smitten kitchen five minutes — remembered infant 6 year-old two full-time jobs big apartment international business trip month sadly mine doubting actually made whatever required pull — thought might Friendsgiving dinner party year love Thanksgiving want life ditto friends also dinner parties Everything going awesome ’ plan menu perfect Thanksgiving dinner wrote head probably five years ago hear Alton Brown ’ turkey recipe one ’ ever need dry brine maybe lacquered thing maybe mash-up maybe import smoked one Texas chilled host history Thanksgiving ever amiright Right well everything else planned fun began decided new tradition required new special cocktail would forever tied time place general ’ classicist sangria Like us ’ endured sorts disturbing ingredients masquerading sangria — Sprite frozen lemonade coconut rum basil ton sugar whhhy ingredients ’ pulled first Google results sangria — try mess ’ always worked turned ’ upend tradition obnoxiously make apple cider sangria dreams red wine used dry white brandy used apple brandy Calvados Instead splash juice used apple cider ’ reduced would concentrated flavorful kept less traditional Triple Sec place like hint orange skip less sangria blasphemist fruit used mix apples like everyone else overdid apple farms October result even better ’ hoped apple-y adult way subtle terribly sweet kids ran hallways sugar-demonic haze trick-or-treating friend ’ building last weekend grownups got sip glasses uh grown-up candy saving actual candy-thieving fall asleep parental privilege course