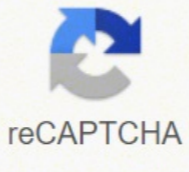




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**Next**

## Fried green tomatoes at the whistle stop cafe characters

Recently, with a surprising bit of free time on my hands, I finally turned to a queer classic that was recommended to me by a dear friend. She'd told me that I would love the book, and gave me her copy, inscribed with a beautiful note. It took so long before I could read it, though, that by the time I did I'd forgotten all about the queer element and got to experience the surprise and delight that comes with discovering queer undertones for oneself. Random House | 1987 | 400 pp Fried Green Tomatoes is about Whistle Stop, a small town in Alabama, the kind of place where everyone knows everyone and is in everybody else's business. The plot moves back and forth in time, focusing in on a few intertwined families: the white Threadgoods, and specifically daughter Ildgie and married-into-the-family Ninny; Big George and Onzell, an African American married couple who work in different capacities for the family, and Big George's mother, Sipsey; and, along the sidelines, Dot Weems, who comments on the goings on in her town newsletter. These characters mainly appear in the part of the plot set in the past, except for Ninny, who is in a nursing home in the 1980s where she meets Evelyn Couch, a woman who becomes her friend and to whom Ninny tells large portions of Whistle Stop's history. There's a lot about the novel that's highly problematic in contemporary terms, but that means well, and it's best to read the book as a product of its time and as progressive for the Alabama that is being both admired and critiqued in its pages. For instance, there are some scenes involving the Ku Klux Klan, which attempt to differentiate between white men who joined up to dance around in sheets and be silly and the white men who participated in the KKK's hateful and violent activities. Ninny, who narrates, makes a lot of statements about how African Americans are just like white people, but sets up whiteness as the standard against which they should be measured (guess what—it isn't!). However, Flagg tries to balance out what appears to be simply the ignorance of this woman with scenes focusing on Big George and Onzell's two boys, one of whom finds a great deal of joy in Birmingham's largely black neighborhoods of the 1950s a 1960s, while the other experiences deep confusion when he is ignored by his niece when she sees him for the first time in years, because she's passing for white in a department store. Race isn't the only subject that holds center stage in the novel. The other is, as I mentioned earlier, queerness. Ildgie Threadgoode is coded queer from early in the book, when she decides that she will never again wear a dress. She is so stubborn that despite familial wishes that she wear a dress for her older sister's wedding, at least, her mother ends up asking the tailor to make Ildgie a bright green suit. When a young woman named Ruth, a few years Ildgie's senior, comes to hang out with her one summer, Ildgie is smitten. The word "crush" is even used by Ildgie's mother to describe what she's going through. When Ruth leaves, Ildgie is heartbroken, and seeks comfort in the arms of a renowned "loose" woman, a free-spirited drinker, smoker, gambler, and all around awesome character named Eva Bates. The book heavily suggests that they get it on. Later, Ildgie rescues Ruth from her abusive husband, and the two of them set up house and shop together, opening the titular Whistle Stop Café and living as a de facto married couple, raising Ruth's son together. Whistle Stop is, in other words, a highly accepting town. Despite Jim Crow laws that are still in effect early in the plot's timeline, the Whistle Stop Café serves African American customers, and for cheaper prices too. Despite a general homophobia and Judeo-Christian attitude that would have reigned at the time, Ildgie and Ruth's partnership is accepted without question. The language isn't as progressive as one would like, but again, this book was first published in 1987 and deals with characters who lived before the Civil Rights Movement took the country by storm, before gay rights activists were able to march through the streets without fear of arrest. Words are certainly always important, and I will never say otherwise. But in Whistle Stop, actions speak louder than words. If only every person who spoke with old-fashioned terminology and problematic wording was, at the same time, acting daily in favor of true equality, we would be living in a very different world. Random House Cast & crewUser reviewsTrivialMdbProA housewife who is unhappy with her life befriends an old lady in a nursing home and is enthralled by the tales she tells of people she used to know.A housewife who is unhappy with her life befriends an old lady in a nursing home and is enthralled by the tales she tells of people she used to know.A housewife who is unhappy with her life befriends an old lady in a nursing home and is enthralled by the tales she tells of people she used to know.A housewife who is unhappy with her life befriends an old lady in a nursing home and is enthralled by the tales she tells of people she used to know.219User reviews48Critic reviewsMetascore This is such an awesome movie. I remember watching it as a girl, and when I found it in a clearance bin a few months ago, I jumped on it. I watched it then, and now, having watched it again... Mary Stuart Masterson is AMAZING. Tears fall unwittingly down my cheeks during her performance. I was also enchanted by Mary-Louise Parker, and I always always LOVE Kathy Bates. Jessica Tandy is also her usual fit self, and Cecily Tyson was great ("Shoo! I ain't scared of you!") and I could go on for ages about all of them.I will admit that this is the Ultimate Chick Flick. That title, however, does not detract from its overall quality. The men are more than just caricatures, and the nostalgia and love of the book made its way into the movie. I have to commend Avnet for his efforts.And now that I am out of intelligent things to say, THIS MOVIE ROCKS MY SOCKS! It's re-watchability and great everything make this the movie (along with Love and Basketball and my Buffy DVDs) that I take with me to college and suggest we watch at every opportunity.chickskickassMay 17, 2004See detailed box office info on IMDbProSuggest an edit or add missing contentWhat is the Japanese language plot outline for Fried Green Tomatoes (1991)?Answer Jessica Tandy won an Oscar nomination for her portrayal here as an old-timer in the American south, telling tales about the bigotry she encountered during her youth in the 1930s. Kathy Bates is almost as good, playing a modern-day housewife and frump in the dumps, who visits Tandy in a nursing home and finds inspiration in her memories of the past. Essentially a story about friendship between two pairs of women, then and now, the film could be classified as a "woman's picture". But this truly uplifting and gratifying movie can and should be enjoyed by all. CC0/ fotoblend/Pixabay Fried green tomatoes make a great side dish when they're cooked well and made with great ingredients. The size of the tomatoes, how thick you slice them, and the heat of the oil all make a difference to the finished result, and there are lots of different ways you can cook green tomatoes so this is a side dish that you can include with a lot of different meals. No matter how you cook them you want them to be crispy on the outside and tender in the middle. You can easily over or undercook them but those things won't happen if you follow these recipes. Traditional RecipeThe traditional recipe is a great, quick and tasty appetizer that anyone can cook well. Combine egg and buttermilk and set that aside. Now combine 1/4 cup flour, cornmeal and one teaspoon salt and pepper in a pan. Now drench tomato slices in the flour and cornmeal mix before dipping into the egg and buttermilk mixture. Heat oil in a pan to 375 degrees and then drop the tomatoes into the oil and cook for two minutes. Drain on a paper towel, and then sprinkle with salt. Healthy LivingIf you'd like to try fried green tomatoes without the calorie count that always comes with deep fried foods, why not try out the following lower fat recipe? Slice one large green tomato into rings, and then heat one tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil in a shallow pan. While that heats up mix flour, garlic, parsley and creole in a bowl. Now cover each tomato with the mixture, and then place them in the hot pan. When they're golden brown, remove and drain on a paper towel.SauceBegin in the traditional way but combining flour, cornmeal, buttermilk, salt, and pepper. Make the mixture into a pancake-style batter. You can use buttermilk to thin it out if needed. Now slice the tomatoes, and heat two inches of oil in a skillet. Drip the tomato slices into the batter mixture before dropping them into the hot oil. Cook four or five at a time, turning them until they are golden brown. Now drain and serve as before. The difference with this recipe is the sauce. Whisk mayo with ketchup and cayenne in a bowl. Serve it over the tomatoes for the perfect southern fried tomatoes.Green Tomatoes with CrabPrepare the dish as before but include paprika in the flour and cornmeal mixture. Use the seasoning to coat the tomatoes on both sides, and then cook as before. Now make a yogurt dressing using one cup of Greek yogurt, two tablespoons of fresh dill that needs to be roughly chopped, and the juice of one lemon. You'll need six tablespoons of milk, and salt and pepper to complete the yogurt dressing. Now add the fried tomatoes with jumbo lump crab meat and drench in the yogurt dressing for a great meal.Make it SpicyThis simple dish doesn't leave many avenues for change in its preparation or its cooking but one thing you can do is to spice it up. Why not add some chili powder or cayenne pepper to the mix? If you love spicy food, you can add in almost any spice to enjoy your fried green tomatoes with an extra kick. The other changes you can make include slicing them thickly so more of the moist tomato taste remains or to go the other way and slice them thinly so they come out of the skillet looking like fries. MORE FROM LIFE123.COM







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