



The Book of Nice: A Nice Book About Nice Things for Nice People

Josh Chetwynd

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Nice is the secret ingredient to a better life. It makes us happy. It may even be what makes us civilized—when we say thank you, shake hands, send flowers, we’re doing the nice things that bring people together.

A compulsive and chunky book for lovers of trivia, popular history, customs, and culture—and a perfect gift to say “you’re nice”—The Book of Nice is an entertaining, quirky compendium of those signs, traditions, and expressions that we so often take for granted, yet turn out to be quite fascinating. It’s about why we cover a yawn (originally to prevent evil spirits from entering our bodies, now to hide the impression that something’s boring us). About holiday traditions—it’s thanks to Guy Lombardo’s December 31 broadcast in 1929 that we now sing “Auld Lang Syne” on New Year’s Eve. About customary offerings—the wedding cake evolved out of the Roman use of wheat as a symbol of fertility (and it’s much tastier than bits of grain). And about those simple yet essential niceties—how Thomas Edison championed an obscure term, “hello” (if Alexander Graham Bell had gotten his way, we’d all be saying “ahoy”).

Why not put a little nice in your day?

The Book of Nice: A Nice Book About Nice Things for Nice People Details

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Deborah J. says

Hmm...

It's basically a collection of trivialities; a book you can pick up now and then to read a chapter or two. There are no 'negative' trivialities, thus the title given to it.

It was interesting in its simplicity.

Donna says

a nice book of quick facts about some of the nicer things in life. A great book for trivia buffs!

Iris says

This was a cute idea, but I got bored with it midway through. It rambled too much- would've liked briefer explanations of where all the "nice" things began.

Diane Scanzaroli says

It takes a special kind of person to write a book of nice! I would love Josh Chetwynd even if he hadn't written such a great book. Thanks Josh

Brenda says

I had to drive my brother to see a specialist and I knew I would much sitting in the waiting room. Neither the romance I have been reading or a novel involving an evil doctor seem like good choices. As I was leaving, I noticed this book on my shelf.

I really liked it. It is full of trivial on nice things. People going nice things. Nice traditions that we enjoy but perhaps don't ask why we do this. I did learn stuff and then forgot what I learn. However the soft fluffy glow remains. I will go so far as to say that I needed this book that day when unpleasantness would come crashing down.. this thick book of nice things did provided a buffer.

Fatini Zulkifli says

The content is good but the writing style puts myself to sleep.

Jessie says

Interesting and fun. I picked it up whenever I had a few minutes as the chapters are very short.

Josh says

Admittedly, as the author I'm quite biased, but I'm quite proud of this book. It attempts to be an accessible historical overview of the often-difficult-to-define concept of nice. The goal is to help offer context and some basic meat on the bones of "nice" and to do so in fun way. I'd like to believe I reached that goal. Hopefully, many (or at least some) of you will feel the same way.
