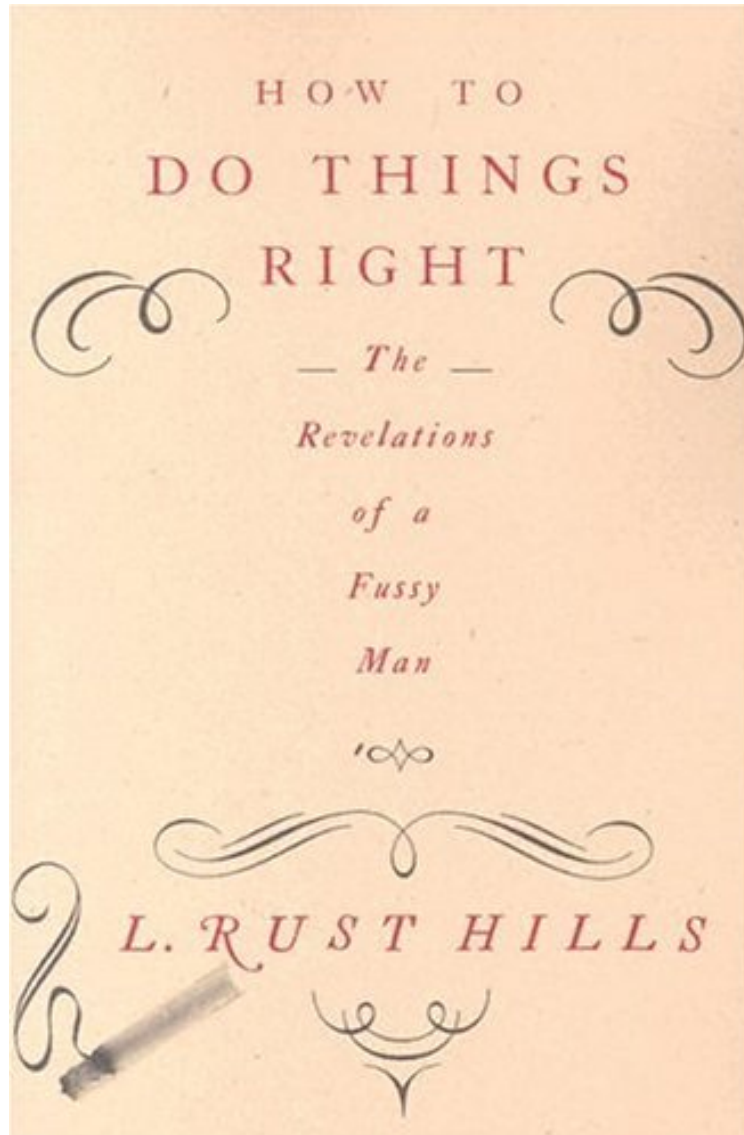


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How to Do Things Right: The Revelations of a Fussy Man

L. Rust Hills

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L. Rust Hills : How to Do Things Right: The Revelations of a Fussy Man before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised How to Do Things Right: The Revelations of a Fussy Man:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A deserving classicBy Art ChesterI first read L. Rust Hills when a friend loaned me his original little book (which is the first of this trilogy). His essays on such subjects as how to conduct a perfect dinner party, how to eat an ice cream cone, and so on are classics. This is not a book to be studied or pored through, but rather one to be picked up and enjoyed in small chunks.But what about the other two books in the

trilogy, here bound together? How To Be Good is not a book of humor, although it is written with humorous charm. It's a serious book about how to have morality in an immoral, or at least amoral, world. How To Retire At 41 starts out as a humorous look at how to adjust to retirement, and turns into a self-revelatory autobiography. Useful to start with and then affecting. It's a surprise to have the trilogy together, but if you take each part in its own way (humor, morality, essay on life adjustment) it's really a gem. Incidentally, I have several times lent my copy of How To Retire At 41 to friends contemplating retirement (or struggling with it) because it's very good in that regard. And I love the way it deals with, and dismisses, the question of finances in just a few sentences at the beginning! For my vote, an excellent book to enjoy and to lend out. (Darn, who did I last lend my copy to???) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read, Laugh, Learn Enjoy This Book By Victoria Winters The book I purchased was in excellent condition and arrived sooner than I expected. Thanks so much! How To Do Things Right is worth the read! It is both funny and extremely insightful! It really helps to look at the things we do and to explore the reasons for doing what we do. Bravo and I give my entire hand as a THUMBS UP! 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Hilarious Serious Philosophy By A Customer These highly comic essays start with simple instruction--how to eat an ice cream cone, how to fold a map--and move swiftly to more complex issues. In "How Not to Drink and Smoke So Much," for example, you can commiserate with Hills about the beloved 'tuddy' and learn from his early experiments in cutting down. Hills' aptitude for ingenious acronyms is displayed throughout the book. The essays become progressively more revealing--as when he describes a midlife breakdown in all its schizophrenic absurdity--and more seriously philosophical. His ideas about "undoing America," Montaigne, and about the desirability of eccentric traits are humorous, but they have a distinctly profound underside. I give this book to all my coolest friends.

The three titles edited, revised and combined in this volume, How To Do Things Right, How to Retire at 41, and How to Be Good, will have you laughing out loud, thinking hard, and at least temporarily rearranging your frazzled life. Hills is wise, witty, and very, very funny. His mission is to create order out of chaos; to make the arcane methodology of fussiness respectable; to elevate, and even ennoble, those fleeting instincts we all harbor to get our lives in order. All aspects of life are examined here: from how to eat an ice-cream cone to how to develop "principles" when you have none. But behind the frivolous facade, Hills remains a deeply sage and serious writer, a modern combination of Robert Benchley, Henry David Thoreau, and Michel de Montaigne. This is his best advice, served up from the heart of one of the most charming humorists to grace the American scene.

"A perfectly wonderful book...It is much harder to be funny than to be tragic, but you will find damn few people who will acknowledge this. The funnier you become, the more lightly people will regard you. May you become as light as helium." --Kurt Vonnegut (from a letter to Rust Hills) "Hills is preoccupied primarily [with] the little things and he writes about them as felicitously, delicately, and gently as Benchley did." --Nora Ephron, The New York Times