Sum, and Broccoli. Everything You Need For A Wonderful Easy To Make Dinner For Family And Friends ... (The Essential Kitchen Series Book 95) Everyday Recipes Box Set (6 in 1): Over 100 Recipes for Breakfast, Lunch, and Dinner to Try Every Day (Every Day Recipes & Dump Dinner) Dump Dinners Cookbook: Quick & Easy Dump Dinner Recipes for the Busy Home Cook (Dump Dinners, Dump Dinners Cookbook, Dump Dinner Recipes, Slow Cooker Recipes, ... Recipes, Crockpot Meals, Meals For One) Thanksgiving Dinner: from Super Easy to Grandma's Traditional Dinner Discovering the Vedas: Origins, Mantras, Rituals, Insights 49 Awesome Chinese Recipes (The Ultimate Chinese Cookbook That Brings an Entire American Chinese Buffet to Your Dinner Table) Dinner: A Love Story: It all begins at the family table Japanese Stone Gardens: Origins, Meaning, Form Darwin's Dangerous Idea: Evolution and the Meaning of Life Table Layout in CSS: CSS Table Rendering in Detail No god but God (Updated Edition): The Origins, Evolution, and Future of Islam Abortion in America: The Origins and Evolution of National Policy (Galaxy Books) Origins of the Modern Mind: Three Stages in the Evolution of Culture and Cognition The Origins of Virtue: Human Instincts and

the Evolution of Cooperation A New History of Life: The Radical New Discoveries about the Origins and Evolution of Life on Earth Entropy, Information, and Evolution: New Perspective on Physical and Biological Evolution (Bradford Books) Infectious Diseases in Primates: Behavior, Ecology and Evolution (Oxford Series in Ecology and Evolution) The Modern Gentleman, 2nd Edition: A Guide to Essential Manners, Savvy, and Vice

[Dmca](#)