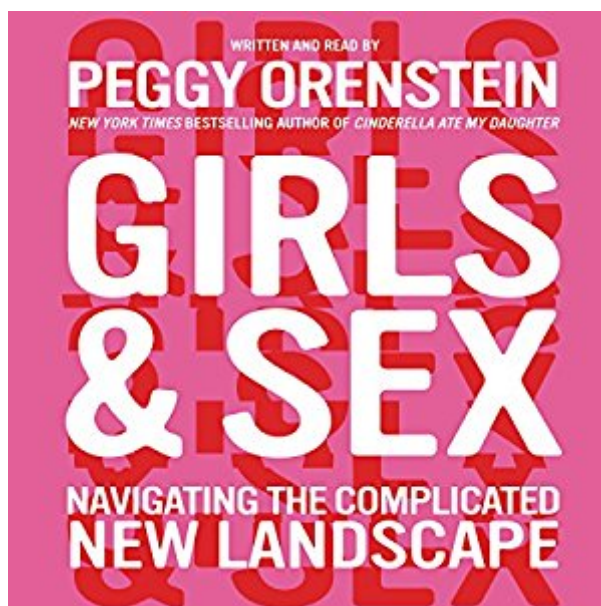


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Girls & Sex: Navigating The Complicated New Landscape



Synopsis

The author of the New York Times best seller *Cinderella Ate My Daughter* offers a clear-eyed picture of the new sexual landscape girls face in the postprincess stage - high school through college - and reveals how they are negotiating it. A generation gap has emerged between parents and their girls. Even in this age of helicopter parenting, the mothers and fathers of tomorrow's women have little idea what their daughters are up to sexually or how they feel about it. Drawing on in-depth interviews with over 70 young women and a wide range of psychologists, academics, and experts, renowned journalist Peggy Orenstein goes where most others fear to tread, pulling back the curtain on the hidden truths, hard lessons, and important possibilities of girls' sex lives in the modern world. While the media has focused - often to sensational effect - on the rise of casual sex and the prevalence of rape on campus, in *Girls and Sex* Peggy Orenstein brings much more to the table. She examines the ways in which porn and all its sexual myths have seeped into young people's lives; what it means to be the "the perfect slut" and why many girls scorn virginity; the complicated terrain of hookup culture; and the unfortunate realities surrounding assault. In Orenstein's hands these issues are never reduced to simplistic "truths"; rather, her powerful reporting opens up a dialogue on a potent, often silent subtext of American life today, giving listeners comprehensive and in-depth information with which to understand and navigate this complicated new world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a grandfather, totally out of touch with the world of girls today, I read this book to find out what

sort of world my three granddaughters are getting themselves into. It's a nightmare world. 10% of girls get violently raped, 25% get taken advantage of while drunk. Possibly even worse is that love and care seem almost to have disappeared as concepts. Sex is mostly about "hooking up." I trust my grandkids and their wonderful parents to manage this wilderness somehow, but I have some major questions for society. First, I certainly agree with the author that the most immediate and important thing is to give girls more control of their lives and feelings. The awful old pressures to conform, go along, do what boys/men want, and be passive and docile appear to be actually worse than in the 1950s when I was this age. They certainly aren't any better. Second, I also agree that one very important thing is to teach girls how to do sex right--to make it safe, enjoyable, and emotionally satisfying--which it apparently almost never is, today. We in the 1950s were utterly unprepared for sex and didn't have a clue how to enjoy it when we finally managed--it was supposed to be "fun," that was all. Apparently things are actually even worse now: the kids learn from porn, which is truly worse than nothing, for reasons covered with great explicitness in this book. Third, and this is not really stressed enough in the book, we have to do something about pop culture and the pressures on kids to conform to it and take all their standards and orientations from it. It is teaching the worst possible lessons--and not just the porn. Fourth, we have to stop glorifying the most unnatural: totally shaved bodies, plastic surgery, all sorts of piercings and so on, anything to make the body look like a pathology textbook rather than a human being. How is a girl going to have a decent love life if she thinks her body is so repulsive that she has to do all these things to it? Some pretty graphic details of hating nature are in the book (I spare the reader here). A lot of girls are simply swearing off sex. University surveys known to me have revealed figures in the range of 20 minutes a day for "romantic activities." (Versus 7 to 8 hours for classes and studies.) So it seems like the alternative to partying is nothing, or nearly nothing. I hope this is wrong.... We as a society really have to go against the pop trash, whether it's porn, gangsta rap, other pop music, or the other horrors these days, and get the message to the kids (boys as well as girls) that sex is about love and relationships, AND can be a lot of fun, but it can't be done by conformity, least of all with porn--it has to be developed as an art in itself.

Wow! where was this very down-to-earth guide 62 years ago when I was suddenly introduced to the strange world of sex, and I am a fairly open-minded male. I most definitely would NOT have been the ignorant, obnoxious and self-centered teenager that I ended up being.

A must read for every parent, mothers and fathers too who has a teen daughter in high

school or college. Full of honest and helpful advice for parents who hope their daughters (and sons) will have fulfilling, pleasurable sexual lives.

This is an excellent treatise on a compelling subject. It's important to understand the attitude that adolescent girls have about their own sexuality and their absent empowerment. Pleasure as a mutual aspect of a sexual encounter seems to have gone by the wayside for young women. Very sad.

Do you have girls/boys, teens, tweens, any young men or women you care about who are growing up in this day and age, or do you just care about how sex fits into the ongoing sexual dynamic of women and men. Where we've gone wrong (hint: little, none, or inaccurate sex ed) and where other countries have taken a different avenue with very interesting results. The author talks to and interviews girls and young women from high school through college, sex educators, and discusses the rise in risky behavior, campus life, binge drinking, dress codes, and a host of other factors in the complex world young women are navigating through today. It's scary to read in our Puritanical society, but unless we start reading & talking, nothing will change.

This book was so powerful and helpful to create ways in which people can understand the sexual climate that girls and young women are in. Ornstein was also thorough in demonstrating that boys and young men are victims of the sexualization as well. This book is candid and honest. A must read for any parent.

Excellent for mothers and their daughters. I read it first then gave it to my 17 year old high schooler last night. As a former Addictions Counselor, this book does a great job of addressing the relationship between substance use and sexual behavior among teens in a non-judgy manner. This is what I wish my mom had been able to tell me!

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