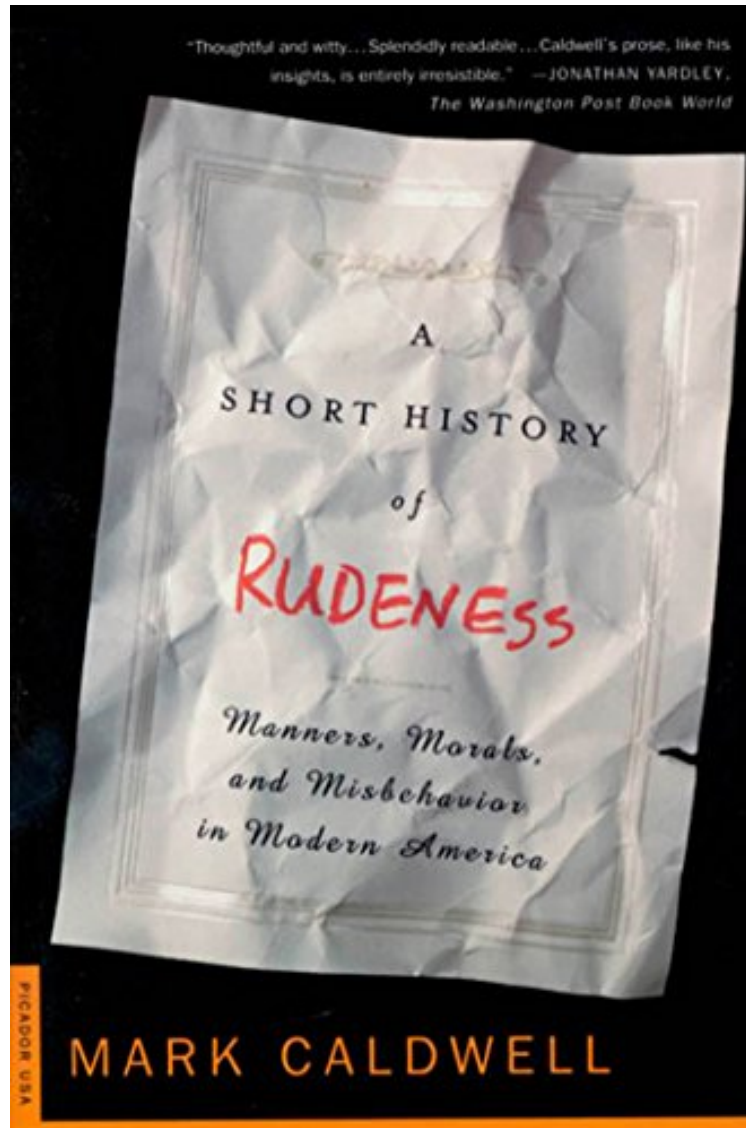


(Mobile ebook) A Short History of Rudeness: Manners, Morals, and Misbehavior in Modern America

# A Short History of Rudeness: Manners, Morals, and Misbehavior in Modern America

Von Mark Caldwell

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Produktinformation Veröffentlicht am: 2015-01-13 Erscheinungsdatum: 2015-01-13 File Name: B00Q20YEPE  
| File size: 77.Mb

**Von Mark Caldwell : A Short History of Rudeness: Manners, Morals, and Misbehavior in Modern America**  
before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Short History of Rudeness: Manners, Morals, and Misbehavior in Modern America:

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A  
Nothingburger Von D. C. Carrad This is a sloppy pastiche of -- well, not much. Some old issues of Ladies' Home

Journal, some comments on undertakers' prices (!), comments on the development of Internet flaming, some anecdotes about children...it tries very hard to be a grand unifying survey, tying everything together and leading to fresh new insights, but just flops. The author has nothing new to say, doesn't know much about what he writes about, and has a tedious style. Likes to use words like "tergiversations" out of context. As interesting as tepid oatmeal. Buy Paul Fussell's "Class" or "The Tipping Point" instead; either is infinitely more entertaining, interesting and better written.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Caldwell's Short History is Spot On Von Ein Kunde Caldwell covers the history and contemporary culture of manners (or, rather, the lack thereof). He reminds us that while courtesy is anything but common these days, anything less is uncivilized. Sharp and, even pointed when it needs to be, this book puts etiquette in its place: everywhere. For a teenage view point of contemporary manners, a good title would be Alex Packer's HOW RUDE!-which provides a historical and cultural basis, as well as a practical one, for why teens should behave themselves.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Witty and accessible Von Ein Kunde Completely free of the elitism and moralizing that you usually find in etiquette books, Caldwell bypasses the usual bemoaning of how low our standards are, and instead concentrates on how, when, and why standards of polite behavior have changed over the years.

Kurzbeschreibung A funny and provocative cultural history of class, manners, and the decline of civility In his smart and thought provoking new book, literary/social critic Mark Caldwell gives us a history of the demise of manners and charts the progress of an epidemic of rudeness in America. The breakdown of civility has in recent years become a national obsession, and our modern climate of boorishness has cultivated a host of etiquette watchdogs, like Miss Manners and Martha Stewart, with which we defend ourselves against an onslaught of nastiness. But Caldwell demonstrates that the foundations of etiquette actually began to corrode several centuries ago with the blurring of class lines. Touching on aspects of both our public and private lives, including work, family, and sex, A Short History of Rudeness examines how the rules of our behaviour have changed and explains why, no matter how hard we try, we can never return to a golden era of manners and mores..delf Americans value civility and good manners so much, then why have they made celebrities out of people like Jerry Springer, Howard Stern, and Dennis Rodman? How is it that political discourse came to be dominated by discussions of semen-stained dresses and mutual accusations of immorality and civic unfitness? Is the United States a nation of hypocrites? No, suggests Mark Caldwell, it's just really confused. "We want to be free, but we long for restraint," he writes. "We insist on openness and cringe when we get it; we strain at trivial offenses and swallow camels of iniquity." A Short History of Rudeness flits around the obsession with good manners and moral behavior, touching upon a number of aspects of public life (the workplace, mass transit, the Internet) and private (child rearing, home design, sexual politics). Along the way, Caldwell strings together an array of primary sources--including newspaper articles, business etiquette manuals, and South Park episodes--that help explain why people pay attention to Martha Stewart, whether Dr. Spock is really responsible for multiple generations of spoiled brats, and how users of the Internet developed a blunt discourse that, while superficially crude, exhibits a desire for decorum at its core. (Why do we feel justified in flaming spammers? Because they violate our sense of privacy.) The cultural obsession with manners and morality unfolds as part of a deeper anxiety over class. While the individual sections of A Short History of Rudeness are not always revelatory, Caldwell's slow but steady approach is at least innovative in the particular way he chooses to fit together these pieces of the social puzzle. --Ron Hogan Pressestimmen "Refreshing...[Caldwell] packs in his information with unobtrusive dexterity in a style that is modest, readable, intelligent and companionable." --Naomi Bliven, "The New York Times Book " "Charmingly written, scrupulously researched...An entertaining take on the fluid nature of decorum through the ages." -- "Entertainment Weekly" "An entertaining and morally important book...Caldwell is splendidly convincing when it comes to class, and downright brilliant on the ways social and geographical mobility have prevented the establishment of settled, enduring codes of behavior in the United States." --A.O. Scott, "Newsday" "" Refreshing...[Caldwell] packs in his information with unobtrusive dexterity in a style that is modest, readable, intelligent and companionable. "Naomi Bliven, The New York Times Book " Charmingly written, scrupulously researched...An entertaining take on the fluid nature of decorum through the ages. "Entertainment Weekly" An entertaining and morally important book...Caldwell is splendidly convincing when it comes to class, and downright brilliant on the ways social and geographical mobility have prevented the establishment of settled, enduring codes of behavior in the United States. "A.O. Scott, Newsday" "" Refreshing...[Caldwell] packs in his information with unobtrusive dexterity in a style that is modest, readable, intelligent and companionable." --Naomi Bliven, The New York Times Book "Charmingly written, scrupulously researched...An entertaining take on the fluid nature of decorum through the ages." --Entertainment Weekly "An entertaining and morally important book...Caldwell is splendidly convincing when it comes to class, and downright brilliant on the ways social and geographical mobility have prevented the establishment of settled, enduring codes of behavior in the United States." --A.O. Scott, Newsday