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The Art Of Mingling: Fun And Proven Techniques For Mastering Any Room



Synopsis

Fully revised and updated-with Jeanne Martinet's trademark wit and practicality, *The Art of Mingling* hands you the keys to feeling at ease in any social situation. Does the idea of going to a large party make your mouth go dry? Are you more comfortable on Facebook than face-to-face? You're not alone: Ninety percent of the world suffers from minglaphobia. Jeanne Martinet has developed a cure-a sure-fire system for overcoming fears and having a great time at any type of business or social gathering. Filled with simple techniques, tricks, tips, lines and maneuvers, and illustrated with entertaining examples, *The Art of Mingling* teaches you:

- * Basic survival strategies for the Truly Terrified
- * Opening lines and gambits that really work
- * Tools and rules for keeping the conversation going in the right direction
- * The all-important etiquette of escape
- * Faux pas recovery techniques
- * How to avoid the dumb use of smartphones
- * The secret to being a good listener
- * The right way to follow up online
- * and much, much more!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Ms. Martinet believes in mingling the way some people believe in yoga. To her it is a discipline and form of exercise to be practiced on a regular basis.”
—The New York Times
“Jeanne Martinet's amusing guide contains nifty ideas designed to get the flower off the wall and into circulation.”
—Letitia Baldrige
“The Art of Mingling takes the intimidation out of party scenes, whether they are business-related or social.”
—Publishers Weekly
“Jeanne Martinet is an expert at navigating parties.”
—New York Daily News
“Martinet has developed techniques for working any event with ease.”
—Chicago Tribune
“Jeanne Martinet has come to the rescue of

wallflowers everywhere with *The Art of Mingling*...a book full of witty one-liners. *“If your idea of absolute terror is a room full of strangers at a party...then you’d benefit from *The Art of Mingling*. Anyone who reads [*The Art of Mingling*] will end up being the belle of the ball....I love it. I love it. I love it.”* *Marjabelle Young Stewart* *“Having all my life dreaded social mingling with an ever increasing unease, I will now carry *The Art of Mingling* with me wherever I go, knowing I will no longer be at a loss for words.”* *J. P. Donleavy* *“Boy, do I need Jeanne Martinet’s *The Art of Mingling*... (Martinet notes astutely that we have atrophied mingling muscles.) No more holding up the wall at American Library Association functions!”* *Library Journal* (editors’ pick!)

JEANNE MARTINET is the author of eight books, including *The Art of Mingling*, which has sold more than 150,000 copies and been published in ten countries. She has been featured in such publications as *The New York Times*, *Salon*, *The Boston Globe*, *Glamour* and *The Washington Post*. She has shared her humor and mingling know-how on many TV and radio shows, including *"The Today Show," "The CBS Early Show,"* NPR’s *"Morning Edition"* and WNYC’s *"The Leonard Lopate Show."* She lives, writes and mingles in New York City.

This is the most wonderful book, really something I’ve needed for years. Being an only child, I tried always to hide in the background, lost my breath in a crowd, and most certainly had no idea how to work a room. I didn’t know that skill existed. All I knew was that some people could do it, but not me. Jeanne Martinet explains it all, with very helpful tips and turns of phrase, behaviors that draw people in, and it’s a game really, something you can master. Actually it’s quite fun, and I’ve practiced literally whole chapters out of the book to get it right. After all though, there’s no right to it, just the knowledge that everyone else is as nervous as you are, and that people really do want to make friends. She also has great suggestions on texting versus email, versus a real, handwritten note which one is most appropriate under which circumstances. Hers is a sophisticated take on how communication works in our talk driven world. I should add that Martinet is a really funny woman, so those childhood fears of mine began to seem just plain silly, worst than that, irrelevant. The very best thing about the book is that at its heart is a true belief in person-to-person fun and laughter and mutual respect.

I almost never write reviews on books that I buy but wanted to write one for this one because I have

really enjoyed reading it. It's one of the most useful and entertaining books I've read this year. I am frequently in social situations, especially in business, and I often face the very real possibility that I will not know a single soul in the gathering. She outlines both how to get into (and my favorite) get OUT of conversations with people. (The Escape Techniques are my favorite and some made me laugh out loud!)

Everything was perfect thank you!

Gave lots of info on different techniques on how to mingle no matter what your personality is. Take what you feel works for you and discard the rest.

I learned about this book in the Style section of the New York Times and was immediately intrigued. I'm one of those guys who SEEM outgoing and outspoken (when I'm with my friends), BUT throw me in a mixed party or work function and I totally clam up. For closet shy types like me, this book is extremely helpful, full of clever ideas, and a lot of fun to read. The author is extremely witty, sometimes silly, but always insightful. Her greatest revelation is that most people at parties are thinking about THEMSELVES, not YOU. Just this week, I got a chance to try some of the author's advice at a couple Christmas parties and gosh-darn-it. It worked! I stopped worrying about trying to impress people and actually managed to relax and have fun. Very cool. Check it out.UPDATE: I decided to check out this new edition since it's been updated for the age of social media. The new material is great, just as LOL funny and insightful as the original edition. The ubiquitous smartphone has definitely altered the way we socialize, but Ms. Martinet has excellent tips for keeping our phone addictions in check so we can have more fun mingling IRL (in real life.)

This book is very useful for anyone who is uncomfortable in crowds and mingling situations, and is absolutely essential reading for anyone with Asperger's or some other ASD condition. A lot of the "simple" methods are immediately applicable, as are the "don't"s, which I realized I was doing! My mingling has definitely improved as a result.What prevents me from giving a "5" is the tone. In general it is lighthearted and even funny. However, more often than it should, the tone is almost greater-than-thou, "you have to be as good as me to pull this off". Also she has "pet names" for each method and then refers back to them, and you have to memorize her private vocabulary.

A bit boring after reading some of the highlights. I think she was writing for introverts, but why would

we even go to parties anyway?

I enjoy going to parties and meeting new people. But I have to confess that I often feel awkward at social gatherings because I'm not always sure what to say or how to move from one group to another. It's a more common problem than most of us would admit. After all, even the most extroverted person is apt to feel a twinge of hesitation when walking into a roomful of strangers, which the author calls "mingling phobia." There's some good advice here—some of it unconventional—on handling typical socializing dilemmas like: how to join a conversation, how and when to make an exit, how to follow up with people after a party and what to do if you've made a faux pas. I especially like the idea of NOT initiating a conversation by asking someone what they do for a living. You never know, but the person you're speaking with could be out of work or they might hate their job. But after a promising start, I felt the book lost steam as it went along. The last few chapters read like long blog posts—an indication that just wasn't enough material for a 200+-page book. And the final chapter, in which the author talks about “embracing the Tao of mingling,” came out of left field and seemed kind of bizarre to me. I think she didn't know how to end things, so she just threw in the last chapter (which basically contradicts everything else she says in the rest of the book!). Some reviewers object to the “lies”—the author encourages people to tell at parties. Sometimes a little white lie can be necessary, I think, but I also agree that the author does go overboard with this. My takeaway is that everyone should strive to be their very best self in social situations, even if you have to “fake it until you make it,” as the author says. A party, dinner or other get-together is not the place to mope or talk about your personal problems or insist on getting your point across. Act upbeat, talk to as many people as possible (not just the people you already know) and make a real effort to have a good time. Maybe this is just logical, common-sense advice, but it bears repeating. Nonetheless, I was expecting more. I'm also curious about how the author became an expert on mingling and “working the room.” While the front cover of the book says that these are proven techniques, note that there's nothing scientific about any of them. No studies or statistics are quoted; they are simply the author's opinions on what has worked in her own life. And it's all very New York City-centric, which comes off as rather pretentious.

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