From fox-hunting to whist, this lively guide to the intricate manners, mores, social distinctions, sports, games, and sundry peculiarities of 19th-century England is a grand resource for anyone interested in Albion at its most arcane, eccentric, and imperial. Line drawings.

Features:
* Hardcover in grey and maroon with a colorful jacket with pictures of Austen and Dickens

If you love to read historical novels, whether they be the classics of Charles Dickens, Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters and Anthony Trollope, or historical romances by such authors as Judith McNaught and Julia Quinn, this is a great book for you. It will also appeal to history buffs, and those with just a passing interest in the social customs and etiquette of bygone days.

Accessible and covering a broad range of topics, its a reference book that touches on everything from social hierarchy (an Earl outranks the eldest son of a Marquis who outranks the younger son of a Duke, the eldest son of a Duke, however, ranks above an Earl and just below a Marquis), how to name your estate (what is the difference between a hall, a manor and a house?), how to play Faro (you need a machine to deal), manage the servants (especially when they're just not getting the silver bright enough) and walk with a member of the opposite sex (a gentleman, remember, always walks on the side nearest the street).

The book also includes an extensive glossary of terms of the period (just what is a costermonger and a mantua-maker?) It is also filled with literary
references and citations from the great British 19th-century authors, including those mentioned above. Don't worry if you haven't read any of the books, the references are used to illustrate points, though this book may inspire you to finally pick up a few of those classics you've always been meaning to read.

My one complaint about this book is that it's just not as thorough as I would have liked. It covers a wide range of topics, and in trying to keep the book readable, it only touches the surface rather than becoming deeply involved in any one topic.

As an overall reference book, it's very good, and is very useful to anyone who might be writing a novel set in this period, or just enjoys reading books set in 19th-century England.

The closest book I am aware of to this book is The Writers Guide to Everyday Life in Regency and Victorian England by Kristine Hughes, which follows in the same general reference covering a lot of topics, but without the references to classic novels. Also, the recent An Elegant Madness: High Society in Regency England by Venetia Murray is a collection of accounts of some of the most notorious real people of the era. And for the literary angle, A Dab of Dickens and a Touch of Twain by Elliot Engel offers a biographical overview of many of the authors referred to in this book.

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price: