by CINEHAUS

# CINEZINE

Nov 2026
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## A Table Full of Characters

It's the season of squeezing another chair around the table and wondering whether two people can make it through dinner without bringing up the thing. You know the thing. Everyone knows the thing. Someone brings it up before you've passed the potatoes.

Getting people together is lovely. It's also a lot of work, and not just for whoever's cooking. There are new partners to introduce, old arguments to avoid, and relatives who have questions about your career that you would also love answered. If you're already rehearsing a conversation in your head, here are a few movies to keep you company.

Start with Eat Drink Man Woman (1994). Every Sunday, a father cooks an elaborate dinner for his three grown daughters, who arrive with lives he's finding it increasingly difficult to follow. You can practically smell the kitchen. You can also feel what it's like to come home with an announcement and wait for the right moment- which somehow never arrives between courses.

Then there's Big Night (1996), in which two brothers put everything into a feast they hope will save their Italian restaurant. This one is for the person who starts planning the menu three weeks early and says "it's nothing" while setting down something that took six hours. Please let that person sit down this year. And tell them what you liked about the food.

The Birdcage (1996) is for anyone who's ever asked their family to "just be normal" before company arrives. An introduction to the future in-laws turns into an increasingly desperate attempt to disguise an entire household. It's very funny, especially if you recognize the impulse to brief everyone separately before letting them into the same room.

If you'd prefer a gathering that makes yours look positively restful, try The Celebration (1998). A birthday toast exposes something terrible, and the guests' determination to carry on becomes almost unbearable. A brilliant film. Probably not the one to suggest while you're still at your parents' house.



Whatever your table looks like this month, leave a little room for people to surprise you. Ask someone what they've watched lately. It might lead somewhere better than the usual questions.

And if it doesn't, you can always offer to do the dishes.





From The Bar

### Maple Old Fashioned

November calls for something that doesn't require a blender or a performance. Dark rum, maple syrup, and orange: a little autumn sweetness for when dinner's over but nobody's leaving.

Serves 1 · Prep time: 3 minutes
2 oz dark rum
½ oz maple syrup
2 dashes Angostura bitters
Orange twist, to garnish

Method: Stir the rum, maple syrup, and bitters with ice until thoroughly chilled. Strain into a chilled cocktail glass and finish with an orange twist.

Recipe by Allen Katz, via Liquor.com

Around the corner

### Compelling Coffee

**A Cafe with a Rom-Com View**

Grab a coffee or matcha at Compelling Coffee, take a seat outside, and enjoy a very Hollywood experience: across the street is the Las Palmas Hotel, where Richard Gere climbs the fire escape to Julia Roberts in the final scene of Pretty Woman.

The extra entertainment? Watching tour buses roll past and catching the guides' small talk and jokes as they point out the famous spot. Stay long enough and you can compare deliveries. It's a cute little collision of neighborhood routine and movie mythology: you're having your morning coffee; somebody else is seeing that fire escape for the first time.

**1737 N. Las Palmas Ave**

## November Cinematic Horoscope

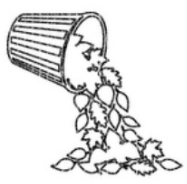
Who's Coming to Dinner?

**Scorpio (Oct 23–Nov 21):**

Birthday season isn't a reason to become more agreeable. You can love the people at your table and still question their version of events. This month, put that talent for noticing everything toward something other than keeping score - and save the devastating one-liner for someone who deserves it.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22–Dec 21):**

You've never needed much convincing to turn a simple trip into an adventure. This month, leave room for a detour - and for the person you wouldn't normally choose as your travel companion. Not every delay is a disaster, but do check that you've booked two beds.



# Your Library Card Is Your Fall Subscription

Fall is slowly but surely coming to LA. You might still need the AC at noon, but by evening you can almost justify the blanket you've been keeping on the couch since August. It's time to make something warm, put your phone somewhere inconvenient, and settle in.

You don't need another subscription to do it. Your free Los Angeles Public Library card gets you movies through Kanopy, audiobooks through hoopla, and, of course, actual books. Remember those?

**For a Night on the Couch: Kanopy**

Connect your library card to a Kanopy account and browse movies and shows without committing to another monthly bill.

**Columbus** - John Cho and Haley Lu Richardson walk around Columbus, Indiana, look at beautiful buildings, and talk about their parents and what to do with their lives.

If you've ever found it easier to tell a near-stranger what's bothering you, you'll recognize something here.

**Kedi** - Follow Istanbul's street cats and meet the people who look after them. If your ideal night involves staying under a blanket while somebody else wanders a beautiful city, preferably in the company of cats, this is your assignment.

**For Soup-Making and Long Walks: hoopla**

Download hoopla, connect your card, and let someone read to you while you chop vegetables or take the scenic route home.

**Anne of Green Gables - L. M. Montgomery** - An imaginative, outspoken orphan finds a home on Prince Edward Island. Come for the countryside; stay for Anne making an ordinary afternoon into a major emotional event. A comforting revisit, even if you haven't thought about her since school.

**The Secret Garden - Frances Hodgson Burnett** - A lonely girl, a sprawling Yorkshire house, and a locked garden waiting to be brought back to life. There's plenty of spring in the story, but a mysterious old house makes excellent company on an early-dark evening.

**For Putting the Screens Away: Borrow a Book**

**A Psalm for the Wild-Built** by Becky Chambers - A tea-serving monk meets a robot with questions about what people need. Short, gentle, and worth picking up if you've somehow started treating relaxation as another thing you're supposed to be good at.

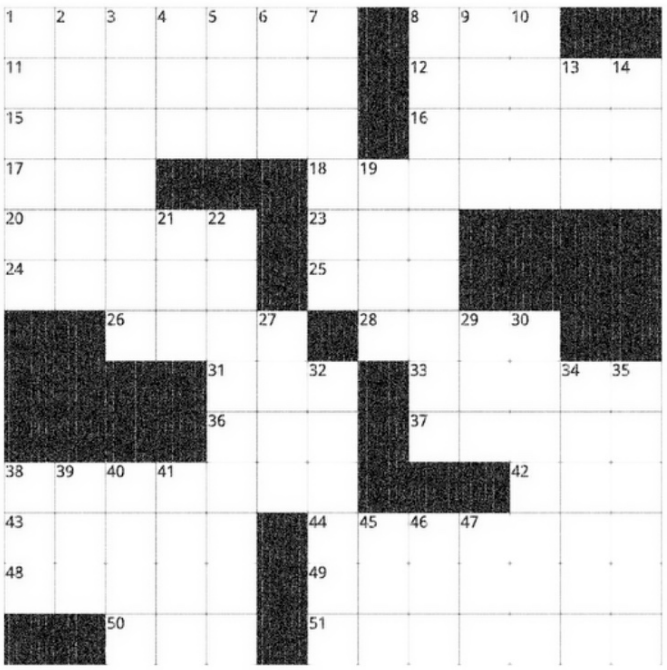
**The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches** by Sangu Mandanna - A witch takes a job teaching three young witches in a secluded house and finds herself drawn into its peculiar household. Magic, found family, and a prickly librarian: an easy choice for anyone not quite ready to pack away October.

**No card yet?** City of Los Angeles residents can apply online for an e-card. Start at **lapl.org/library-card.**

# NOVEMBER CROSSWORD

**ACROSS**

1 Travel guide
8 Sardonic
11 "I gave you love and affection, but you never gave ____" (Lyric in Dolly Parton's "Shinola")
12 Spirit
15 Was loaded
16 12A chambers
17 French "yes"
18 Like strong emotions
20 Perplex
23 Flushed
24 Marisa of "My Cousin Vinny"



25 Fair-hiring inits.
26 Castle material
28 CD part
31 Longoria of "Desperate Housewives"
33 Gave a hand?
36 River island
37 Port of ancient Rome
38 Sign of fall
42 Baguette shaped and cut to look like a stalk of wheat
43 "Gimme five!"
44 Showstopper
48 Search for prey
49 "Later!"
50 Opposite of NNW
51 "Leave the gun, take the ___" (line in The Godfather)

**DOWN**

1 Party partner
2 Running by itself
3 Materials or categories used by artists, say
4 Zadora of "Hairspray"
5 "You've got mail" co.
6 Pou ___ (vantage point)
7 David Sedaris genre
8 "I'm struggling to figure it out!"
9 Neural network
10 Knitting material
13 ___ de veau (veal dish)
14 ___ kwon do
19 Have to have
21 "Do ___ favor"
22 SpongeBob house
27 Roman 507
29 French possessive
30 People-please
32 Smaller than small
34 Hydrating gloss alternative
35 Capital of Taiwan
38 "How ya doin'?"
39 EMT skill
40 Platte River people
41 Uses oars
45 Britney Spears's "___ Slave 4 U"
46 Swindle
47 Pester for payment



crossword by **Olivia Leadbetter**