



**Comfort food for cold nights**  
Pies and dumplings from the Hairy Bikers

# Weekend

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Are you a **simmering** couple?

The new technique for a sex life that's gone off the boil

**The best holidays in Greece**



**Hiking on Skiathos island**



**Cool places to stay on Kos and Corfu**



Great villas to book now

## my culture fix

The designer and sculptor lets us into her cultural life

Nicole Farhi



me one of the greatest French movies — it is cool and sexy, completely Parisian. It is also incredibly important because it is a precursor of the New Wave. The Miles Davis score was recorded in a single all-night session and is one of the greatest film scores of all time.

**The book I'm reading**

I'm just starting *Summer of Deliverance* by Christopher Dickey. This is the extraordinary memoir of James Dickey's son. His father was a roistering American poet who became outstandingly famous when his novel *Deliverance* was turned into a film. It's about that generation of American writers who mixed macho and drink to such deadly effect.

**The book I wish I had written**

*Letters to a Young Poet* by Rainer Maria Rilke. Ten beautiful letters written by Rilke to a young poet who is seeking advice. It is a complete manual on how to develop and mature through your creativity. I will read them always as I think they are a real guide to life, whether you are an artist or not.

**The book I couldn't finish**

My mother gave me for my 18th birthday the beautiful bound *La Pléiade* series of the nine volumes of *À la recherche du temps perdu* by Marcel Proust. I am ashamed to say I read two books and loved them, but never finished them all.

**The book I'm ashamed I haven't read**

I have not read any Henry James novels, but I am not ashamed, as I feel the struggle might not be worth the rewards. I once attempted *What Maisie Knew*, and knew it was not for me.

**My favourite film**

*Lift to the Scaffold* with Jeanne Moreau is Louis Malle's first thriller movie. It is for

**My favourite play**

*Racing Demon* by David Hare. David also happens to be my husband, but the humanity of the characters goes straight to my heart. It's about a team of south London vicars whose mission is not to save souls, but to give practical service to the community. It's about how we see true goodness today, and what it means to us.

**The box set that I'm hooked on**

*The Marvelous Mrs Maisel* on Amazon Prime. Its heroine is a wonderful portrait of a feminist with all her strengths and weaknesses. It's so original to use stand-up comedy as a means of liberation, and I love the new series too.

**My favourite TV series**

*Heimat* is a German production that tells the story of one town in the 20th century — charting the rise of Nazism, the war and the postwar compromises. Even in what is said to be the golden age of binge-watching, in its scope and in its historical insight, I think it remains the greatest TV series ever made.

**My favourite piece of music**

Tchaikovsky Trio for piano, violin and cello, with Martha Argerich at the piano. I first listened to it at the Peasmarsh music festival three years ago. I will never forget the wonderful, exhilarating effect that music had on me and still has every time I listen to it.

**The last TV programme that made me cry/laugh**

*A Very English Scandal*, about Jeremy



Thorpe and his trial for conspiracy to murder, made me laugh out loud. I've lived in England for more than 40 years, and Russell T Davies and Stephen Frears express the ridiculousness of the English character to perfection. The acting by Hugh Grant, Alex Jennings and Ben Whishaw is perfect.

**The lyric I wish I'd written**

*The Man I Love* by Gershwin. A bit soppy, but so romantic, I kept listening to it after I met David.

**The poem/song that saved me**

Without sounding arrogant, I do not think I have needed to be saved so far. But listening to Maria Callas when I started spending hours, day in and day out, alone in my studio sculpting helped me to get to a depth of concentration I wouldn't have been able to otherwise.

**The instrument I wish I'd learnt**

The trumpet. My favourite player is Miles Davis. The sound of the trumpet gives me a thrilling chill.

**The music that cheers me up**

Anything by the French singer/songwriter Charles Trenet. We played his song *Bonne!* at my wedding as I walked in and everybody laughed to the sound and words of that piece of music. Such a happy song for a very happy day.

**If I could own one painting...**

One sculpture please instead. It would be *Woman with Her Throat Cut* by Giacometti, because when I first saw it, I realised

**FAVOURITES From top: The Marvelous Mrs Maisel; Miles Davis; A Very English Scandal**

the importance that sculpture would have in my life.

**The place I feel happiest**  
Paris is forever my home town. I love the architecture, the cafés and their terraces, the restaurants, its flea markets, the museums and of course the infinite choice of movies at the cinema.



**My guiltiest cultural pleasure**

I like watching nature documentaries while having breakfast in bed.

**I'm having a fantasy dinner party, I'll invite these artists and authors...**

Hannah Arendt, Simone de Beauvoir, Wallace Shawn, Maria Callas, Picasso and Giacometti — and David, of course. I think the conversation will flow happily.

**And I'll put on this music...**

Sarah Vaughan, Billie Holiday, Ray Charles

**The film that I'm looking forward to**

Alfonso Cuarón's *Roma* — the Mexican director and screenwriter's latest film is a love letter to Mexico and, I hope, a return to auteur cinema.

**I wasted an evening watching...**

An evening is never wasted, if I share what I am watching with somebody I love.

Nicole Farhi: *Folds* is at Beaux Arts, London W1 (020 7493 1155), from January 31 to March 2



WINNING MOVIES David Hare's *Racing Demon*. Above: French singer Charles Trenet