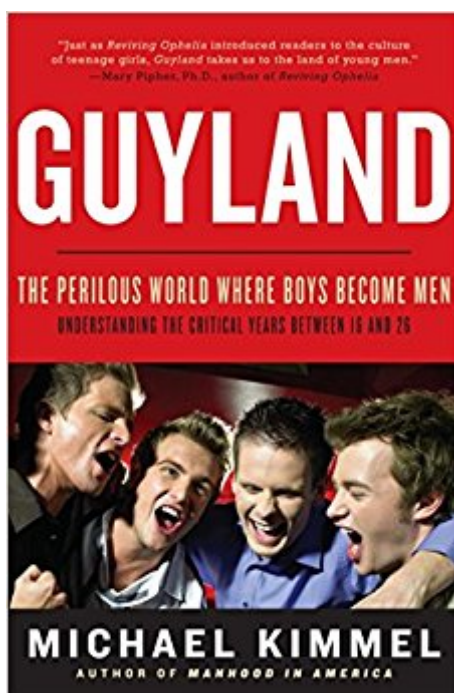


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# Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men



## Synopsis

Why do so many guys seem stuck between adolescence and adulthood? Why do so many of them fail to launch? Just what is going on with America's young men? The passage from adolescence to adulthood was once clear, coherent, and relatively secure: in their late teenage years and early twenties, guys "put away childish things" and entered their futures as responsible adults. Today growing up has become more complex and confusing as young men drift casually through college and beyond—hanging out, partying, playing with tech toys, watching sports. But beneath the appearance of a simple extended boyhood, a more dangerous social world has developed, far away from the traditional signposts and cultural signals that once helped boys navigate their way to manhood. The average young American man today is moving through a new stage of development, a buddy culture unfazed by the demands of parents, girlfriends, jobs, kids, and other nuisances of adult life. Sociologist and gender studies authority Michael Kimmel has identified this territory as "Guyland," a place that is both a stage of life and a new social arena. Guyland is the locker room writ large: the world where young men both test and prove themselves as men and develop the defining attitudes and self-images they will carry into adulthood. Kimmel has interviewed hundreds of young men ages sixteen to twenty-six in high schools and college fraternity houses, military academies and sports bars, to better understand Guyland's rules and restrictions, its layers of peer pressure and gender policing, its features and artifacts—from the ordinary (video games, sports, and music) to the extreme (violent fraternity initiations, sexual predation). In mapping the social world where tomorrow's men are made, Kimmel offers a view into the minds and times of America's sons, brothers, and boyfriends, and works toward redefining what it means to be a man today—and tomorrow. Only by understanding this world and this life stage can we enable young men to chart their own paths, to stay true to themselves, and to travel safely through Guyland, emerging as responsible and fully formed men of integrity and honor.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

To a growing list of books about the myths and mysteries of American boys and young males, Kimmel, a sociologist and author of *Manhood In America*, adds this deft exploration grounded in research. Based on more than 400 interviews, over a four-year span, with young men ages 16–26, Kimmel's study shows that the guys who live in Guyland are mostly white, middle-class, totally confused and cannot commit to their relationships, work or lives. Although they seem baffled by the riddles of manhood and responsibility, they submit to the Guy Code, where locker-room behaviors, sexual conquests, bullying, violence and assuming a cocky jock pose can rule over the sacrifice and conformity of marriage and family. Obsessed with never wanting to grow up, this demographic, which is 22 million strong, craves video games, sports and depersonalized sexual relationships. In the end, Kimmel offers a highly practical guide to male youth. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

• [A] deft exploration grounded in research....Kimmel offers a highly practical guide to male youth. • (Publishers Weekly) • Engaging...provocative....The book raises important questions....A useful, highly readable overview of an important social phenomenon. • (Kirkus Reviews) • Michael Kimmel's *Guyland* could save the humanity of many young men-and the sanity of their friends and parents-by explaining the forces behind a newly extended adolescence. With accuracy and empathy, he names the problem and offers compassionate bridges to adulthood. • (Gloria Steinem) • Just as *Reviving Ophelia* introduced readers to the culture of teenage girls, *Guyland* takes us to the land of young men. • (Mary Pipher, Ph.D., author of *Reviving Ophelia*) • An absolute bombshell of a book. A disturbing, but mandatory wake-up call for all of us who are boys, love boys or raise boys. • (Madeline Levine, Ph.D., author of *The Price of Privilege: How Parental Pressure and Material Advantage are Creating a Generation of Disconnected and Unhappy Kids*) Kimmel calls on us all to see the boy in the pseudo-man, to break the silence with which we surround them, and do what it takes to help them grow into real men. • (Arlie Hochschild, author of *The Second Shift*, *The Time Bind*, and *The Commercialization of*

Intimate Life)â œFor anyone who has ever longed to know whatâ™s really going on in a young manâ™s life, rejoice: Guyland is a compassionate, unflinching dispatch from deep in the heart of young masculinity. Required reading for people who raise, teach, and love guys.â • (Rachel Simmons, author of Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls Rachel Simmons, author of Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls)â œEvery parent who is about to write a check for college tuition should read this book first and discuss it with his or her son...and daughter.â • (Michael G. Thompson, Ph.D., co-author of Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys)â œGuyland takes up where Real Boys left off...a must-read for parents, teachers, coaches, young women who are so confused by the guys in their midst-and for guys themselves who yearn to break free of unwritten rules that leave them half a man, rather than a whole person.â • (William Pollack, author of Real Boys)

A phenomenal review of the pressures and issues facing boys and men today. This isn't a light book. It addresses some heavy topics, but Michael Kimmel does so in a great way. So glad someone is addressing these issues.

This is a sometimes startling, and often confirming read concerning the lives of young men. I am only half way through it, and regardless of how it ends, the information collected is very illuminating, especially for a parent of two boys (er, men) in this age bracket. I'm concerned - VERY CONCERNED for their behavior. I see a great deal of what is presented herein, both in my own experience "becoming a man" and in what my boys (damn it, I mean MEN) are going through . . .

I love this book. It makes you think.

Great book.

I recommend this book for parents and those who interact and deal with young adults regularly. Critical thinking required in order to make an impact.

I thought I was going to get a better conclusion that the author gave. While the observations are insightful (and probably true) I don't fee like he broke any new ground here.

Very informative and a recommended read for anyone working with and wanting to positively

influence millennial men.

I really enjoyed this book. I bought it for a Sociology of Gender class and didn't expect much. Exceeded my expectations - I even used this book as a starting point for my senior capstone project.

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