

CHECKLIST

Hosting Without the Low-Level Dread

Everything that actually matters, in the order it matters.

Nobody remembers whether the napkins matched. They remember whether you were relaxed. This list is built backwards from that.

THE DAY BEFORE

- ☐ Choose one thing to make and one thing to buy.
- ☐ Clear the two surfaces guests actually see: the entry and the sink.
- ☐ Chill more drinks than you think, including something without alcohol.

AN HOUR BEFORE

- ☐ Light the candle now so the room smells settled, not freshly lit.
- ☐ Set out glasses and a bowl of something salty. That is a whole hosting strategy.
- ☐ Pick the music before anyone arrives, then leave it alone.

ONCE THEY ARE HERE

- ☐ Hand the first arrival a job. People relax faster with something to do.
- ☐ Leave the washing up. Genuinely.
- ☐ Decide your end time in advance and say it warmly.

Calm is the hospitality. Everything else is decoration.