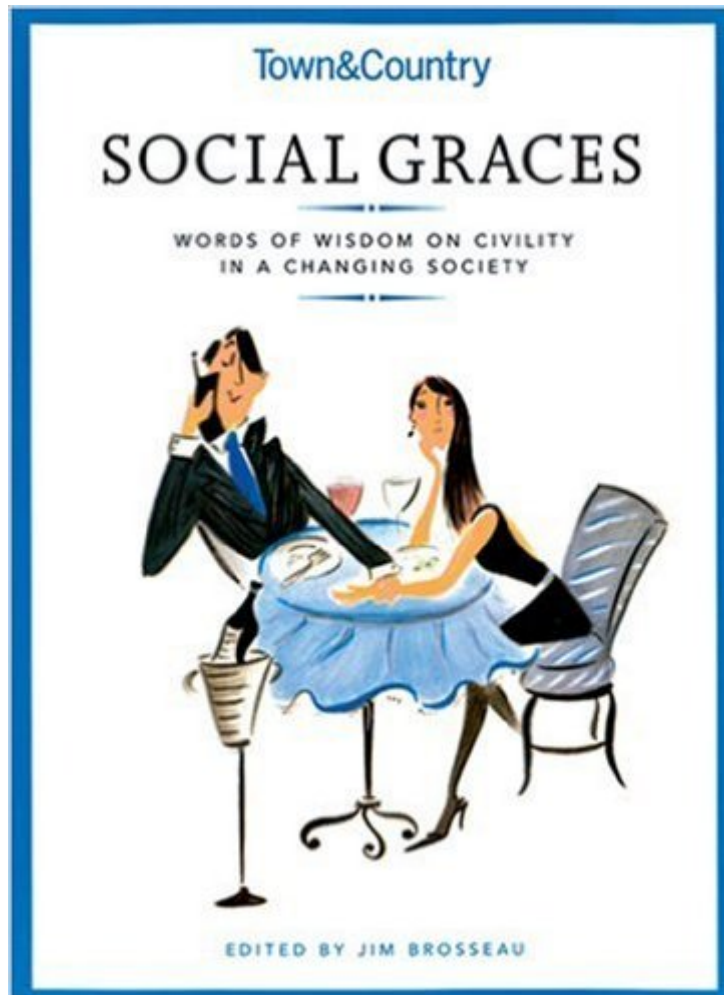


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Town & Country Social Graces: Words Of Wisdom On Civility In A Changing Society



Synopsis

For more than 150 years, Town & Country has stood for quality and refinement. So who better to offer sound guidance on leading a civilized life in a world of eroding social graces? Here, 50 of the keenest and wittiest observers of our changing culture put forward their incisive "and thoroughly modern" views on sidestepping today's most prevalent, perilous social landmines. From such topics as cell phone and E-mail etiquette to guilt-free apologies, these 64 timely essays offer astuteness without stuffiness. Relish the humor and insights of such writers as Jonathan Alter, Anthony Bourdain, Jay McInerney, Sue Miller, Peggy Noonan, Cokie Roberts, Jane Smiley, Wendy Wasserstein, and many others. The 10 new contributions include: "Polite or Pass?" by William Zinsser; "To Make a Long Story Short," by Patricia Marx; and "Thanks for the Compliments," by Jeanne Wolf. Â Â

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A wonderful collaboration by a group of talented men and women that would make an excellent gift for most everyone. I will begin this review with notes on the introduction and all nine chapters and bring it to a conclusion with a bit of fanatical gushing. The introduction of 'Town & Country's Social Graces' is a cleverly written and well thought out piece written by the Editor in Chief of the magazine, Pamela Fiori. It first details why the Social Graces department was created in 1995. Then it goes on to describe some of the subjects that the article addresses. For example, some of the issues faced were about the "flagrant use of cell phones in public by people who simply cannot keep

their business to themselves" and "the arrogance of certain individuals who, once in the driver's seat (literally), believe they have 'The Right of Way'". It is clear by this introduction alone that the essays that fill this book are abundant with intelligence, wit, and acuity. Chapter one comprises eight essays that focus on the subject of 'Modern Times'. The first essay, 'Privacy... or What's Left of It' by Jay McInerney, is about just what the title leads you to believe, privacy or lack thereof. It's told with a sense of humour but don't let the jokes fool you into thinking that the author isn't serious about humans' dwindling respect for privacy, both their own and others'. The fifth essay, 'The Sound and My Fury' by William Norwich is perhaps my favourite out of the chapter because I can relate to it so well. It's about how rudely people can react when politely asked to speak more quietly when out in public, to silence their dog's incessant barking, or to take a break from playing a loud instrument in the next apartment over.

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