



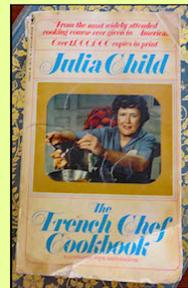
Welcome Spring !!!

Although, in spite of the calendar, it really depends on where you live. Here in Nebraska we've been going back and forth between 20 degree days and days in the 60s. But the daffodils are blooming and I love daffodils and I can't wait for them.



Years ago, a local florist gave me a bag of daffodil bulbs. He had already used them for stock and it was cheaper for him to buy new than to store them so he gave them to me. I invited friends over for a daffodil planting day and, of course, cooked because you can't ask friends to work and not feed them. Well, I suppose you can but your friends might be busy next time you need help.

So I made cassoulet from Julia Child's *The French Chef Cookbook*. This is one of those charming French country dishes that is probably absolutely effortless if you are a charming French country person or live somewhere charming in the country. In France.



I do not.

It took me two days and I ended up with a potful of beans mixed with a little bit of meat. I must have done something wrong. It was really kind of bland. And maybe the proportion was off. And we had a lot of beans left over. No, really, a lot of beans.



But if you are looking for a fabulous recipe, I cannot recommend my friend Pam's Lemon Summer Squash Bread strongly enough. This stuff is fabulous!!! I haven't made it but I have eaten it and trust me on this—it's really wonderful!!! You can find the recipe at <http://swankykitchen.com> or just click on the picture.

There's no baking—or anything else—for me until I finish **The Lady Travelers Guide to Larceny with a Dashing Stranger**. I am chained to my desk. Okay, not literally chained but you know what I mean. Let me tell you—there's a lot of guilt that goes along

with doing anything other than writing when you're trying to finish a book.

The first Lady Travelers book—**The Lady Travelers Guide to Scoundrels and other Gentlemen** doesn't come out until May 23rd but is available for pre-orders now.

[Amazon](#)

[Books-a-Million](#)

[Barnes & Noble](#)

In the meantime, there's a prequel e-novella—**The Proper Way to Stop a Wedding in Seven Days or Less**—that comes out on April 1st. (FYI—it's also included as a bonus in **The Lady Travelers Guide to Scoundrels and Other Gentlemen**.)

Now, when you ask me to write a prequel—I don't set it a few weeks before the next story. Nope, not me. I set it thirty-four years in the past. You're welcome. 😊

Want to read the first chapter? I was hoping you would. I've put the first chapter up here [Proper Way to Stop a Wedding-Chapter One](#) just for newsletter folks for the next week.

Last month, I asked about heroes. Carol (New Jersey) wrote that Gary Cooper was a favorite hero of hers. "I loved him since I was 10 years old and watched his old movies with my Father." And Lenna (from Oregon) said her favorite heroes tend to be guardian-protector types.

So let's see—where am? Well, I'm spending most of my time in 1889 Venice. Why yes, it is very cool. 😊

So where do you think my Lady Travelers should go next? Let me know.

Oh, and if you emailed me for an arc (the arcs went fast!!!) or luggage tag and didn't hear from me—email me victoria@victoriaalexander.com with your snail mail address and I'll send you one.

Take care and travel safe!!!

Victoria