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Etiquette for College Girl

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“WHAT’S wrong with this picture?” has often been portrayed in an advertisement for some “famous” book of etiquette to our amusement, but how many times have you found yourself a participant in just such a picture and have been unable to solve it?

The average college girl at one time or another has played a role valuable to the publisher of such a book of etiquette, had he but had his photographer near by. She may have been unconscious of her error and true to the old adage there is a certain amount of bliss in ignorance, and again she may have realized her blunder and proceeded to suffer one of her most embarrassing moments. And so to bridge the peril before you are able to gather the $3.50 necessary for purchasing one of these books of etiquette that “solves every social difficulty, that tells you exactly what to do, say, write and wear on every occasion”; perhaps here are some of the points that have worried you.

Dress is an everlasting question and an important one for it helps make the individual. Every college has its overdressed student—the one who wears earrings and a fancy comb on the campus, who persists in silk dresses for the classroom, high heels, sheer hose, and impossible shoes ta­bood from the campus. Especially are shoes of correct build necessary not only for etiquette’s sake but for the health. (It is always good etiquette to be healthy.)

A formal party requires formal dress but an informal party demands informal dress.

If your purse allows only one hat a season then let that hat be attractively plain. Long feathers and streamers clash with the proper campus attire. (As­sumed you are properly attired.)

A college girl is not primarily a chorus girl. (This axiom intends to insult the over­generous use of cosmetics.)

The college girl, however, must do far more than dress properly. There are points of etiquette concerning her life in dormitory or sorority house that cannot be overlooked.

The proper college girl rises when the chaperone or an elder dignitary comes into the room out of deference to her position and age. If she has been occupying the most comfortable chair she offers it and is not seated until the chap­erone or dignitary is seated. She intro­duces her gentleman friends to her chaperone, presenting him to her. She may say, “Miss B.—may I present Mr. S?” Consideration for her escort should be shown by answering her parlor call promptly. When she enters the parlor, causing the various men awaiting their ladies, to rise she is careful to be seated or leave the room very shortly that they may resume their seats. The co-ed liv­ing in a dormitory or sorority house she should feel her responsibilities as a host­ess and receive her friends as a gracious hostess always does. She does not wear her hat or coat to the parlor unless spe­

cial arrangements have been made to leave immediately. As she greets her friend she offers her hand. She never fails to wish her chaperone “good evening” as she leaves.

If she spends the evening at a dance, then the proper college girl meets the chaperones before the evening is over. In reply to her various dancing partners’ as­sertions that they enjoyed their dance, she merely thanks them instead of re­tuming the compliment. She is wise to return to your escort with tales of the marvellous dancing of Mr. J., with whom you have just danced. Nor is it wise to make remarks to your partner concern­ing Miss A., who comes from another sorority house. The man draws the nat­ural conclusions that you are jealous of her and oftentimes derives much satisfac­tion from repeating it. Above all, be democratic with all associates. One should always thank their host or hostess, therefore it is proper to thank your escort for his evenings entertainment.

While passing to and from classes the gentlemanly fellow who holds open a door for a crowd of girls is often fairly pushed aside by their attempt to enter rather than thanked by them for his eff­orts.

“Politeness is to do and say.”

The kindest thing in the kindest way.”

If the uncertain girl can remember this little couplet and govern her actions ac­cordingly she will have solved her et­iquette problem. For the truly gracious, refined person there exists no such thing as “society manners,” which may be put on or taken off quite as one would put on a glove or a gown for each special occa­sion. Good manners go much deeper than that. In fact, they are the person himself, well meant, true and sincerely expressed. If they be not so, they are superficial sham, and despicable. As is true the world over, simplicity and sin­cerity manifest the gentiewoman.

The loud girl who noticeably rushes the men, who laughs and talks loudly, who whispers and giggles in company, who continually crabs her instructors or her college, or who talks at great length about herself is quite as denounced on a college campus as in the outside world.