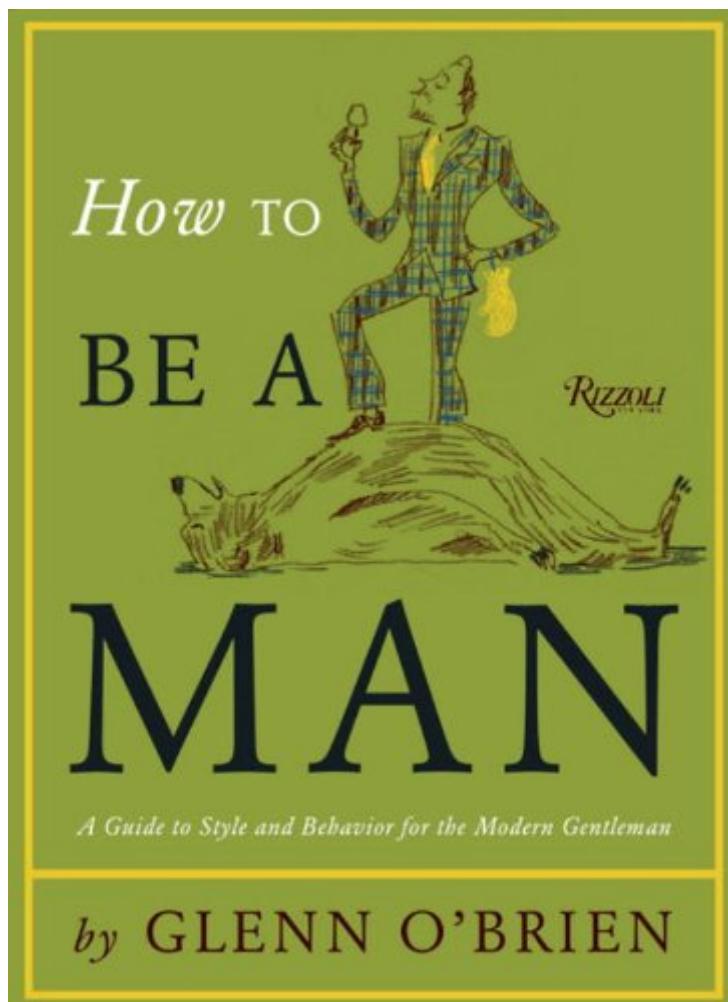


The book was found

How To Be A Man: A Guide To Style And Behavior For The Modern Gentleman



Synopsis

The ultimate sartorial and etiquette guide, from the ultimate life and style guru. By turns witty, sardonic, and always insightful, Glenn O'Brien's advice column has been a must-read for several generations of men (and their spouses and girlfriends). Having cut his teeth as a contributor at Andy Warhol's Interview in its heyday, O'Brien sharpened them as the creative director of advertising at the hip department store Barneys New York for ten years before starting his advice column at Details magazine in 1996. Eventually his column, "The Style Guy," migrated to its permanent home at GQ magazine, where O'Brien dispenses well-honed knowledge on matters ranging from how to throw a cocktail party (a diverse guest list is a must), putting together a wardrobe for a trip to Bermuda (pack more clothes for less dressing), or when it is appropriate to wear flip-flops in public (never). *How To Be a Man* is the culmination of O'Brien's thirty years of accumulated style and etiquette wisdom, distilled through his gimlet eye and droll prose. With over forty chapters on style and fashion (and the difference), on dandies and dudes, grooming and decorating, on how to dress age-appropriately and how to age gracefully, this guide is the new essential read for men of all ages. From the Hardcover edition.

Book Information

File Size: 1174 KB

Print Length: 306 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0847835472

Publisher: Rizzoli (April 26, 2011)

Publication Date: April 26, 2011

Sold by: Penguin Random House Publisher Services

Language: English

ASIN: B004C43GFQ

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #393,936 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #61

in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Beauty, Grooming, & Style > Men's Grooming & Style

#123 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Reference > Etiquette #366 in Books > Reference >

Customer Reviews

I've been a big fan of Glenn O'Brien's tone and perspective for a long time. As GQ's style guy and a further contributor to the magazine and its now-defunct podcast, it would be easy and perhaps predictable for him to take a dismissive or snobby stance while dealing out the dos and don'ts of taste, the way that other style and advice tsars seem to traffic in snarkiness while resenting their readers (thinking of Esquire's sex columnist here). But O'Brien the writer is always unfailingly polite, empathetic and seems generally concerned with being of service in his column, in an almost Buddhist sense. I was a little bit worried about the book after GQ published a teaser for it which distilled some of O'Brien's tips on social politics into a single, awkward article that, stripped of the context of the book, came across as a bit bitchy and shallow. I bought the book anyway and my worries were unfounded. Most of this book should be canonized. As someone discovering for the first time O'Brien's writing beyond the pages of GQ, I was surprised at what a powerful prose stylist he is. Some of the passages are more effusive than others and when he really gets going there's a huge, poetic lift. This is not a superficial book. He really lays out a clear philosophy of living that, at the risk of oversimplifying it, treats manners as a form of deference to the beauty of life - by paying attention to details and expressing ourselves in a thoughtful manner, we are telling the world and its people that we love it enough to take it seriously. If I had a gripe it would be the numerous redundancies - for instance the fifth time O'Brien tells us who Beau Brummell is, or the seventh time he makes the point that casual dress codes in the workplace have served to blur social status.

You remember Glenn O'Brien. As music columnist for Andy Warhol's Interview magazine, G.O'B. was the periscope on the submarine that was underground, punk rock during its landmark decade in the 80's. He later expanded his sphere of influence into fashion and art through his "Style Guy" column at GQ magazine and a stint with the publisher of magazines like "Antiques" and "Art in America.". In fact, when it comes to fashion, style and the arts, the O'Brien arsenal is tough to beat. It is then with both great anticipation and curiosity that we watch as he turns his gaze to the subject of manhood in the newly released volume "How to Be a Man: A Guide to Style and Behavior for the Modern Gentleman." (Rizzoli) So what is a man in the modern day sense and what does it take to become one? In O'Brien's view, a man is a person who employs the utmost of style and care when it comes to everything from wardrobe to behavior to the way he exudes his sexuality. O'Brien is a taskmaster when it comes to natty dress, manners and even where a man fits along the hetero,

homo and metro-sexual continuum. In fashion, O'Brien's purview runs head-to-toe covering every detail from haircuts to underwear, collar-stays to ascots. There is even an ample discussion of the so-called 'dandies.' (He likes hetros and dandies, though he chastises some gays for not being "gay enough.") No one can fault O'Brien for his erudite musings. His range of knowledge is exemplary - covering cultures from the ancient Greeks to the Taliban, philosophers from Socrates to Chuck D. (Only O'Brien would cover the range of beards from ZZ Top to Rutherford B. Hayes.) His writing style is about as punchy as it gets, with each sentence delivering like the cutting remarks of a professorial stand-up comic.

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