



How to Lose Friends & Alienate People

By Toby Young

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In 1995 high-flying British journalist Toby Young left London for New York to become a contributing editor at Vanity Fair. Other Brits had taken Manhattan-Alistair Cooke then, Anna Wintour now-so why couldn't he? But things didn't quite go according to plan. Within the space of two years he was fired from Vanity Fair, banned from the most fashionable bar in the city, and couldn't get a date for love or money. Even the local AA group wanted nothing to do with him. How to Lose Friends and Alienate People is Toby Young's hilarious account of the five years he spent looking for love in all the wrong places and steadily working his way down the New York food chain, from glossy magazine editor to crash-test dummy for interactive sex toys. But it's more than "the longest self-deprecating joke since the complete works of Woody Allen" (Sunday Times); it's also a seditious attack on the culture of celebrity from inside the belly of the beast. And there's even a happy ending, as Toby Young marries-"for proper, noncynical reasons," as he puts it-the woman of his dreams. "Some people are lucky enough to stumble across the right path straight away; most of us only discover what the right one is by going down the wrong one first." BEFORE PUBLICATION: "I'll rot in hell before I give that little bastard a quote for his book."-Julie Burchill AFTER PUBLICATION: "A relentlessly brilliant book-a What Makes Sammy Run for the twenty-first century...the funniest, cleverest, most touching new book I've read for as long as I can remember."-Julie Burchill, The Spectator

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The appeal of journalist Young's memoir is his willingness to skewer himself as savagely as he does his acquaintances and colleagues. The self-portrait is rarely flattering and sometimes repellent, but carries a startling ring of truth. Young targets Manhattan's superficial social scene and gives a slashing insider's view of *Vanity Fair* and its parent company, Cond, Nast. Consumed with the desire to be "somebody," Young is hired by editor Graydon Carter and unwittingly offends everyone he seeks to impress. He learns that journalists must have "a plausible manner, rat-like cunning and a little literary ability," and he encounters a caste system so rigid that if an important editor trips and falls, etiquette dictates to leave her on the floor and walk on, rather than offer assistance or directly address her. Young's description of his efforts to crash Oscar parties is an appallingly accurate picture of wannabes whose identity depends on the celebrities they cultivate. He's amusingly perceptive in his analyses of women whose motive for marrying prominent men is to impress other women; this jealousy is brilliantly summed up by Gore Vidal's comment, "Every time a friend succeeds, I die a little." British-born Young, who has also been fired from the *Times* of London and the *Guardian*, paints Carter as a fascinatingly complex individual, capable of devastating employees or helping them face dire health problems. He also includes intriguing profiles of power couple Tina Brown and Harry Evans, and *Sex and the City* creator Candace Bushnell. What keeps readers on Young's side is his courage to keep fighting, even when confronted by publicist Peggy Siegal's withering line, "I have no respect for writers. They never make money. They're like poor people looking in the windows."

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From [Booklist](#)

Inspired by Hollywood classics such as *The Front Page*, British writer Young longed to move to New York and work as a journalist for a glossy magazine, hobnobbing with the rich and famous. He jumps at the chance for a tryout with *Vanity Fair* magazine and eventually lands a tenuous position. But he's disappointed to learn that, compared with British reporters, American journalists are sycophants, slavering over celebrities and cozying up to publicists. Still, because he is so enamored of New York, he thoroughly enjoys his stay. Eventually, however, his admittedly juvenile pranks and failure to adapt to the culture, as well as his excessive drinking, end his career at *Vanity Fair*. Now on the fringes, freelancing for British publications, he manages to offend the powerful media couple Tina Brown and Harry Evans, triggering a lawsuit that is later dropped. But the contretemps actually helps to boost his career. This thoroughly humorous memoir provides a scathing portrait of the egomaniacal world of New York media and an insightful look at modern American celebrity culture. *Vanessa Bush*

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Review

"A gimlet-eyed insider's account of the status-obsessed, celebrity-beholden glossy magazine mafia." -- *GQ*

"A scathing portrait of the egomaniacal world of New York media and an insightful look at modern American celebrity culture." -- *Booklist*

"A sharply unflattering-and very, very funny-portrait of the magazine world's self-important 'glossy posse.'" -- *New York Post*

"A very funny book." -- *Salon.com*

"Achingly funny." -- *Globe & Mail, Toronto*

"Energetic and engaging...[provides] enjoyable bitchy specifics of Conde Nast culture." -- *Kirkus*

"Gripping Beach Read." -- *US Weekly*

"Hilarious lifestyles of the rich and shameless . . . Young is a self-deprecating Tom Wolfe." -- *People*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jennie Miller:

How to Lose Friends & Alienate People can be one of your starter books that are good idea. All of us recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to place every word into delight arrangement in writing How to Lose Friends & Alienate People nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into brand new stage of crucial pondering.

Lorenzo Brown:

Beside this How to Lose Friends & Alienate People in your phone, it might give you a way to get nearer to the new knowledge or info. The information and the knowledge you might got here is fresh from the oven so don't be worry if you feel like an older people live in narrow small town. It is good thing to have How to Lose Friends & Alienate People because this book offers for your requirements readable information. Do you sometimes have book but you do not get what it's all about. Oh come on, that would not happen if you have this in the hand. The Enjoyable option here cannot be questionable, such as treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss the item? Find this book as well as read it from at this point!

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