

Key Takeaways From “Rules of Civility” by Amor Towles

- For many are called, but few are chosen
- What a relief it was, those few minutes with our guard let down and our gaze inexact, finding the one true solace that human isolation allows
- The journey from threadbare to cashmere restored his natural sense of optimism
- Be careful when choosing what you're proud of-because the world has every intention of using it against you
- Friends are the envy of the angels
- An act of generosity rarely ends a man's responsibilities toward another; it tends instead to begin them
- Whatever setbacks he had faced in his life, he always knew that he would make it through, as long as when he woke in the morning he was looking forward to his first cup of coffee
- Uncompromising purpose and the search for external truth have an unquestionable sex appeal for the young and high-minded
- We all have some parcel of the past which is falling into disrepair or being sold off by piece
- We think of our lives as a sequence of actions, an accumulation of accomplishments, a fluid articulation of style and opinion
- Having no regrets-from having made choices with...such poise and purpose
- There's a pretty clear difference between physical and emotional needs
- Most people have more needs than wants. That's why they live the lives they do. But the world is run by those whose wants outstrip their needs
- Moments of high emotion- whether they're triggered by anger or envy, humiliation or resentment- if the next thing you're going to say makes you feel better, then it's probably the wrong thing to say
- Cleanliness is next to godliness
- If we only fell in love with people who were perfect for us, then there wouldn't be so much fuss about love in the first place
- Life is less like a journey than it is a game of honeymoon bridge. In our twenties, when there is still so much time ahead of us, time that seems ample for a hundred indecisions, for a hundred visions and revisions- we draw a card, and we must decide right then and there whether to keep that card and discard the next, or discard the first card and keep the second. And before we know it, the deck has been played out and the decisions we have just made will shape our lives for decades to come

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Taken directly out of the book

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- Right choices by definition are the means by which life crystallizes loss

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