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Martha Stewart's Guide to Setting the Perfect Table (Part One)

Rebecca Lindsey
NSU University School

Jenny Perkins
NSU University School

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Martha Stewart's Guide to Setting the Perfect Table

(Part One)

Rebecca Lindsey and Jenny Perkins

The Table

Wake up at 4:30 a.m., three weeks before the event. Open your Eddie Bauer closet and choose your favorite shirt from your flannel collection. Get out your Saks Fifth Avenue overalls and your Timberland boots. Once dressed and downstairs, make a quick, twenty-minute fruit shake and eggs benedict. Then choose your largest SUV, preferably the Ford Excursion in navy blue with pink flowers. Drive into your forest (because, you know, everyone has a forest in the backyard). Once you find the perfect oak, whip out your K-Mart saw and start working. While you saw with your left hand, simply extract maple syrup with your right hand from the nearby maple tree. This should take approximately three hours. Before leaving, spend some time collecting leaves, twigs, and berries to be used for table decorations. Now do a ten-minute Yoga warm-up before tossing the oak into your Excursion. As soon as you get home, have Juan, the cabana boy/oak specialist, move the oak from the SUV into furniture warehouse D6. Cook a simple honey glazed ham with Polynesian pineapples handpicked from Pantry No.16734693478 while turning your oak tree into the homemade Pottery Barn replica dining set for 48. Spend the rest of the day killing weeds and watching the stock market.

(to be continued...)