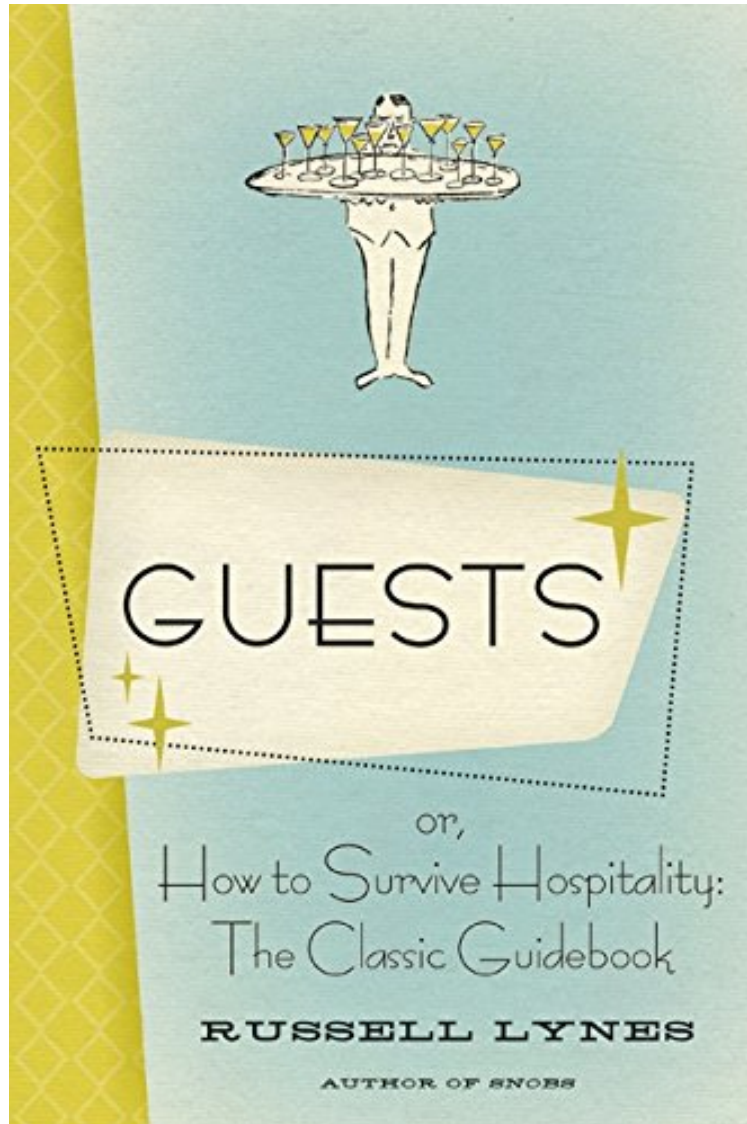


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Guests: Or, How to Survive Hospitality: The Classic Guidebook

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Russell Lynes : Guests: Or, How to Survive Hospitality: The Classic Guidebook before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Guests: Or, How to Survive Hospitality: The Classic Guidebook:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. kitschy fun reading By P. J. Mullins This is a book from a different

era, which must be understood from the onset of reading it. This book was written from a 1950's martini-soaked typewriter, which, in my opinion, makes it kitschy and fun to read. It doesn't make the assumption that anyone who reads this book wishes to learn good manners; instead, it describes the different types of personalities who believe they are well-mannered, yet are boorish in the exaggeration of their perceived good breeding. I found this book to be a fun jaunt back in time, to an era when no one would consider participating in any social event, or even a family meal, without a few martinis or gimlets to ease the way. It's fascinating to see how people viewed social situations during this era, as opposed to how the same situations might be viewed today. It was a time when women dressed up to go anywhere, with hats, gloves, and pumps, and men wore suits that accentuated narrow hips and broad shoulders, always with a hat when out. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. from another planet By TravellingCariif I'd read the reviews before taking this from the library I'd likely not have bothered. It's a nice overview of the kind of host and guests common, but there's no depth and narrative. Still, I found myself chuckling a few times at guests of a bygone time.

Our eminent founding father Ben Franklin once famously compared guests to stinking fish. While this assessment may seem a trifle harsh, the truth remains that social intercourse is a most risky endeavor. Who better to address this concern than the inimitable pundit Russell Lynes—a man renowned for his unparalleled expertise on the social graces and the many personality types who regularly abuse them? In this classic guide to "guesting," Lynes provides an indispensable overview of the rituals of behavior that make it possible to visit and be visited, and the necessary safeguards that protect us from our friends and our friends from us. It is a book that demands to be read by every potential guest and host, stinker and stinkee alike.

“One of America’s foremost arbiters of taste and mores. . . . Essayist, social historian, photographer and Renaissance man, Mr. Lynes was an acclaimed expert on what was highbrow, what was lowbrow and what was no brow at all.” (New York Times) About the Author Russell Lynes (1910-1991) was an art historian, cultural critic, author, photographer, and managing editor of Harper's Magazine. His articles for Harper's and Life in 1949 made parsing American culture into highbrow, upper or lower middlebrow, and lowbrow a national pastime. He wrote many books, including *Snobs* and *The Tastemakers*.