“Excuse Me,
But I Was Next...”
ALSO FROM THE EMILY POST INSTITUTE

Emily Post's Etiquette, 17th Edition
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Emily Post's Favorite Party and Dining Tips
“Excuse Me, But I Was Next...”

HOW TO HANDLE THE TOP 100 MANNERS DILEMMAS

Peggy Post
WITH GRATITUDE, I DEDICATE THIS BOOK to the thousands of people who ask us at The Emily Post Institute for answers to their etiquette queries and concerns. Their interest in and desire for courteous behavior and respectful relationships are proof that etiquette is alive and well, even in today’s fast paced, sometimes impersonal, world.

I also dedicate this book to my great-grandmother-in-law, Emily Post, whose compassionate spirit and timeless advice continue to thrive, help, and motivate so many people.
SO MANY QUESTIONS FROM SO MANY PEOPLE are the basis for this book. Certain people have especially helped me as I’ve prepared the answers found in these pages.

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INTRODUCTION

Questions, Questions, Questions . . .

FOR SOME PEOPLE IN THIS NEW CENTURY, both the name Emily Post and the idea of etiquette may seem out of touch, what with the pace, drive, and sophistication of our lives. The truth is, at The Emily Post Institute we receive more and more questions about manners every day—in fact, thousands of questions every month. The questions come to us through our Web site and through the desks of our editorial partners, among them Good Housekeeping, Parents, InStyle Weddings, WeddingChannel.com, and the Boston Globe; they’re asked of each of us in the Post family who pens books and conducts business etiquette seminars and children’s manners workshops. We’re asked these questions, too, while on book tours and at the hundreds of personal appearances we make each year. The deluge also comes from the media—print, radio, television, and on-line reporters.

The questions I’m addressing in this book cover both traditional etiquette and modern-day situations in contemporary life—from wedding showers for same-sex couples to long-established wedding rituals; from a coworker’s body odor, to bilingual discussions in office cubicles; from making an introduction if you can’t remember someone’s name, to responding to nosy questions about your salary; from when to bring a hostess git, to whether to apply lipstick at the table; and far beyond.
There are times when people need “scripts” for life’s quandaries, a book to look to for simple answers to seemingly perplexing situations. “Excuse Me, But I Was Next . . .” offers clear solutions to life’s potentially awkward moments. If you’re trying to figure out whether you can bring a date to your best friend’s wedding without asking the hosts first, the answer is here. Unsure how to tip when the service is horrid? No problem. Want someone to back you up when you say you don’t need to respond to an RSVP? Sorry, that’s something I don’t do; but if you’re wondering about how to deal with the mother who can’t control her pestering toddler on the airplane, look here for advice on what to say.

Consider “Excuse Me, But I Was Next . . .” as your go-to guide. It has a wealth of information gathered in one place to make life’s everyday uncertainties a little easier to sort out. After all, as Emily said, “When people come together, you have etiquette.” That means you have dozens of situations in any given day where someone may or may not know “what to do.” These are 100 of our most commonly asked questions. They may not cover everything, but I hope they’ll get you out of a few jams—and guide you through some of life’s most important moments.

With warmest wishes,

PEGGY POST

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