

BETTER THAN BEAUTY

A Guide to Charm



BY *Helen Valentine & Alice Thompson*

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY EMERY I. GONDOR

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Better than Beauty: A Guide to Charm



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Chronicle Books resuscitates the long-lost art of charm with this common compendium of hints, suggestions, and methods guaranteed to boost anyone's charm quotient. First published in 1938, this delightful handbook is overflowing with timeless advice to steer visitors through a maze of sociable interactions with wit and grace. Featuring original artwork, *Much better than Beauty* proves that appeal never, ever is out of style. A lot more than an etiquette or personal grooming publication, *Better than Beauty* tackles complicated social circumstances with delicacy: How exactly to be kind to atrocious people How to prevent the gossip mill Just how many drinks is too many drinks How exactly to deflect unwanted advancements from married men Just how much to tip And much, much more With good humor, authors Helen Valentine and Alice Thompson present straightforward charm counsel, making it a cinch to win the admiration of close friends, family, and suitors.



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Not outdated AT ALL! Conversation ideas abound (a big plus for all those of us to whom it generally does not come naturally), and if we had been honest with ourselves, we'd admit how spot-on the old women had been about gossip, "tangent speaking", criticism and more. It applies to both men and women of all age range, in any era. Don't go crazy with make-up - natural is better than looking such as a creepy doll. Yes there are a very few bits of antiquated advice however, not many and they make this book fun.) are amusing - makeup and skincare chapter is really obsolete - extremely amusing to learn but I don't recommend paying more than 99 cents for this publication. The manners and graces to focus on aren't self effacement. This era from the roaring 20's to the eve of WWII was the start of women's lib. It had been put on hold through the post WWII era and picked back again up in the restless 60's. This previously feminist era didn't watch males as the enemy just like the social groundbreaking feminists of the 60's did. Nor did the proto feminists of the 30's advise women to remain home, stay silent and look pretty as their highest concern in life. Charm can be acquired. This was a period in history when women WERE starting to demand more than only a vote, they wished to work and support themselves, find their own content place in life and they weren't defined by just their role in marrying a man, bearing children and keeping a residence clean with regular meals up for grabs. Many of the females of the 30's experienced a dearth of males how old they are, the ravages of WWI having decimated their chances of a husband, home and children and those left grieving a lost love, were helping themselves as reporters, teachers, nurses and secretaries. It even talks about doing a daily dual cleanse of your face - one with an essential oil cleanser and one with a soft water structured soap.. People, all people were glad of a job and the ability it gave someone to be self supporting and have dignity and well worth. This publication was written as a guide for women newly navigating a job, perhaps family and children and the expectations of a changing society. Their moms and grandmothers was raised in the Victorian and Edwardian era which viewed a woman as the angel of the house, childlike, struggling to support herself, only needing her guy and bearing a lot of children. The women of 1938 had been very very different. Just look at the profession of Coco Chanel who epitomized this period.. They saw the sexes as different, yes, but unquestionably equal. The socially acceptable careers for women were nurse, teacher, secretary or failing that, a shop clerk but this was viewed as a unfortunate second best, not the fulfilling career that it used to be ahead of WWII. This period knew about it ! Back to the "angel of the house" again. The clothing became restrictive --Dior's New Look required a significant girdle and corsets that Coco Chanel got liberated ladies from 20 years prior. Therefore the mid century focus on women being moms, wives and homemakers to the exclusion to be portion of the workforce. That's what most young women think of as feminism under no circumstances dreaming of the era of the 20's and 30's when feminist thought and culture was REALLY born. Present day feminism was born in a reaction to that 1950's era. The past due 50's and early 60's was therefore beautifully pictured at the beginning of the Mad Men show on Television. Some women took in function like sewing and tailoring, others had taken in laundry or do housework for additional wealthier women.. How to be Jean Arthur - the wonder AND the brains Succeeds at getting both frivolous and thought-provoking, seeing that all books with pink addresses ought to be.. Reading the book impartially, I found timeless concepts like "The successful girl, in the home or in business, may be the woman who is contributing her performance and her skill as a woman." "We aren't competing with the males, but rather working with them..In the hurry to supply jobs for the returning vets of WWII the women of the late 40's (a decade Following this book was written), were expected to go home, release a job for a man, let him be considered a

breadwinner and can get on with the job of procreation.. There's too much to be said for the tips on saving money, revamping clothing, and exercising taste. The "dressing for the body" section is certainly a period capsule of the overall image women were going for in the 1930s - lengthy and lean. (Frankly Let me obtain a Civil War-era publication like this, when the desired image was "brief and plump".)But Component Two, the section on interpersonal romantic relationships, is worth the purchase price by itself. There's a witty but timeless lesson here that practical, deliberate kindness, while it takes a bit more effort, is even more rewarding than just following your organic bent - "A guy that hath friends must display himself friendly". Written in 1938 it really is as useful today since it will maintain 2038! Yes, the information is based on what was 'right' . Expectations not met People raved about this book some years back, some sort of rebirth of it. I believe it focused far too much on fat loss. Capsule wardrobe? Appeal is not arrogance, it really is acquiring great manners, virtue, and cleanliness. " THAT I learnt in Sunday school.I expected more "how exactly to gracefully decline invitations" or "how exactly to diffuse uncomfortable circumstances between people you are friends with who do not get along or something like that. Though I only read a sample of the book, I placed it on my wish list therefore i can read the entire book later. Don't waste your cash unless you want an outdated book This book is from the 1930s.All in all, it was just short of alright, my expectations were not met. Seeing that Relevant Today as Yesterday. The book itself I'm sure was very helpful to ladies in the 1930s, but to me it's completely worthless. High School. Dresses are often known as frocks, there is lots of focus on what hat and gloves (well, we still do utilize this somewhat when the elements is cold) to use when, the rights of women to function outside the home are staunchly defended and the exercises for a better amount (got big hips? This publication is a very refreshing read. Human nature doesn't change. It really is as relevant today since it was in the mid-20th century. Someone once wrote "Great manners will be the cement that keeps society together. Yes, the information is based on that which was 'right' at 1938, but truly it's not that remote what we truly need to incorporate inside our lives today. amusing but quite out of date you shouldn't be mislead by the cute bell-bottom pants on the cover - the reserve was written in the 1930's - the suggestions on how to be friends with people, kindness, generosity of spirit and courtesy will never go out of style, however the advice on locks care, makeup and diet plan are a true hoot ! A lot more than just elegance, this book talks about great manners, and how exactly to connect to others..The vintage beauty advice in Part One is a sumptuous peek in to the way our grandmothers preserved their dignity and self-confidence.. roll on to the floor . ouch! As additional reviewers state well this reserve is about developing into an unbiased fun person with an excellent mind and apparent ethics..." "Charm can't be attained until you recognize actuality - today's situations, today's problems" (discussing what they considered outdated mores of propriety). Old School Practicality Someone could write a dissertation on how this reserve underlines the current beauty culture seeing that driven by capitalism. It's practical stuff I remember the old girls at church discussing - keep your hand clean and moisturize but don't skip your home chores. The authors supply the clearest best lead to manners, grooming and behaviour I've ever seen. Yes it was a pink collar ghetto but it meant there had been OTHER ways for a woman to live besides marrying and bearing kids.. Interesting to see what was admired in the 1930s.." "how to introduce people to one another without it becoming awkward"The types of bad behaviour here were quite out there you wouldn't need a reserve to let you know that it could not be alright to do that. I know it's my fault for not looking at the entire year it was published, but I'm rather annoyed that it was not re-released to reflect that reality on its cover. That is a book

that needs to be required reading of each one in Jr. I'll need to buy another reserve that talks about modern issues. Charm is Forever This is a subject than should never go out of style: Charm. I love the focus on charm, instead of physical beauty. I'm all set for this publication!" "the lost artwork of good table manners. The wifey requested it. Five Stars Fun, easy, breezy browse. Look at the movies of the period, the books and the clothes.Despite some readers' views, I found nothing degrading to females, body image, or anything of this sort, nor was it written solely for ladies who were "just" housewives and moms. Included in that period were things like the Great Depression where many men were unable to take on the entire responsibility of a wife and children (something this publication touches on). Still feels applicable to today. My wife requested this book; she told me it has actually helped her with networking occasions. This most likely comes as a shock to today's reader unless she actually is aware of the overall thinking of the various decades associated with feminism and a woman's place in society. This book has a simple message: appear your best and think to begin others. In terms of how to be charming, it's essence could possibly be boiled down to "do unto others as you'll have them do unto you. And they are pretty darn hilarious about it, as well.This book is valuable not only for the good advice also for the historical value showing the true birth of feminism and the view of ladies in 1938.." I could not agree even more. The message nearly became, you can not be truly charming if you are fat. A go back to the pre WWI Victorian and Edwardian concept of femininity.



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