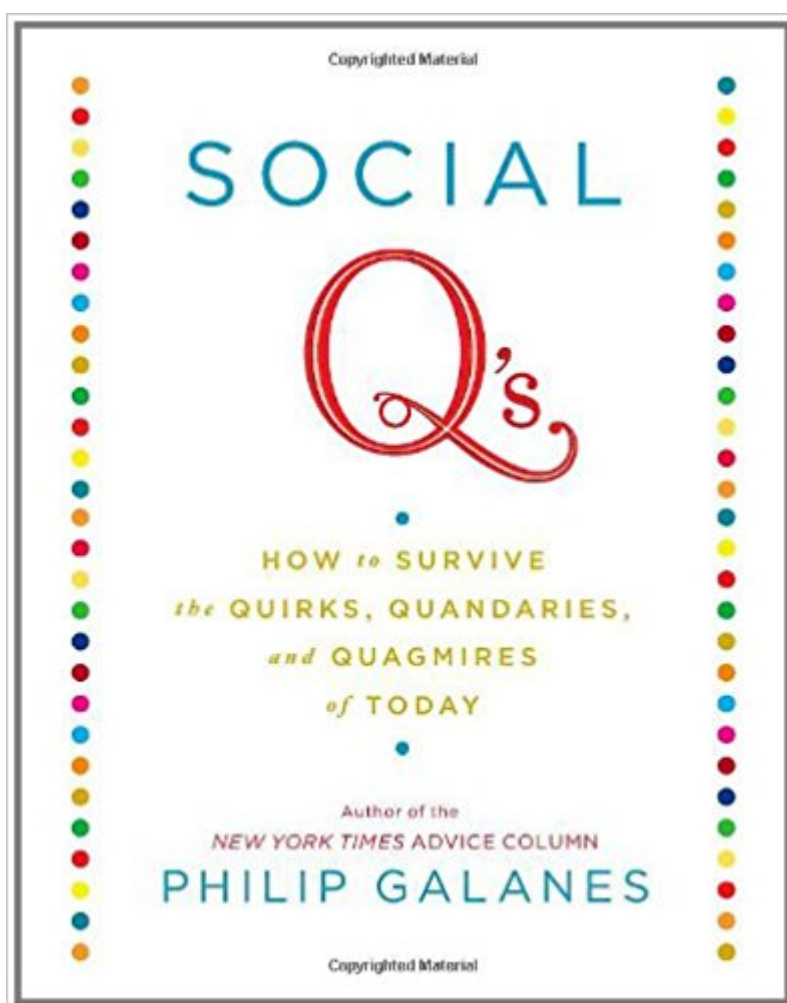


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Social Q's: How To Survive The Quirks, Quandaries And Quagmires Of Today



Synopsis

Office attire and e-mail misfire. Twitter snafus and dating miscues. Philip Galanes hears an awful lot of WHAT SHOULD I DOs?! I'm pretty sure the woman who swims laps next to me at the Y is peeing in the pool. What should I do? It started in 2008, when Galanes began the "Social Q's" advice column for the Sunday Styles section of The New York Times. "My boyfriend has an identical twin that I'm strangely hotter for than I am for him. What should I do?" Since then, the questions come faster than a drunken starlet behind the wheel of a speeding Maserati. "My Dad seems to have mixed up my cell phone number with the number of the woman he's seeing behind my mother's back. He sends her sexy texts that are freaking me out. What should I do?" A cornerstone of The New York Times's Styles section, Philip Galanes confronts today's most awkward and pressing questions. Branded with an inimitable voice • witty and wise, sharp and saucy • Philip tackles unanswered questions and brand-new subjects with laugh-out-loud dish and practical wisdom. Not only about the new ways to thank a friend for throwing you a bridal shower (at a strip club), or when it's appropriate to tell Nana to stop dressing like the latest Pop Tart, but also how to navigate a new age crowded with Tweets, twits, OMGs, and WTFs. Social Q's is a knockout book that will guide you swiftly through the treacherous terrain of modern etiquette • and keep you laughing for days.

Book Information

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster; 1 edition (November 1, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1451605781

ISBN-13: 978-1451605785

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.1 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 51 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,177,381 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Humor #686 in Books > Reference > Etiquette > Etiquette Guides & Advice #865 in Books > Reference > Survival & Emergency Preparedness

Customer Reviews

"SOCIAL Q'S by Philip Galanes is the one book you need to help guide you through some

of life's toughest social challenges! It's smart, funny, and incredibly practical. —Peter Walsh, New York Times bestselling author of *Lighten Up* and *It's All Too Much* —“Philip knows his way around an awkward situation —but enough about us!” —Kathie Lee & Hoda —I love Philip Galanes —a New York Times column! And the book is a must! *Social Q's* is a beacon of light in the foggy haze of today's world.” —Jessica Seinfeld —Consider *SOCIAL Q's* your funny, wise and indispensable guide for honing, improving and finessing *YOU* —your own special creation!” —George Wayne, contributing editor, *Vanity Fair* —“Zesty, zingy, zippy, zany. Everything I want to say about the funny and very talented Philip Galanes starts with the letter z. He and *SOCIAL Q's* are truly wonderful.” —Henry Alford, humorist and author of *How to Live: A Search for Wisdom from Old People (While They Are Still On This Earth)* —“Life in the 21st century is one rude awakening after another. But now we have Philip Galanes —a *SOCIAL Q's* to the rescue —very smart, very funny advice for sidestepping any etiquette A-bomb.” —Kendall Farr, author of *The Pocket Stylist and Style Evolution* —“Philip Galanes has made a name for himself as a weekly columnist doling out important advice on social etiquette and now has collected all this wisdom in one terrific book called *Social Q's*. But all this leaves me to wonder what an expert on social etiquette was thinking when he asked a busy woman in the throes of redecorating her apartment to take valuable time away from her rabbit to write a book blurb?” —Amy Sedaris —*Social Q's* is a hilarious set of solutions to all the problems we're lucky to have. A must-read survival guide.” —Christian Landers, author of *Stuff White People Like*

Philip Galanes is the author of —“*Social Q's*, —the advice column published weekly in the Sunday Styles section of The New York Times. Philip is also an entertainment lawyer and novelist. — He was born and raised in New England, and graduated from Yale College and Yale Law School. — He occasionally sidelines as an interior designer, and his projects have been published in *Architectural Digest*, *Elle Decor*, New York magazine, and The New York Times. Visit him at PhilipGalanes.com.

I am a big fan of Mr. Galanes column; perhaps too big of a fan. Because I read his column so faithfully, I couldn't help but notice that several of the anecdotes/questions in the book were repeats from his columns. I suppose it's not unreasonable for him to turn his columns into a book, but I was expecting new scenarios with fresh new advice, not just a rehashing of the old stuff. The book is a

great read for anyone new to the columns; but for die-hard readers, just be aware that a lot of this is repetition of many of the same columns; just grouped together by category instead of date. If you have a NYTimes Digital subscription, you can just read his columns online for free, but if not, by all means, buy the book!

Phillip Galanes has taken the "pressing question" into the 21st Century and given his answers to the New York Times. In the time of Ann Landers, typical questions were along the lines of: "I have a crush on Johnny and he is dating my friend. Should I tell Johnny about my feelings or keep them to myself?" Modern times call for modern questions. "I have a crush on my friend's boyfriend, Johnny. I texted Johnny some nude photos of myself and now he wants to take me out and friend me on Facebook. Should I tell my friend or just go on the pill and go out with Johnny?" I made up these questions as I'm not sure it's technically legal to quote directly from a book in a review but you get the idea. The answer, too, is my own. "Social Q's" answer could be completely different, which is why he writes the column and I am simply reviewing his book. "The pill sounds like a plan, regardless. If Johnny has kept the photos to himself rather than posting them online and emailing them to all of his friends, that could be good news. If he has posted the photos online, it's possible that the cat is out of the bag and your friend will already suspect that something is up with you and Johnny. If your friend has seen the photos and knows they were posted by Johnny, it's likely that she has booted him to the curb already and your coast is clear. Of course, you have burned your bridges with your friend and Johnny may not be in it for the long term." Many of the questions in this quirky, funny book are about neighbors, roommates, Facebook friends, watercooler dilemmas and, of course, romance. One of the chapters I found so intriguing was the number of questions concerning hurt feelings, resentments, etc., about money, gifts and thank you notes. This book is not only fun, it will make you think about the wise counsel of the author.

If you don't read Philip Galanes's "Social Qs" column each Sunday in the New York Times you are missing out on a pragmatic, level-headed, commonsense yet sensitive and savvy approach to the many important, trivial or hurtful dilemmas we all face in this world. But if you've been acting selfishly or want to do something that's just plain dumb, he will set you straight. His responses to a wide and wild variety of quandaries are informative, educational, AND entertaining. He strikes the perfect tone -- humane, direct and nonjudgmental - while at the same time not letting questioners off the hook for the misguided assumptions they try to paper over. And so funny, sympathetic, kind and entertaining! How does he do it? That's one of the mysteries of good writing. This book had me

laughing out loud - for example, at his admittedly pseudoscientific methodology for deciding whether to walk away from a touchy matter or deal with it. Just don't read it at bedtime - too much laughter can be energizing.

Philip Galanes' wit and light humor does not obscure the fact that he makes the best sort of sense -- both common and kind. The book is an easy read, and you find yourself nodding in agreement with his thoughts on such subjects as when the situation is dire enough to "defriend" a friend, and when it is okay to comment on someone's parenting skills: Never. I have a few people in mind to recommend this book to -- not that they need it, of course.

Some reviewers have pointed out that book contains some repetition, but the main idea, which is repeated several times throughout the book is: "pick your battles" or, another way of expressing this: "turn the other cheek." People will say things or do things, not to be malicious or rude, but because they are distracted and don't have a clue. Today, where we mix with different age groups, cultures, and sensibilities, it is very important to know the difference between letting something go and speaking up. This book succeeds in delivering that important message. The book contains many examples of instances where is just best to do nothing and say nothing if one is offended by things that will not matter in the long run. It also contains examples on how to speak up without dumping more fuel on the fire.

"Social Qs" is an etiquette column in the New York Times with an emphasis on modern quandaries such as online, phone, and social media behavior. You can read the column to get an idea of whether you'd like the book. I got addicted to the column pretty quickly, so I snapped up the book to read on the train. It was very enjoyable and burned through it very quickly. Rather than a collection of columns, this is a series of essays on various advice and etiquette topics, giving the reader generalized Social Qs-approved etiquette schemas with amusing mnemonics and charts. with follow-up letters to illustrate and expand on the points. Galanes has a colloquial style that can edge on too cutesy, but it's so warm and genuinely friendly that you can't help but like him. My only complaint, really, is that some of the charts don't make sense. I'm an excel nerd, I am SET UP to adore chart-based humor, but 90% of the time when someone makes a chart to be funny or amusing, they make a mistake in the logic, which to me ruins the joke. And the charts in here, illustrating topics such as the circumstances under which you should point out a flaw in someone's appearance (e.g. spinach on teeth yes, bad dye job only if you're close), could actually be useful if

they made sense.

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