**The Last Supper (1995)**

The film centers on five [graduate school](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graduate_school) students in [Iowa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iowa) who live together in a rustic home: Jude ([Cameron Diaz](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cameron_Diaz)), Pete ([Ron Eldard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Eldard)), Paulie ([Annabeth Gish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annabeth_Gish)), Marc ([Jonathan Penner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Penner)), and Luke ([Courtney B. Vance](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Courtney_B._Vance)).

After Zack ([Bill Paxton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Paxton)), a [Desert Storm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Desert_Storm) veteran, helps move Pete's car, the group invite him to have dinner with them. However, Zack turns out to be a racist, praises [Adolf Hitler](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Adolf_Hitler) and [denies the historicity of the Holocaust](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holocaust_denial), leading to a tense political debate with the [liberal](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liberalism) students. The evening takes a turn for the worse, when the veteran, possibly haunted by [post traumatic stress disorder](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Post_traumatic_stress_disorder), snaps and threatens to rape Paulie, then threatens Marc with a knife. Zack breaks Pete's arm but is stabbed to death by Marc. The group decides to cover up the murder. Paulie regrets that the man is dead, even though she and Marc were threatened.

After a long discussion led by Luke, the students decide to follow up this event by inviting other [right-wing](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Right-wing) extremists for dinner to murder them, reasoning this would "make the world a better place". The students lay down a procedure for each murder. The guest will be given every opportunity to change his/her mind and recant his/her beliefs. If the guests fail to change his/her ways by dessert, the group offers the guest poisoned white wine from a blue decanter and raises a toast. The bodies are buried in the group's vegetable garden.

Guests include a [homophobic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homophobic) [protestant](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protestant) [reverend](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reverend), a misogynistic [chauvinist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chauvinist), a [Neo-Nazi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-Nazism), an [anti-environmentalist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-environmentalism), a racist, [anti-Semitic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-Semitic) [Nation of Islam fundamentalist](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Muslim_fundamentalism), a [Pro-life](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pro-life) extremist, a [censorship](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Censorship) advocate, a [hobo](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hobo) assailant (the only dinner guest who momentarily considers recanting his beliefs), and opponents of [gay rights](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/LGBT_social_movements), all of whom are murdered. After ten murders, misgivings begin to surface within the group as a couple of them grow indecisive regarding the justification of their actions. Infighting and guilt compel Jude, Pete, Marc, and Paulie, in an almost unanimous decision with only the dissent of Luke, to spare a teenage opponent of mandatory [sex education](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_education).

A local sheriff ([Nora Dunn](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nora_Dunn)), who investigates the whereabouts of a missing girl named Jenny Tyler ([Elisabeth Moss](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elisabeth_Moss)) comes upon the group. By coincidence, the main suspect in the case is Zack, the first victim, who was also a convicted [sex offender](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_offender). The policewoman grows suspicious of the students’ behavior and interrogates Pete, Marc and Paulie at their home. Finding the sheriff prying around the back yard after one of the murders, Luke also kills the sheriff unbeknownst to the rest of the group.

During a school break, Luke and Pete meet famous conservative pundit Norman Arbuthnot, played by [Ron Perlman](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Perlman), and invite him to dinner. (Throughout the movie, brief segments of radical statements made by Arbuthnot had been appearing on the TV that the group had been watching in their home.) During the dinner, Norman stymies the group with his moderate and persuasive arguments, all of which the usually argumentative group have difficulty debunking. He even admits that he says more radically conservative things mostly for attention.

The frustrated students all suspiciously excuse themselves to the kitchen to determine Norman's fate. Jude warns him not to drink the wine in the blue bottle by saying, "It was left out too long and has gone bad." After a brief discussion, only Luke still wishes to kill Norman, calling him Hitler. After a tense altercation, where he aims a gun at Jude, Luke is dissuaded and breaks down into tears. Meanwhile, Norman examines the group's home and pieces together their murderous activities. When the students return to the table. Arbuthnot presents the group with glasses of wine and offers them a toast but does not drink himself, with the excuse that he doesn't want to be too intoxicated to fly his private plane. He puffs on a huge cigar and says, "Don't worry, I didn't pour any of the bad wine."

A closing shot of a painting portrays all five students collapsed on the floor, with Norman standing next to the blue bottle and smoking his cigar. The film ends with audio of Norman speculating about his possible presidential bid to a cheering crowd, pledging to do the people's will and describing himself as the people's "humble, humble, servant".

## **Cast**

Cameron Diaz as Jude

Ron Eldard as Pete

Annabeth Gish as Paulie

Jonathan Penner as Marc

Courtney B. Vance as Luke

Bill Paxton as Zachary Cody

Nora Dunn as Sheriff Alice Stanley

Ron Periman as Norman Arbuthnot

**Memorable quotes (with notes on difficult vocabulary)**

[on what to do with Zack]

[Luke](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005524/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): I say we bury the **cracker** and have dessert.

**cracker** = (qui) pazzo, disgraziato

[Illiterate Librarian](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0317361/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): "Thumbelina" is art. "**Catcher in the Rye**" is just **mean-spirited garbage littered with the, oh, the "F" word**.

[Luke](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005524/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): It's 1909 and you're alone with a young artist named Adolph. Do you kill him?

[Luke](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005524/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): People disappear all of the time.

[Jude](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000139/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Especially in Iowa. We probably saved him from an **alien abduction**.

[Luke](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005524/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): What if you kill somebody whose death makes the world a better place?

[Paulie](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001272/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): We've got to call the police. They'll understand.

[Luke](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005524/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Sure they would. **Grad student** kills war hero with a knife. You'll probably just get a **ticket**.

[Jude](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000139/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): The conservatives are effective. They do things. All we do is buy animal-friendly mascara.

[Paulie](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001272/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Look, we're **liberals**. We do the right thing.

[Luke](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005524/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): You know what you need Heather? You know what you really need? A nice stiff **dick** to shut that big mouth of yours.

**Catcher in the Rye =** famoso romanzo americano tradotto in italiano con il titolo di *Il giovan Holden*; **mean-spirited garbage littered with the, oh, the "F" word =** spazzatura deprimente piena di parolacce (“F” word è un eufemismo per *fuck*); **alien abduction** = rapimento degli alieni; **grad student** = (graduate student) studente universitario; **ticket** = (qui) multa; **liberals =** (qui) radicali; **dick =** (slang) pene

[Zachary Cody](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000200/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Liberals, never **taking a stand** you'd be willing to...

[Luke](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005524/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): to die for?

[Zachary Cody](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000200/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Nah. Boy, dying is easy. There is nothing heroic about dying. But if you can take a stand for something you'd be willing to kill for, that is something, something special

[Luke](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0005524/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): Is it crazy to make a difference?

[Norman Arbuthnot](http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000579/?ref_=tt_trv_qu): I'm the first to admit we took this country from the indians but what were they doing with it anyway; shooting off bows and arrows and using seashells for money.

**to take a stand** = prendere posizione; **bows and arrows** = arco e frecce, **seashell** = conchiglia

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Last_Supper_%281995_film%29>

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0113613/>