Who’s he?

by William F. Buckley Jr.

A review of *Snobbery: The American Version* by Joseph Epstein

Joseph Epstein

*Snobbery: The American Version*

Mariner Books, 288 pages, $16.95

Joseph Epstein’s new book about snobbery ends up being a book about Joseph Epstein, which is perfectly okay—provided one is Joseph Epstein. Another’s book about snobbery, displaying the author’s biography, his likes and dislikes, suspicions, affections, affectations, crotchets, would not guarantee against a reader’s strayed attention. There isn’t the slightest risk of this happening upon reading Epstein’s book, because he is perhaps the wittiest writer (working in his genre) alive, the funniest since Randall Jarrell.

Epstein sets out dutifully to tell us what a snob is—what he does, thinks...

“My snobbery,” he sighs, “is of a different kind, the kind I think of as intellectual snobbery.”

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