

## **Did you catch all of the plagues?**

### **THE DINNER PARTY**

*Jewish Book Council*

#### **1) Blood**

- Blood appears in the book at a few different times: Sylvia cuts her finger while slicing lemons and limes; Becca bites her hangnail until it bleeds; and Sylvia cuts herself while on the ladder cleaning the spiderwebs.

#### **2) Frogs**

- Chef Michael makes frog legs as an appetizer.

#### **3) Lice**

- Alan, while cleaning the spiderweb in the foyer, recalls when Becca and Sarah had lice as children, and then imagines that he has it, too, after the spiderweb in the garage ends up all over him.

#### **4) Wild animals**

- I think Sylvia would suggest that Valentina is a wild animal. Probably Dominic, too. Sylvia also describes Gideon as a wild animal when he eats brisket with his hands, and Sarah describes Gideon as hairy and overgrown.

#### **5) Pestilence**

- The spiderweb discovered by Sylvia before the guests arrive.

#### **6) Boils**

- Sylvia burns her hand on the pot of matzo ball soup, and it blisters.

#### **7) Hail**

- Chef Michael spills the ice all over the floor when Gideon confronts Sylvia about Malika being Black.

#### **8) Locusts**

- A swarm of bugs destroy Sylvia's ivy vines from the inside out.

#### **9) Darkness**

- The lights go out at the seder.

#### **10) Slaying of the first born**

- I'd argue that Malika breaking Gideon's heart qualifies.