



Etiquette: In Society, in Business, in Politics and at Home

Emily Post

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This is it, the classic work of manners, mores, and morals, first published in 1922 and a standard reference for decades. Though some of its advice is a tad outdated for today-questions no longer abound about which maid should be serving the housekeeper, and whether she should be served in the kitchen or in her quarters-much of Emily Post's advice is timeless. You'll learn . . . how to be an engaging conversationalist . . . the proper formats for all manner of invitations . . . how to greet family, friends, and new acquaintances . . . the most elegant way to host a former dinner, an afternoon tea, and a wedding . . . and much more. American author EMILY POST (1873-1960) contributed fiction and articles about such topics as architecture and interior design to magazines including Harper's and Scribner's; her published novels include Flight of the Moth (1904), Purple and Fine Linen (1906), The Title Market (1909), and others. But she is best remembered as an etiquette maven, founding The Emily Post Institute in 1946 and writing about manners in a long-running syndicated newspaper column.

Etiquette: In Society, in Business, in Politics and at Home Details

Date : Published April 1st 2007 by Cosimo Classics (first published 1922)

ISBN : 9781602061149

Author : Emily Post

Format : Paperback 680 pages

Genre : Nonfiction, History, How To, Classics

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Kent says

I pretended this was science fiction and had a hilarious time. As a chronicle of an alien society's customs on a far-off planet, this book is the gift that keeps on giving.

Erica says

Yes it is old and sections are a bit outdated, but this book is still a fun and enlightening read. And even almost a century later, Emily Post's wit and humor is biting, clever and never the least bit dry.

The chapter on camping was especially entertaining.

This may be your grandmother's etiquette book, but the granddaughters and great-granddaughters will still enjoy it.

Angie says

Terribly outdated, but some rules are timeless. And, regardless, it was pretty interesting!

Alexandria Blaelock says

So dated as to almost be fiction - I don't know why Bertie Wooster hasn't switched genres and turned up in here. But a fascinating glimpse into the upper echelons of society in days gone by.

John Yelverton says

This is one of the most important books that you can ever read on how to conduct yourself in society like a lady or a gentleman.

Chris Blue Eyes says

I like manners

Erin says

OF COURSE this is stuffy and out-of-date. If you're reading it now, you are literally reading it out of date! If you're looking for actual current advice on how to act right, you might want to check out the dozens of updated and specific versions put out by Emily's estate. But the original is a fascinating read.

If you think this is all about what fork to use and how humiliated you should feel if you do anything wrong, it doesn't take much reading of the actual text to see how wrong that impression is. Emily Post was nothing if not practical and empathetic. Sure, if you're looking for detail about how the rich actually ate and lived, this is a treasure trove - and there's lots about forks, since she was specifically asked to include all those details. But there are also a ton of caveats about making sure that everyone is always happy and comfortable, never shaming others for doing something "wrong". And all of it is written in a breezy, conversational tone, as if you're on the receiving end of a sparkling monologue over brunch.

Wendy says

Published in 1922. Mrs. Price Post (Emily) 1873-1960. The situations read like Downton Abby!! Butlers, lady's maids, motor cars. How appalled she would be with emails and cellphones of today.

Hilary says

Rather surprisingly, this book was not as dated or as "prissy" as you might think. The primary aims are to make your guests and yourself comfortable, and not to overstretch yourself: if you're newly married and *only* have a cook and part-time maid, don't try to throw a lavish 12-person 6-course dinner, for example, because no-one expects it you. She covers how to be a good guest as well as a good hostess, how and what to pack for a visit, and what sort of things might be essential for your household.

Of course, much of this doesn't apply any more as social rules are no longer as rigid, but sometimes I do wish our current rules weren't *quite* as flexible; at least back then people knew what was expected in almost every situation!

Susan Sharp says

I truly enjoyed reading this from a sort of ethnographic perspective. So much has changed since Emily Post first published this book in 1922 and I found this first edition fascinating.

John says

Old and a bit pompous, but it never hurts to know how to be polite.
