

Ideas for hosts by the bookload

The Associated Press

Party panic attack? Calm down with a good book, and a relevant one.

Here are some recent titles:

▶“Cocktail Parties With a Twist” (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$30) by Alexandra and Eliot Angle is intent on shooting down any excuse that might be advanced for not giving a party.

This is not a how-to book, say the authors, who run an event-catering company in Los Angeles. “What we aim to do is inspire, not merely instruct.” They suggest 14 cocktail party scenarios, from a croquet party to a local bar bash, offer smart finger-food recipes, load the text with advice and use plenty of attractive color photos.

▶“At Home Entertaining: The Art of Hosting Parties With Style and Panache” (Cumberland House, \$18.95 paperback) by Jorj Morgan hits higher totals, setting out 46 complete party plans and some 250 recipes, with less general text and no photos.

Full meals and main dishes are included, along with suggestions for strategy, preparation and setting. Morgan is a chef with a catering background who lives in Florida.