



# Etiquette

*Emily Post*

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## **Etiquette** Emily Post

This edition is illustrated and annotated, with detailed information about Emily Post and also the Emily Post Institute. There is a convenient, active table of contents, and this work has been formatted for your Kindle.

Many who scoff at a book of etiquette would be shocked to hear the least expression of levity touching the Ten Commandments. But the Commandments do not always prevent such virtuous scoffers from dealings with their neighbor of which no gentleman could be capable and retain his claim to the title. Though it may require ingenuity to reconcile their actions with the Decalogue—the ingenuity is always forthcoming. There is no intention in this remark to intimate that there is any higher rule of life than the Ten Commandments; only it is illuminating as showing the relationship between manners and morals, which is too often overlooked. The polished gentleman of sentimental fiction has so long served as the type of smooth and conscienceless depravity that urbanity of demeanor inspires distrust in ruder minds. On the other hand, the blunt, unpolished hero of melodrama and romantic fiction has lifted brusqueness and pushfulness to a pedestal not wholly merited. Consequently, the kinship between conduct that keeps us within the law and conduct that makes civilized life worthy to be called such, deserves to be noted with emphasis. The Chinese sage, Confucius, could not tolerate the suggestion that virtue is in itself enough without politeness, for he viewed them as inseparable and "saw courtesies as coming from the heart," maintaining that "when they are practised with all the heart, a moral elevation ensues."

## **Etiquette Details**

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## From Reader Review Etiquette for online ebook

### Edyn Wynter says

Perfect for the history-lover or Mia Thermopolis

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### Evan says

I'm not being ironic when I write that Post is an ethical philosopher of the American type, with Santayana and James. British and French etiquette books, and many American ones, are about preserving class structure or social climbing (how to mask one's inferior birth). But Post's dicta are all based on one pragmatic goal: keep your feet off the other guy's toes, or, don't take up more space than's yours.

It's the basis of the sweetest, most generous treatment of the other: don't open your car doors and kick the jams in the middle of the night, because you're taking up your neighbors' space; when introducing people, it's a good idea to say something about each person so that they have something to work with and they're not left nodding uncomfortably to each other; etc. You get the idea: these aren't Rules for Behavior; they're a mode of living where you try to take just a tiny bit of care to the other guy.

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### Amy says

One of the great mysteries of my childhood was why my mother thought it was important enough to have this book on the shelf. I tried to understand it, but it seemed too complicated. I remember it now as byzantine. I associated it with many of the old Hollywood movies I saw on TV. They depicted wealthy families speaking with round-toned diction and wearing dressing gowns and negligees at the breakfast table. Their servants brought in soft boiled eggs in special cups. It also seemed to have something to do with the pilgrims we learned about at Thanksgiving in school. Eventually it dawned on me that we weren't all descended from the Pilgrims, so why was that the way we learned American history?

My parents also had a copy of Phyllis Diller's Housekeeping Hints, which was essentially the antidote to Emily Post's writings. Diller and stand-up comedy in general, was on the edge with dirty jokes, so it was an adventure to sort of sneak read Phyllis Diller, just like sneaking the Ian Fleming novels that were also sandwiched between classics at home. This was around 1965, when I was nine years old. The world of grown-ups was strange and needed some investigation. It was worrisome to try to figure out how to graduate into being a woman anything remotely like the current popular role models, such as Doris Day.

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### Dawn says

I'm actually currently reading the 1945 "new edition", which was an AWESOME SCORE at an estate sale. So far the book totally delivers!

### **Stephanie says**

I recieved this from my father when I was 12 years old. I still love to thumb through it.....I am such a nerd!

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### **Carolee says**

Always fun to compare this streamlined 1984 (14th edition) with my 1959 (9th edition) book. It would appear a new edition comes out every 4-5 years, as I think an 18th edition is now available? Gee, who'd figure etiquette changed that rapidly? Ah, heck - with the degeneration of civil society today we should be down to a comic-book size/version by 2020 ish! And then after almost a hundred years of instructing ladies and gentlemen about pinkie-extension during tea - they'll be advising us on how to respond properly to one-finger salutations.

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### **Sugar.hiccup says**

This should really be on everyone's "to be read" list. Especially timely in this technology age where so many people find personal communication and manners so difficult to understand! In fact, this should be required reading for every in schools!

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### **Melody says**

I found it amusing.

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### **James Powers says**

My edition's from the 40s (and signed by the author!) I wonder to what extent the family has changed it over the years. Anyway, this is a really good book, with not nearly as much useless information as is commonly believed. Much of it is quite philosophical.

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### **John Williams says**

So this is one of the two classic etiquette texts, the other being the Vanderbilt. I have not read this one cover-to-cover, but it is the one my wife and I turned to repeatedly during our engagement to determine the proper approach to a variety of pre-nuptial land mines.

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## Cristina says

Good reference textbook, but note that it was written in 1945 and the majority of it deals with how to behave in wealthy society. That said, there are things that are applicable and things that are good to know. If I were to read it again, I would read the updated version.

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## Nazanin Moshiri says

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