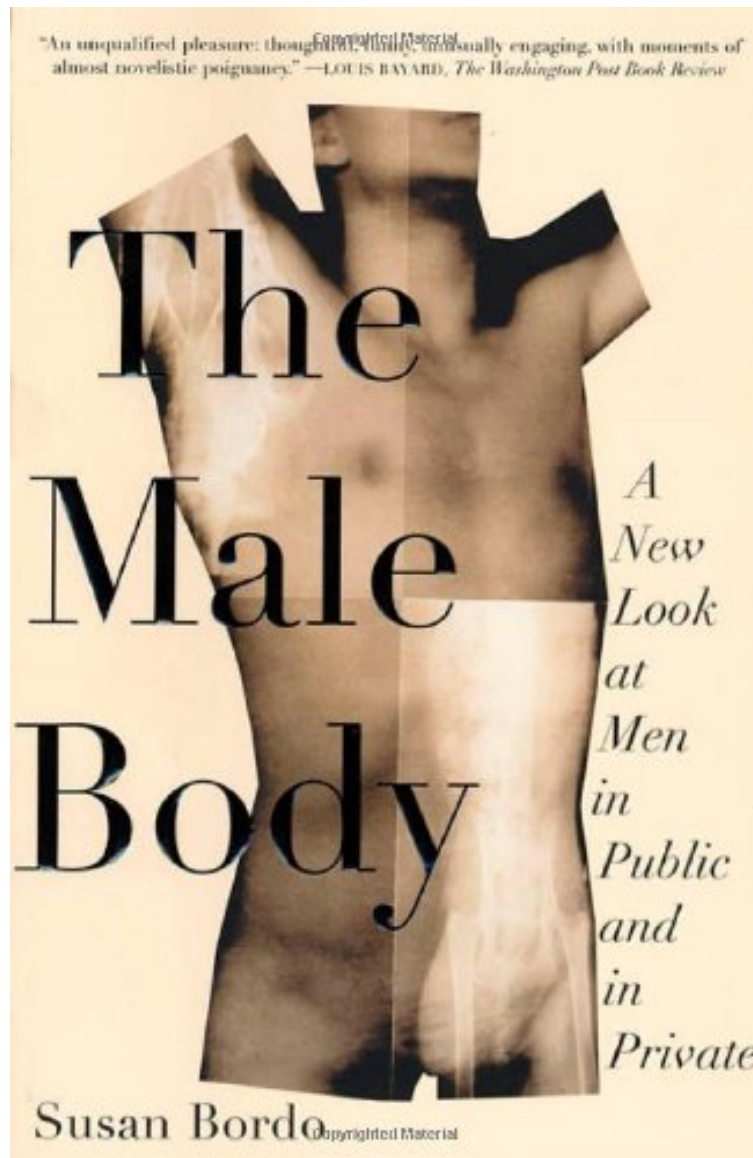


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## The Male Body: A New Look at Men in Public and in Private

*Susan Bordo*

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#510178 in Books Susan Bordo 2000-07-15 2000-07-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 .32 x .4 x 5.52l, .91 #File Name: 0374527326368 pages The Male Body A New Look at Men in Public and in Private | File size: 18.Mb

**Susan Bordo : The Male Body: A New Look at Men in Public and in Private** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Male Body: A New Look at Men in Public and in Private:

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Not worth it By Kristopher I picked this book as one of my "optional"

books for a graduate school course, but would choose a different book if I could go back in time and make that choice all over again. I was not impressed by this book. The author is female, and approaches male bodies from a very female/woman-centric point of view. I would much have preferred to read about how men themselves view their bodies in public and private, based on a male author's point of view, not an outsider's point of view. The author also uses a very media-focused lens in her examination of male bodies. This could be interesting...but the media she uses - especially the movies and tv shows - are all older movies and shows and I was not familiar with the majority of them. If she had given some sort of introduction about the plot and backgrounds of the media she discusses, perhaps I would have been able to follow her train of thought, but she did not. She just jumped right into discussing a particular character from a particular show without any exposition. I found myself skimming a lot of the book, trying to find any stories or information I could connect to, but found very little. I was also frustrated that her analyses of men and their bodies hinged so much on stereotypes of men and male bodies. This is where a male point of view would have been particularly helpful and interesting to hear, so someone might actually verify or discredit those stereotypes, rather than just reinforcing them with unfamiliar media references.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and Compelling  
By Gideon Kalve Jarvis  
An fascinating and in-depth investigation of the modern view of the male body, male stereotypes, and male portrayal in literature and film. Definitely worth a read for anyone interested in the subject of guys.

2 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A great book but a bit dated  
By Ultraaman  
I really found the book to be insightful and revealing in many ways. It was not condescending or feminist and gave a pretty well-rounded view of we men. I highly recommend it to every man to help understand why we are seen the way that we are by society, by women, by other men, and by ourselves.

The book does fall short in it's "contemporary" observations...from 1998. The constant references to Ally McBeal and other late 90's pop culture were at times difficult to take seriously, or remember for that fact. For anyone who was not an adult at that time those references might make cloudy the points she is trying to make. If you can see past that then you will read a great book.

An exciting new popular study of the male body--fresh, honest, and full of revelations  
In this surprising, candid cultural analysis, Susan Bordo begins with a frank, tender look at her own father's body and goes on to perceptively scrutinize the presentation of maleness in everyday life. Men's (and women's) ideas about men's bodies are heavily influenced by society's expectations, and Bordo helps us understand where those ideas come from. In chapters on the penis (in all its incarnations), fifties Hollywood, male beauty standards, and sexual harassment, and in discussions of topics ranging from Marlon Brando and Boogie Nights to Philip Roth and Lady Chatterley's Lover, Bordo offers fresh and unexpected insights. Always--whether she is examining Michael Jordan or Humbert Humbert, the butch phallus or her own grade-school experiences--she rejects rigid categories in favor of an honest, nuanced version of men as flesh-and-blood human beings.

.com Shock waves riveted the Mattel, Inc., boardroom in 1961 when female executives suggested that Barbie's boy-toy, Ken--in keeping with Barbie's own physiognomy--ought to be a little more anatomically correct. No one was suggesting 1.25-inch-to-1-inch-scale plastic genitalia, mind you, just a modest groin bulge. But male execs at the toy company were scandalized; the suggested modifications did not make Ken more "authentic" in their eyes--they made him pornographic. My, how things have changed. In *The Male Body*, Susan Bordo (who snagged a Pulitzer nomination for 1993's *Unbearable Weight*) offers a frank, sprightly, and, yes, educational look at the male nude as an index to attitudes about sexuality in the broth of media and pop culture in which, like it or not, we all stew. While the Greeks were unafraid to celebrate masculine beauty, men have been strangely sexless throughout most of Western history--until Hollywood rediscovered the male body when Marlon Brando first shed his T-shirt in *A Streetcar Named Desire*. It's only been in the '90s, however, that the male image has gone so far as to reclaim its penis. From de facto censorship to near idolatry, has ever an organ made such a journey in one brief decade? But it's not the penis alone that makes a man a man; perhaps, Bordo concludes, it's time for us to rethink our metaphors of manhood. --Patrizia DiLucchio

From Publishers Weekly  
Equipped with wit and savvy, Bordo sets out to map the ambivalent attitudes that exist in the American cultural imagination toward male bodies and, in particular, to ward the penis and its "symbolic double," the phallus. Ranging from such topics as "Viagran science" to discussions of Long Dong Silver on the Senate floor, masculinity in the movies to Plato's Symposium, Nabokov to gay aesthetics, Bordo (*Twilight Zones*) deftly uses academic theories without straying into abstraction. Beginning and ending with memories of her father, her focus on the male body never wavers. Part One concerns the penis: size does matter, but it is "always a collaboration with the imagination, and therefore with culture." Bordo's discussion establishes a provocative context for her subsequent examination of the complex legacy of Marlon Brando's representations of masculinity. She convincingly explains how the "lean, fit body that virtually everyone, gay and straight, now aspires to" has resulted from the commercial triumph of the gay aesthetic first introduced to the mainstream by Calvin Klein. Bordo's theme is that men and women are not species alien to one another: "We're all earthlings, desperate for love, demolished by rejection." There is anger here, but it is directed at a culture "that has us all behaving like sexual robots." Part memoir, part elegy, this feminist guided tour of the male body concludes with real hope for improved relations between the sexes. Copyright 1999 Reed

Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Bordo (humanities, Univ. of Kentucky) was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize for her earlier *Unbearable Weight: Feminism, Western Culture, and the Body* (LJ 8/93). Her new book is a further exploration of the interdisciplinary field of "body studies" she has developed. Premising her work on earlier writings, Bordo provides a frank personal/cultural analysis of the male anatomy. She outlines contemporary cultural attitudes toward the male body, especially the penis and the symbolic phallus. Through personal insight and incidences, she scrutinizes issues surrounding the penis, the male image, and the male animal. Starting and finishing with recollections of life with her father, Bordo never lets her focus waver. She rejects male characterizations and gives a candid portrayal of men as human beings, addressing men and women alike. A valuable selection for gender studies collections. A Michael A. Lutes, Univ. of Notre Dame Libs., IN Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.