



# Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men

By Michael Kimmel

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The passage from adolescence to adulthood was once clear. 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—a territory Michael Kimmel has identified as "Guyland."

In mapping the troubling social world where men are now made, Kimmel offers a view into the minds and times of America's sons, brothers, and boyfriends, and he 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, stay true to themselves, and emerge safely from Guyland as responsible and fully formed male adults.

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

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.

Review

“[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*)

“For anyone who has ever longed to know what’s really going on in a young man’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.” (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*)

“Every 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.” (Michael G. Thompson, Ph.D., co-author of *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*)

“*Guyland* 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.” (William Pollack, author of *Real Boys*)

#### About the Author

A leading scholar in the field of gender studies, Michael Kimmel is author or editor of more than twenty volumes on the subject, including the groundbreaking *Manhood in America*. A professor of sociology, he teaches at State University of New York, Stony Brook, and lives with his family in Brooklyn, New York.

### Users Review

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##### Janice Delarosa:

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**Richard Powe:**

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