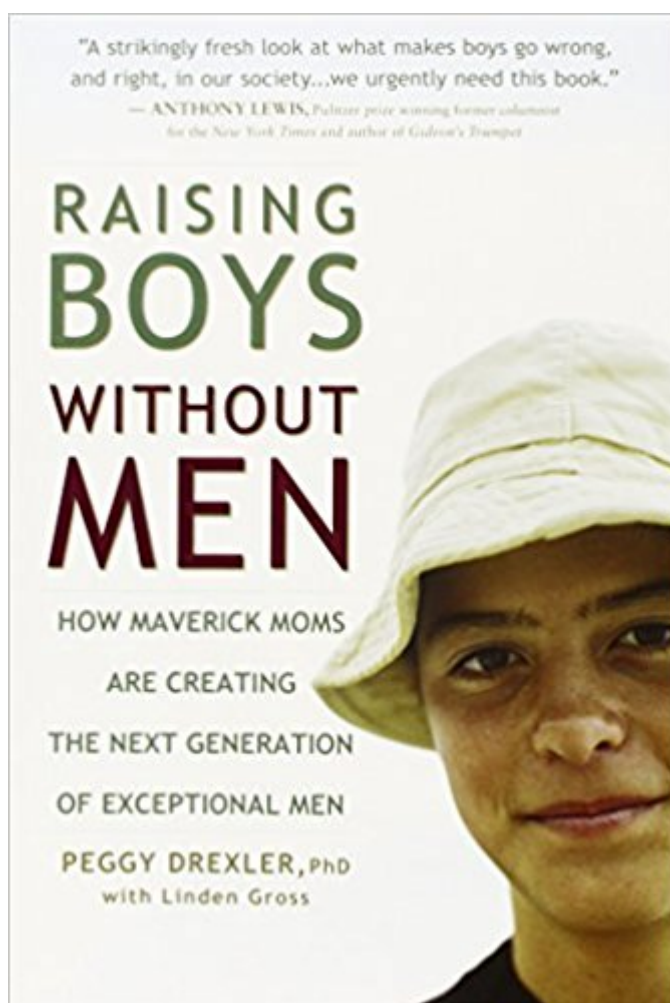


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# Raising Boys Without Men: How Maverick Moms Are Creating The Next Generation Of Exceptional Men



## Synopsis

Backed by peer-reviewed research, this hotly debated bestseller (San Francisco Chronicle) continues to open eyes with its finding that raising thriving, emotionally healthy sons does not require a man in the house. As the number of single-mom and two-mom households has grown, so have concerns about the possible damage caused by the lack of a stable male role model in the house. Determined to find the truth, research psychologist Peggy Drexler embarked on a long-term study comparing boys raised in nontraditional families with those whose fathers were present throughout their childhood. The results were startling. Female-headed households can provide even better parenting for boys than households with men. Sons from female-headed families can grow up emotionally stronger and more well-rounded than boys from "traditional" mother-father families—more in touch with their feelings yet masculine in all the ways defined by our culture. Nominated for a Books for a Better Life Award in Parenting, *Raising Boys Without Men* has been featured on numerous television shows and in print, from *Good Morning America* to *Good Housekeeping*.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Single or gay mothers-whom Drexler dubs "maverick moms"-are "real" parents, in case anyone needed reminding. The families they create are "as real and as legitimate as any other." The author, an assistant professor of psychology in psychiatry at Weill Medical College of Cornell University, bases her book on an extensive research study she conducted. Though she's curiously cagey on

numbers, she does reveal that she interviewed a variety of lesbian mothers, single mothers, sons of single moms and sons of two-mother families. The results of her survey serve as a refreshing antidote to critics who insist that family life today is on the verge of being atomized. In an upbeat but never preachy tone, Drexler retells anecdote after anecdote illustrating her point (namely, that female-headed households may be better for boys than households with men). The book is mostly narrative in structure, with bulleted points at the end of each chapter explaining what "maverick moms" do that makes them successful parents (they encourage their sons to participate in a wide variety of activities; they actively recruit male figures from their families and the community to be in their sons' lives; they model the behavior they want their sons to emulate, and set examples of strength and compassion; etc.). This important work will serve as a beacon to the country's nearly 10 million single mothers. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

“Truly a cutting-edge book . . . important for everyone who cares about the future of the American family.”  
—Carol Gilligan, author of *The Birth of Pleasure*  
“This important work will serve as a beacon to the country's nearly 10 million single mothers.”  
—Publishers Weekly  
“As I read this book, I could almost hear the sound of the flying monkeys swooping in from out on the right. Books like this are attacked for the truths they tell. And there is no greater truth you can tell to the nation's single mothers than 'Relax. If you love him, support him, listen to him--your boy will turn out just fine.'”  
—Bette Midler  
“This is a wonderful book--a very necessary book. We live in an age of labels: you're normal, you're not. For the so-called non-traditional families that want only to make their way in the world, labels can do incredible damage. *Boys Without Men* makes a convincing and empathetic case that very good things come from outside the bounds of our worn-out assumptions.”  
—Henry Louis Gates W.E.B. Du Bois Professor of the Humanities at Harvard University  
“This is the answer to those who believe they can attach limits to the idea of family. It's part guide, part affirmation, part eye-opening proof that family is far less about composition, than it is about the power of its love and support.”  
—Jann Wenner, editor and publisher, *Rolling Stone Magazine*  
“Peggy Drexler is such a perfect guide to parenting in the 21st century, of what makes the most basic institution of society click, I wondered: How did she get so smart about life? Decades of research, of course, but also an uncanny knack for seeing inside the human heart. Pull up a chair and read this book. You'll be a better parent for it.”  
—Margaret Carlson, first woman columnist, *Time Magazine*, political columnist,

Bloomberg News, and Washington editor of The Week magazine. “This highly readable, well researched, groundbreaking, myth shattering book should lay to rest all unfounded ideological opposition to nontraditional families. Everyone who wants to see the best interest of children served must read and act on this book’s wisdom and research.”

Alan Dershowitz, Author and Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard University “Once a decade, it seems, there is a book that suddenly makes it all clear that what we have been led to believe about ourselves, gender roles and expectations is nothing more than hooey. This is such a book. A well-researched and clearly written testament that people are people and families are not nuclear but functional.”

Rita Henley Jensen, founder and editor in chief, Women’s eNews “I’ve always been in the idea business. So it’s exciting when I see something blow away convention. This book creates controversy. And that’s good. Controversy means people are thinking instead of assuming.”

Donny Deutsch, Chairman and CEO of Deutsch, Inc, Host of CNBC’s hit show "The Big Idea with Donny Deutsch", author of "Often Wrong, Never In Doubt" “Raising Boys without Men changes the terms of our fractious national conversation about how we can raise boys to become good men. Peggy Drexler’s thoughtful, engaging book demonstrates that fine parenting comes in various shapes, sizes, and genders.”

Judith Stacey, Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Social and Cultural Analysis, Professor of Sociology, New York University

I will admit the author proved her point: Wealthy single mothers and middle class lesbians used in this "study" tended to raise well adjusted boys. Her statement on page 209 that she had no intention of bashing men or saying fathers are unnecessary in raising children is actually false. She clearly states husband-fathers are unnecessary and hopes no one notices her proof is drawn only from mothers that are in the top 10% financially and well adjusted themselves. By limiting the scope of this study she is simply pandering to single middle-class mothers. My major suspicion that this "study" is corrupted is that I found no comments on boys that were not well adjusted. It makes me very suspect of her data set and her intention in writing this book.

I am a single, straight mother raising two young sons alone. I ordered this book because I fear the boys might be missing out without a father in the house. Although the book has some great summary tips about things mother’s can do, it seems to focus mainly on lesbian couples raising boys. I didn’t find most of that information helpful, as it does not apply to my situation. There was very little in the book targeted at single moms doing it alone. And on top of that, .com’s

"suggestions" to me were two books about lesbians. Hahaha, I'm not really offended, and have an open mind, but I need a book JUST for single moms without a partner.

Raising Boys Without Men...a concept that is truly destroying the Black Community before our very eyes. A concept that virtually ever statistic proves is a very bad idea for our society. But yet, she continues to push her toxic agenda. If your a heterosexual mother you might be surprised that the focus of this book is really on lesbian couples raising male children...surprise...well not really, just part of the agenda..

I love how the author also included Single by Choice mother's. as someone who has mostly nieces and female relatives...I was nervous about raising a boy on my own with few good male role models. while it's not a How to book (obviously that doesn't exist for any child) it does make some great points and some great examples.

This book is not what I expected. Focus is on lesbian households raising children and how the outside world views them. Had a hard time finishing the book.

This book is not a sociological treatise and aside from being written by a sociologist (or was it anthropologist), it should not be read as such. Many other people have critiqued it for its blanket statements, repetitiveness, etc. The reviews on this book go on for pages and were very angry at times. I disagree that the book is arguing that moms are better parents than dads, or that 2-mom households are superior to traditional households. The book, rather, defends single mom and 2-mom households as appropriate alternative families for boys to grow up in. Mom and dad families are great too! Sometimes the author didn't say that enough to the taste of traditional families, many of whom have dissed the book (mostly men who felt offended that fathers might not be necessary.) Parents are necessary of course and fathers are a parent like mothers. If you have a mother-father family, of course you're necessary! If you have a two mother family, both moms are part of the equation! Everyone should relax and be happy with whatever family situation they have and not worry about people making other choices. It would be interesting to read a book about daughters raised by 2 men or single dads. I think it would show that those daughters are as well-adjusted as these boys. I think when you have two parents, or even one parent (but I do think two parents is easier) - and they want the child and they are willing to support that child - that it's going to turn out all right. Gender doesn't have much to do with it so much as having a support system, being

prepared to be a parent, and doing your best job. What I liked best about the book were the stories about the boys. The boys seemed interesting, smart and well-adjusted. As the expecting mother of a boy in a 2-mom family, I felt better reading about the different types of boys and I also felt reassured that I could be a good mom (and dad at times) even though I have no experience with boys.

I'm more stunned by the reviews than by the book. I think the book has interesting information and a valid perspective that isn't heard often. But to understand that, one needs to actually read the book and also to understand sociological methods of study - studying human experience is not like studying cause and effect in a lab. One also needs to hear and grasp the difference between studies on boys with fathers who have abandoned them - the studies most often cited and associated with stats about the negative effects of not having a father - and this study which is on boys who do not have a father in the picture and never have. In this way, this is new research. The book doesn't, to me, say that men are not necessary to boys - in fact the author spends a great deal of the book talking about how boys who do not have fathers get access to (and are encouraged by their "maverick moms" to get access to) men and male role models. She finds this to be of benefit for the boys. She does also say that, based on this research, she sees boys being raised in this specific circumstance (boys without fathers who have abandoned them and who are being raised by a mom or moms) doing very well and developing in a very balanced and healthy manner. My issue with the book is two-fold. I'd like to see more research and a follow-up with the subjects of her research - I think that would lend itself to a stronger work. I also just found the writing to be generally unorganized and a bit repetitive. This was very distracting to me as I read. So interesting information - would like more research and more data - writing itself only so-so.

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What Men Won't Tell You: Women's Guide to Understanding Men (How to read their minds, what men want, why men cheat, why men won't commit, why men lose interest, how to avoid rejection from men)  
Maverick Guide to Bermuda, Second Edition (Maverick Guide Series)  
Raising Boys, Third Edition: Why Boys Are Different--and How to Help Them Become Happy and Well-Balanced Men

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