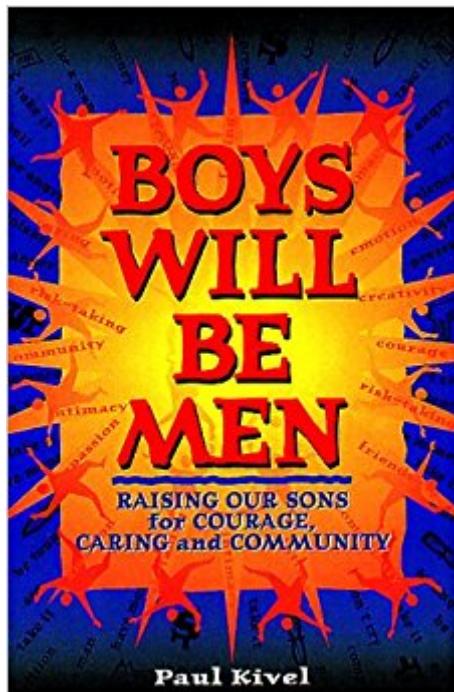


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# Boys Will Be Men



## Synopsis

While the women's liberation movement produced dynamic changes in society's assumptions about girls' roles, little has changed about our attitude toward the role of boys. Yet the cycle of violence and oppression, specifically that which is killing so many young people and especially boys, will not stop until boys are raised to become part of the struggle to end it. Drawing on his decades of experience as a social activist and his anti-violence work with men and teens, Kivel challenges the traditional training boys receive. He sorts out and helps parents grapple with the complex forces in our sons' lives, including racism, homophobia, pornography, drugs, classism, consumerism, sex, and living in violent environments. Then, Kivel provides the practical tools to empower boys to take the courageous step out of the "act like a man" box and become allies to themselves, each other, and all those who are vulnerable to violence and injustice in our society. The end result gives the reader a powerful vision of raising our sons to be the critically thinking, socially-invested men we need for a multicultural and democratic society. Boys Will Be Men is for all parents who have a vision of a society where peace and justice exist; for parents raising their sons in economically disadvantaged communities; for feminists who feel confused about raising their sons, and for parents of color who need to add their sons' strength to their communities. Paul Kivel is the author of Men's Work (1998, Ballantine) and Uprooting Racism (1996, New Society Publishers, 0-86571-338-3). He is the founder of the nationally recognized Oakland's Men's Project and has conducted hundreds of workshops on racism and anti-violence for teens and men all over the country. He lives with his partner and their daughter and two sons in Oakland, California.

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## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Boys Will Be Men is a wonderful, hands-on book that raises all the issues - gender, race, class, sexual identity- and offers sound, practical advice on how we can raise our sons to become the kind of men needed for a multicultural and democratic society.-Patricia Chang, President and CEO of the Women's Foundation, San Francisco

Paul Kivel is the founder of the Oakland's Men's Project and has conducted hundreds of workshops on racism and anti-violence for teens and men all over the USA. He lives in Oakland, California.

This is Collette aka Coco Mojo, and I buy books on .This is an excellent book that can help give insights on how to raise boys so that they become WHOLE human beings, rather than "half people" stuck in a "manhood box" of constricting, stereotypically "masculine" traits. (I mean -- why would ANYONE really want to settle for a cage? It's painful at best and dangerous at worst. But we get brainwashed from birth on into believing this is "just the way it is.")Parents don't do their children any favors by "genderizing" them -- rather, GUIDE them and allow them to develop the FULL range of positive human qualities, such as compassion, caring, nurturing, patience, strength, resilience, courage, kindness, generosity, emotional competence, tolerance, respectful and considerate behavior toward others, etc.. These qualities are HUMAN qualities and are of EQUAL importance for males and females to develop. Dichotomizing HUMAN qualities into "masculine" and "feminine" polarities is INANE and INSANE and is one of the things that has helped get us into the worldwide MESS we are in on this planet, regarding male violence, sexism, and gender inequities worldwide.I want men and women in my life that possess as many of these positive, healthy, wonderful qualities as possible. These are the qualities I seek to develop within myself. I think all of us would agree that we want good, whole people around us -- I mean, what's not to love? Isn't a good man like a good woman, and vice-versa? Shouldn't we as human beings seek to be everything we can be, having the full gamut of goodness? Or should we strive instead to be "half-people" (caricatured stereotypes) who seek to find our "better halves" in the other sex?Girls/women are taught to disown

their strength and to try to find it in a man instead, and boys/men are taught to disown their tenderness and to seek it in a woman instead. This is the big LIE, as it only leads to PROJECTION and CONFUSION. In truth, the only sane and healthy relationship is that in which two whole people come together in love rather than neediness. We have everything we need and desire within -- seek to become whole first -- because only when we are WHOLE can we have successful relationships with others as well as with ourselves. People who raise boys and girls to be "half people" only CHEAT them out of their true potential. Paul Kivel's books can help open our eyes to these truths. This is his basic message, and it is an ESSENTIAL one regarding the health of children, relationships, and the global community at large.

powerful message!

Paul Kivel has done it again with this excellent, pragmatic piece on how to challenge the forces that harm young men (and young women) in schools and families. As a professor of school and family counseling, I am always searching for pragmatic, effective, down-to-earth resources that will assist students, parents, counselors, teachers, and all others concerned about our youth. Kivel brings his substantial experience as an anti-oppression educator and activist from his work with the Oakland Men's Center into his latest work. Having seen him do his workshops live, knowing his unique abilities to affirm boys and men across all cultural identities, this work continues his excellent pragmatic scholarship in creating safe schools and families for all. Highly recommended and I have adopted it for use in my school counseling courses.

Thank you

All of Kivel's review ratings are extremely high on except for the one's that deal directly with confronting socialized male behavoir. My fellow reviewers have not only expressed fears about their son getting beat up and not surving in a man's world, but have justified violence as biological. I think there is a symptom at work here and it isn't our genetic make up, but our society's complete inability to question male dominance and hold men accountable for their behavoir. Men choose to hit their wives and claim they had a bad day at work -why not hit your boss? Domestic and sexual violence are considered "women's issues" and yet the overwhelming majority of cases are caused by men. But even worse is that we don't take a look at why we do this, we defer the blame to someone else, justify it away, or claim that this is the only way to survive as men - and so we pass it on to our

children for them to repeat our mistakes.

I actually unexpectedly met one of Paul Kivel's [grown] sons after reading the book. He is a living testament to the teachings in this book. Obviously Kivel's ideas work as he did an excellent job raising his son who is intelligent, emotionally intelligent, compassionate, strong, socially aware, an activist, and a leader - no such nerd or wallflower as some other reviewers implied would happen if you raise your son according to the tenets in this book. His son cares about the people in this world, treats people with respect, and does what he can to make the world a better place. I would be wary of people who don't want to raise their sons in such a thoughtful manner.

This book is fascinating in more ways than one. It discusses the many social and family pressures on boys growing up in America, and how we can relieve some of these pressures so that our sons can grow up to be mature, sensitive adults. It includes such issues as showing emotions, competitiveness in sports, homophobia, teenage relationships, violence on TV and in video games, and family values. It offers many opportunities for the adults reading the book to think about and discuss their own feelings on their upbringings and personal morals, and shows how these aspects can shape boys. It doesn't offer any answers, but rather asks the questions in such a way that readers can make their own decisions about topics.

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