

"We probably can't act like this at our dinner party, huh? A dinner party would be fun, but I'm scared."

"Scared? You run inside burning buildings. How could a brave man like you be scared?" Daryl wanted to know.

Roy looked embarrassed and said, "Well, it's my table manners." He wiped the peanut butter and jelly off his mouth with his sleeve.



"Yeah, mine aren't all that polished either. I'm afraid of what our friends might think if I used the wrong fork or forgot to use my napkin." Daryl burped again.



"You? Afraid?" Roy asked. "You're a quarterback. You face the biggest guys around, and you're afraid of a fork and napkin." He mumbled through the sticky, half-chewed mouthful of food.

Daryl gulped. "Let's learn some table manners and practice using them at our own party."

"Then we won't have to be afraid of anything ever again!" Roy smiled.



On the way home they stopped at a card shop. The man at the cash register was named Carlton Cawley. He looked Roy and Daryl up and down. These customers were unlike any he had ever seen. The two hero types seemed uncomfortable buying fancy cards, so Carlton Cawley attempted a conversation.

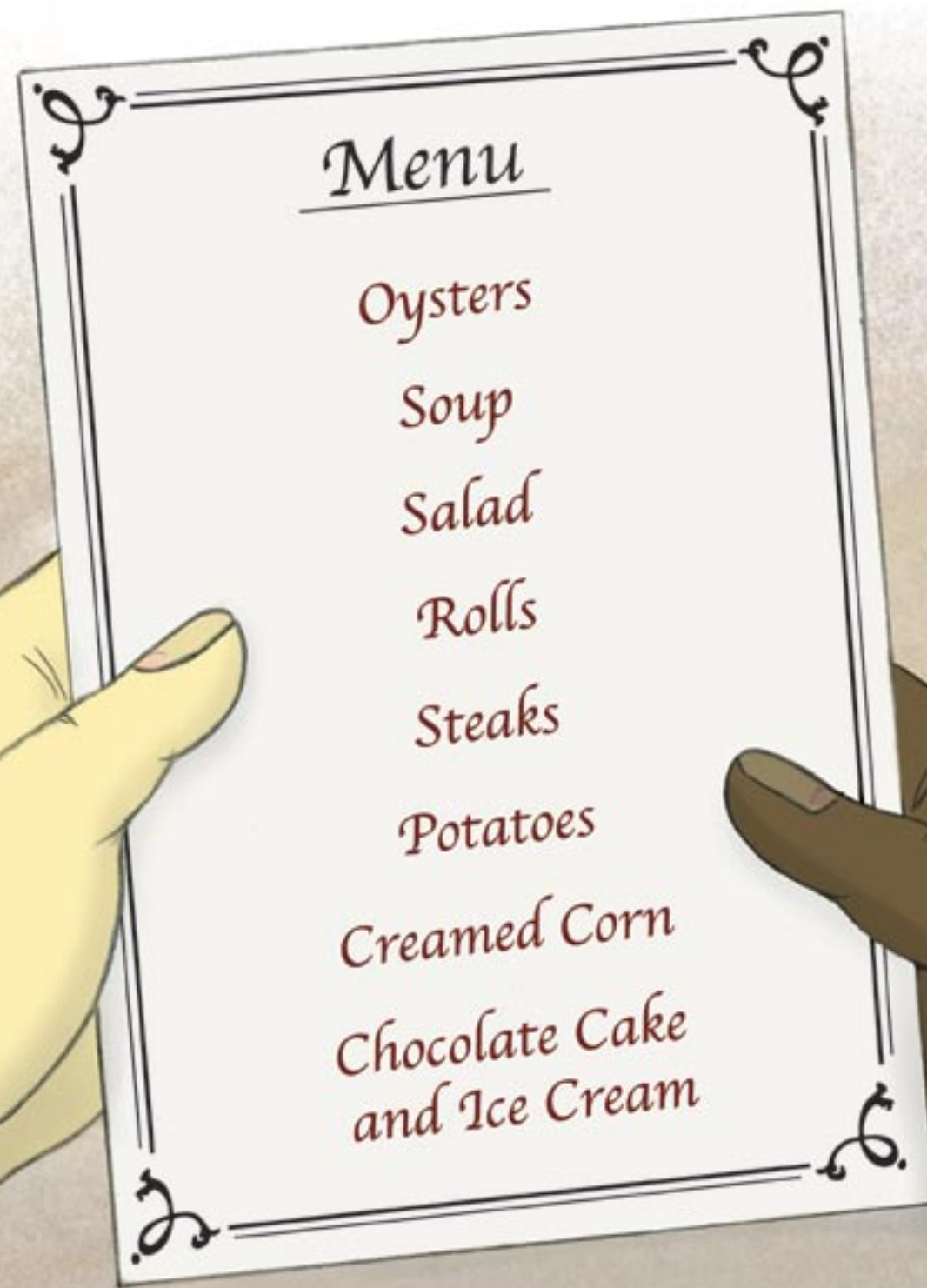


“It can be intimidating writing invitations for the first time, but an invitation is always fun to receive.”

“Writing doesn’t intimidate us,” they blurted out defensively.

“Oh!” Carlton Cawley said, “I didn’t really mean *intimidate*. Writing invitations is just a new experience. Of course fire fighters and football stars aren’t intimidated. I’m sure you’ll do a fine job.”

They went over the menu together.



They were well rehearsed when the doorbell rang and guests poured in. Name cards showed the guests where to sit. Daryl and Roy had arranged it so that the guests sat boy, girl, boy, girl around the table, just like the books said it should be done.

Each guest held his or her fork like this.



Each guest held his or her knife like this.



First they served the steamed oysters in the shells. Daryl looked at Roy as he picked up the funny, little shellfish fork on the farthest right side of his plate.

