



# Modern Manners: An Etiquette Book for Rude People

P.J. O'Rourke

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## **Modern Manners: An Etiquette Book for Rude People P.J. O'Rourke**

In Modern Manners cultural guru P. J. O'Rourke provides the essential accessory for the truly contemporary man or woman-a rulebook for living in a world without rules.

Traditionally, good manners were a means of becoming as bland and invisible as everyone else, and thus of avoiding calling attention to one's own awkwardness and stupidity. Today, with everyone wanting to appear special, stupidity is at a premium and manners-as outrageous and bizarre as possible-are a wonderful way to distinguish ourselves, or have a fine time trying.

Modern Manners is an irreverent and hilarious guide to anti-etiquette that offers pointed advice on a range of topics from sex and entertaining to reading habits and death. With the most up-to-date forms of vulgarity, churlishness, and presumption, the latest fashions in courtesy and barbarous display, P. J. O'Rourke makes it easier for all of us to survive with style in a rude world.

## **Modern Manners: An Etiquette Book for Rude People Details**

Date : Published January 7th 1994 by Atlantic Monthly Press (first published 1983)

ISBN : 9780871133755

Author : P.J. O'Rourke

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## **From Reader Review Modern Manners: An Etiquette Book for Rude People for online ebook**

### **Carol Irvin says**

Very funny book about manners!

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### **Mary says**

I remember buying this book at a college bookstore while on vacation. I remember laughing out loud at nearly everything in it. I remember reading aloud from it to my sister and my friend Spencer. We thought it was genius, at the time. Whether or not it would still strike me as genius, I don't know. I've since kind of come to hate P.J. O'Rourke. So there's that. I probably only liked it because it had bad words in it.

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### **Laura says**

Don't get me wrong, I went into this book figuring there'd be something to like and something to dislike. I enjoy the author's NPR shenanigans. This book was very much written in a previous decade, though, and it's a bit dated, and it was hard to read in 2015. I think that's a function of the genre (humor is often context-specific) and not a function of the writer.

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### **Millstone says**

I found this excellent up to the point where there was one joke unacceptable by today's standards, probably not in the best taste 30 years ago, which soured the rest for me. Realistically, it's a risk satirists/comedians take and expecting material of its time to last so long is a long shot, so I'm erring on the generous side by giving it a three. Up to the ubtsj, it would have been a five. I bet he'd give a good slice of his royalties to take it back as well.

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### **Wendy Wittmann says**

Fanfuckingtastic! A random birthday gift from Daniel, who shares my caustic, bitter love of the idiotic as well as the futile task of keeping up appearances.

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### **Leslie says**

I really enjoyed this book. It was laugh-out-loud funny. I only wish he would write an updated version to

include cell phones and other vices of today.

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### **Simone says**

P.J. O'Rourke was my first introduction to politics back in elementary school (I always was a bit ahead of the curve.) I read an excerpt from this book in Rolling Stone Magazine in the early 80's, and he's been one of my favorite writers ever since. Who would've ever guessed I had so much in common with a Republican Baby-Boomer from New England? Well, at least as far as making fun of the politics, not necessarily of the policies themselves...

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### **Brandon Bellinghausen says**

Very funny and insightful.

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### **Vicki Cline says**

P.J. is pretty funny in this book, giving very bad etiquette advice, but I prefer his political writing, even though I don't often agree with him.

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### **Ak says**

doesn't really make one like men very much, but boy is he funny. spoiler fav (paraphrased) quote: about being on acid: "it is difficult to observe all the niceties of social etiquette when one is being chased down the street by a nine-headed cactus."

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### **David Ward says**

Modern Manners: An Etiquette Book for Rude People by P.J. O'Rourke (Atlantic Monthly 1989) (818). This is an updated guide to interpersonal relations from a writer who just tries too hard to be witty. I recommend that readers take a pass on this one. It's neither clever nor original. My rating: 5.5/10, finished 5/11/15.

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### **Miriam says**

Extremely funny. I laughed out loud, and I'm usually more of the wry smile type. I read this in the 90s and suspect that some sections may be a bit dated now, but I think it will hold up pretty well. This is not very political, so don't be put off by thinking of O'Rourke's later conservatism.

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### **Fishface says**

This started out hilarious, with a lot of very cutting comments about the changes in America's basic standards of courtesy, but I thought the book started to lose steam part of the way through. It was worth finishing and enjoyable, but by the end I was no longer gasping for air because I was laughing too hard to breathe.

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### **Spencer says**

This book was hilarious! It reminded me of David Sedaris and *Running With Scissors*. I liked the way his rules of life are divided into sections. People who enjoy comedy in their books should read this. Its also good for advisory reading because people usually get bored and distracted but this is entertaining enough to stay focused on.

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### **Priscilla King says**

Even in the 1980s, did P.J. O'Rourke hang out with people who were *this* rude? Doubtful. Is it even physically possible to do some of the rude things described in this book? Doubtful. That's why the idea of these behaviors having become acceptable is funny. The whole purpose of this book is to consist of nonstop jokes, such that a person using laughter for pain management can open the book anywhere and start working the diaphragm muscle to get the endorphin flowing. Do not read it while eating or in the company of people who don't want to share the laughs.

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