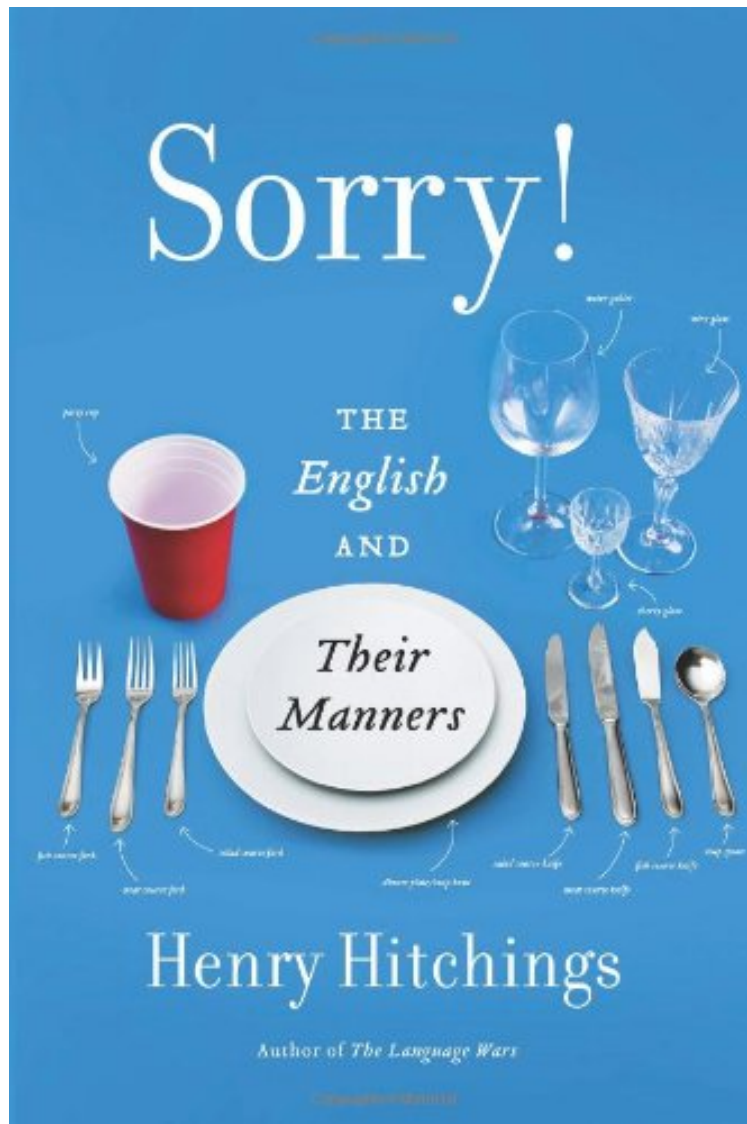


(Get free) Sorry!: The English and Their Manners

Sorry!: The English and Their Manners

Henry Hitchings

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Henry Hitchings : Sorry!: The English and Their Manners before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sorry!: The English and Their Manners:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great preparation for Americans visiting the UK By ben arnold I found this book to be both informative and hilarious. Hitchings provides the framework for a deeper understanding of the many nuanced rituals of everyday life in the UK. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Nice By Dag Krokaa A book that I really enjoyed. Much of the info I already knew but learning the background for the somewhat

quirky behaviour of the English was great. Also a perfect present for my English friends! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Satisfy your CuriosityBy NormWonderful anthropological volume. Easy and rewarding read

A humorous and charming investigation into what it really means to have proper mannersMost of us know a bit about what passes for good mannersholding doors open, sending thank-you notes, no elbows on the tableand we certainly know bad manners when we see them. But where has this patchwork of beliefs and behaviors come from? How did manners develop? How do they change? And why do they matter so much? In examining English manners, Henry Hitchings delves into the English character and investigates what it means to be English. *Sorry!* presents an amusing, illuminating, and quirky audit of British manners. From basic table manners to appropriate sexual conduct, via hospitality, chivalry, faux pas, and online etiquette, Hitchings traces the history of England's customs and courtesies. Putting some of the most astute observers of humanityincluding Jane Austen and Samuel Pepysunder the microscope, he uses their lives and writings to pry open the often downright peculiar secrets of the English character. Hitchings's blend of history, anthropology, and personal journey helps us understand the bizarre and contested cultural baggage that goes along with our understanding of what it means to have good manners.

From BooklistAlthough most people have some idea of what good (or bad) manners are, its less likely they know where they come from. Hitchings addresses that through a comprehensive historical review, with some fun tidbits along the way. He brings the perspectives of the past to bear on customs of the present, using examples from writers such as Samuel Pepys, Lord Chesterfield, and Fanny Trollope. This rambling examination is concerned only with English manners, not those of other British countries. Hitchings is affectionate toward typically English mannerisms such as tactfully saying one thing, when meaning anotherwhen told, We really must have lunch sometime, does anyone believe itll actually happen? The book contains some illuminating examples of how manners are a social construct and can vary widely across cultures. The tour of manners encompasses living conditions, language, social structures, innovations, and philosophy throughout centuries. This is not a book of etiquette instruction, but deconstruction. For those who wish to dig deeper into the myriad forces at work behind polite customs, large and small, the book is sure to please. --Bridget Thoreson Henry Hitchings, the author of *Sorry! The English and Their Manners* has his work cut out for him. Thankfully, he seems to relish ripping the vanities and entitlements of self-proclaimed behavioral experts to shreds. Hitchings . . . has earned a reputation as that rare nonfiction author who suffuses his rigorous (and at times slightly eccentric) scholarly research with enough wit and lively skepticism to render otherwise dull passages entertaining. This reputation proves accurate: as the author embarks on his colorful, rambling, and critically exacting exploration of the evolution of English rules of behavior, it becomes obvious that he could make a detailed history of the canned food industry sing like a coloratura . . . He comes across more as a scattered but lovable history professor whose classes are legendarily entertaining . . . Not only does Hitchings charm us with illustrative details straight out of the gate, but, as he advances from medieval mores through the Renaissance and on to the Victorian era, he never loses sight of the conflicts inherent in the regulation of human behavior . . . The sharpness of Hitchings's analysis and the intensity of his passion for his subject shine through on every page. Heather Havrilesky, *The Barnes and Noble* In this terrifically entertaining, surprisingly thoughtful book about manners and Englishness, Hitchings describes his own country's culture as a paradox: simultaneously rude and polite . . . Like a good conversation, [*Sorry!*] allows for many fruitful digressions . . . Hitchings is a lively guide through these thickets, pointing out the bizarre while inviting us to take another look at just how our conventional manners, so inevitable to us now, arose from history, circumstance, and luck. Kate Tuttle, *The Boston Globe*[*Sorry!* is an] entertaining and informative survey of English manners past and present. Jonathan Yardley, *The Washington Post*Part social history, part cultural critique, the book moves humorously from the ancient to the modern with pithy anecdotes and amusing factoids. In the medieval court of Henry II, One shouldn't attack an enemy while he is defecating, should avoid sharing secrets with one's wife, and ought to look towards the ceiling when belching.' . . . This seriously amusing and illuminating book goes a long way toward explaining to Anglophobe, Anglophile, and the just plain puzzled why the average Briton says "Sorry" eight times a day.' Publishers WeeklyHitchings clearly has fun with his subject(s), both the English themselves and the code of conduct that has evolved since the Middle Ages--when, he notes, someone commodiously counseled that one should not attack an enemy while he is at stool.' Evolve is a useful term here, since, as Hitchings notes, manners are not static . . . Hitchings' book . . . [is] a pleasure to read. KirkusAbout the AuthorHenry Hitchings was born in 1974. He is the author of *The Language Wars*, *The Secret Life of Words*, *Who's Afraid of Jane Austen?*, and *Defining the World*. He has contributed to many newspapers and magazines and is the theater critic for the *London Evening Standard*. He lives in London.