

Children's Literature Reviews

Item 120 of 130

Party Fun!*Jenny Dodd*

Struik New Holland Publishers, \$17.95. 2007

Reviews:**Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)**

This is the ultimate themed party how-to book. It is sure to induce humility in all of us who are tempted to just take the birthday kids to Chuckie Cheese and be done with it. Every party plan in this handsome, oversized, paperback guide includes full color photos galore (150) to show you how to produce stunning parties--beginning with invitations, party décor, and treat bags. Directions then move along to four recipes for party food, four games or activities with directions, and a stunning cake. Party plans (twenty) include "Baby's First Birthday," "Plundering Pirates" (my favorite), "Hearty Party" (Valentine-y), "Teddy's Picnic," "Skateboard Extreme," "Funky Fashion Sleepover," "Tenpin Bowling," "Boys' Night Out," "Dolly's Tea Party," "Travel to Toyland," "Bling Bling Beads," "Wintry Wishes," "Chocolate Factory," "Mesmerizing Mermaids," "First Day at School," "Upside Down Back to Front" (this is a great idea-filled party--hot dogs on the outside of the buns), "Wrestling Fever," "Career Capers" (good for a graduate), and last but not least, "Ballet." An index of recipes, a set of templates for cakes and cookies, and a nice introduction round out this extravagantly illustrated book of archetypal parties. It is very British, with some mystifying ingredients like "Prestik" and "Edible glitter" and I am still puzzled where you get those black candy cannonballs for the pirate party and Marie biscuits that show up in about a third of the recipes. Jenny Dodd is also author of *Party Ideas For Children*. Since the *Family Fun Parties: 100 Party Plans for Birthdays, Holidays, and Every Day* by Deanna F. Cook seems to have gone out of print, the next best comparable title is Sharron Krull's *That Was the Best Party Ever! How to Give Birthday Parties Kids Will Never Forget* (\$19.95) and Mike Artell and Pam Schiller's *Parties Kids Love* (\$10.95) which I always admired because it included children's book titles that tie to each archetypally themed party, and as we all will agree, books are the most important gift of all and the only ones you can open again and again. 2007, Struik New Holland Publishers, \$17.95. Ages Adult.

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