

## The Last Suppers

*The Last Suppers* by Mandy Mikulencak is one of several new books at our library.

The story takes place in the 1950's at the Louisiana Greenmount State Penitentiary. It is a moving story about a girl, Ginny Polk, who grew up on the prison grounds being the daughter of the prison warden. While most children left the place as soon as they could Ginny came back in her adult life to work as the prison cook.

As a child she had seen how the inmates were treated and yet she never saw them as monsters. That is why she requested to prepare the last meals for inmates on death row. She asked to meet with them before their execution day to find out what their favorite meal was. If she could she even got the recipes from relatives. She did not hesitate to get an address and visit with the family. Once she had a recipe she went through great length to practice and try out the recipe beforehand. She wanted to get it just right. Even though these were cold blooded murderers Ginny believed in her heart they were still human beings. She did it also to give comfort to the family of the inmate.

Ginny has horrifying memories of her father's murderer being executed. Only eight years old, her mother made her watch the execution. This has a lasting deep impact on Ginny the rest of her life. She has a relationship with the present warden, Roscoe, who had been a friend of both her mother and her father. When her father died Roscoe had promised him he would look after his little girl and her mother. Through the years the friendship developed into a relationship.

Providing *Last Suppers* for inmates also leads to some dark buried secrets of her own family. The ending of this story is very realistic but maybe not how the reader would like it to end.

In *The Last Suppers* by Mandy Mikulencak the author also includes recipes that Ginny might have prepared for the men on death row.

You will find this book with our *New Arrivals*.

Happy Reading!

*Hella*