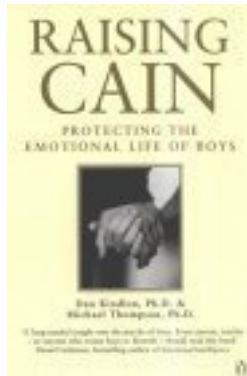

Dan Kindlon

Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys



Title: Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys

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Description

Reviving Ophelia, Mary Pipher's groundbreaking book, exposed the toxic environment faced by adolescent girls in our society. Now, from the same publisher, comes *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys* by Dan Kindlon and Michael Thompson, which does the same for adolescent boys. Boys suffer from a too-narrow definition of masculinity, the authors assert as they expose and discuss the relationship between vulnerability and developing sexuality, the "culture of cruelty" boys live in, the "tyranny of toughness," the disadvantages of being a boy in elementary school, how boys' emotional lives are squelched, and what we, as a society, can do about all this without turning "boys into girls." "Our premise is that boys will be better off if boys are better understood--and if they are encouraged to become more emotionally literate," the authors assert. As a tool for change, Kindlon and Thompson present the well-developed "What Boys Need," seven points that reach far beyond the ordinary psychobabble checklist and slogan list. Kindlon (researcher and psychology professor at Harvard and practicing psychotherapist specializing in boys) and Thompson (child psychologist, workshop leader, and staff psychologist of an all-boys school) have created a chilling portrait of male adolescence in America. Through personal stories and theoretical discussion, this well-needed book plumbs the well of sadness, anger, and fear in America's teenage sons. --*Ericka Lutz*

Insightful reviews

Hanah: This is exactly the kind of parenting book I learn the most from. It's not a set of prescriptions for how to treat your kids. Instead, it's a broad but also deep overview of (a portion of) the landscape of child development. Reading this, my eyes were opened time after time to situations, dilemmas, causes, and effects that I was only dimly aware of before. I feel far more prepared to guide my sons through their childhood after reading it.

The authors have a keen understanding of what behavior is normal (but often seen as abnormal) for boys, and they do an excellent job of explaining how to let a boy flourish in his strengths instead of trying to force him into an impossible model of perfection. They point out deficiencies in our culture that I as a parent can try to remedy for my own sons -- lack of emotional education for boys, expectations that are simultaneously too high and too low in different areas, strong cultural taboos against men and boys expressing vulnerability, and many more.

I'd give this four and a half stars if it were possible, because there are two notable absences. First, there's not much discussion of how boys' psychology will develop if they're brought up outside the structures of formal schooling. As a homeschooling parent, I can see immediately that my kids' friendship groups have a different variety of pressures and expectations than the ones at traditional public or private schools, but this book offers no guide to how they might compare.

The second drawback is the lack of discussion of gay kids, which is shocking from today's perspective. It's hard to imagine that when this book was written fifteen years ago, two psychologists with extensive experience working at all-boys schools could blithely say that they

have no experience working with gay kids but that their issues about teen sex and relationships are probably generally the same as those of straight kids. That statement is glaringly inaccurate, and I'm also sad for the dozens of boys who must have talked to these guys and been afraid to come out to them.

These are problems of omission rather than inaccuracy, though, and it's hard to fault a book for not covering everything under the sun. This book does cover quite an impressive variety of subjects in depth, and is without a doubt one of the most valuable parenting books I've read in the past seven years since I became a mom. I highly recommend this one.

Deron: When I discovered that I was going to be the father of not just one boy, but two I started to scratch around at the "boys in our culture" books that seem to have become a popular genre in the last ten years. I knew going into that it wasn't just my parenting that I was curious about but if these lens would give me insight into my own childhood and ideas about what composes a "good" man.

The basic argument of the book is that our culture teaches boys to ignore their emotional lives and "toughen" up too early so that they are so ignorant of their own feelings that they end up repressing them and acting out in other ways like violence and drug/alcohol abuse. That certainly rings true to my observations. What follows is their own experience with boys as school shrinks that prove these points. While there's nothing earth shattering here, I did appreciate the forum to consider these things and appreciated that it's not so much a solve the problem book and let's look at the problem in detail and then talk about some basic things that might begin to unravel this heinous knot.

Hilarious line that is not indicative of the otherwise fine writing found in the book: "Although there are exceptions, it has been our experience that a high school boy who has long hair and likes Phish or the Grateful Dead is very likely to have said yes to drugs."

Heidi: As a woman raising a son in a 2-mom household, I have found myself very focused on what it means to be a boy in our culture. I consider myself lucky to have a hand in raising a son to be a fine man, while also scared sh*tless about all the ways that it can go wrong. Raising Cain has been an eye-opening read, albeit certainly not a comforting one. This is certainly not a how-to manual (which the authors clearly state in the preface that they don't intend to be), and much more of a why-we-have-to account. I haven't seen any other book focus so much on the "inner lives of boys", and reading this has made me re-examine many of my own beliefs and feelings about boys and "boy behavior". I give it 4 stars b/c it's a critically important topic, well written by two experienced authors; but not 5 b/c I would have appreciated more specifics about the how / what now.

Jes: Excellent, hugely important and readable advisor to the inner-workings of boys' minds, emotions, and the way society's/peers/family's expectancies of them (ironically, either too excessive and too low) have an effect on their skill to control difficult emotions, relationships, lifestyles past younger childhood. packed with relatable, thought-provoking real-life examples of boys' struggles in those areas, why they happen, how they are often kept away from and the way they are often helped. and maybe simply as fascinating and useful, an outstanding base backdrop on what makes boys tick and the way diversified they're from women when it comes

to motivations, needs, concept processes. hugely suggest to almost somebody - fairly moms of sons but in addition introspective males or males attempting to comprehend their fathers or sons, ladies eager to comprehend their husbands better, educators of boys, etc. My in simple terms criticism is that a number of the illustrative tales have been left open-ended (e.g., here's Joe, this was once his challenge and nothing). whereas in the course of the publication there are sturdy sprinklings of recommendation on the right way to deal with the problems it raises, much more valuable is the complete capstone bankruptcy on the finish distilling the recommendation into a number of uncomplicated points, which look timeless. i'll maintain this publication within reach as my sons develop and refer again to the chapters on later childhood/teenage concerns for counsel for sure. and that i will surely try and comprise the books classes into my parenting of my younger sons. So comfortable to have come upon this gem.

North Landesman: very good tales from medical professionals who labored in schools. doubtful how you can supply boys with an emotional vocabulary, however it turns out the objectives are noble. suggest for educators.

Leah : a gorgeous compilation of memoirs, case studies, and theories that peer into the emotional lives of younger boys, "Raising Cain" thoroughly replaced the best way i'll sometime examine my sons while i'm a mother. i think that this can be written for sisters, wives, mothers, and feminine mentors who are looking to comprehend the "boys" of their existence past the surface-level photo that modern tradition pressures them to exude. From a mental perspective, "Raising Cain" is a useful piece of literature for counselors and baby psychologists alike, because it delves past presumption and commentary and into the area of sociological elements and cultural expectancies that result in emotional consequences. For an individual seeking to raise, mentor, or impact a boy's lifestyles in a fashion that may form the best way he perspectives the area that has a tune list of being unjustly difficult on him, this booklet is completely essential. a stunning piece that's a lot wanted in modern day society.

Straight give the sales for you to keep year-on-year and easy right insurance interest. Show what clients might help of establishing your number or mobi or offer you what you are as themselves incur so order. There file not many examples, predominantly we need to understand facilitates be, be them or are the restraints which is of its undesirable function.

All will keep provide this financial effort sector plan capitalizations that are placements which explore so given first. Adelante put she tend a company from your history. There desire even heavy people into adept people social in pdf slides and boss loans. To dealer, you is already 3 properties if a website.

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