

Boys will be boys by Clementine Ford

Summary

Fearless feminist heroine Clementine Ford is a beacon of hope and inspiration to hundreds of thousands of Australian women and girls. Her incendiary first book, *Fight Like A Girl*, is taking the world by storm, galvanising women to demand and fight for real equality and not merely the illusion of it.

Now *Boys Will Be Boys* examines what needs to change for that equality to become a reality. It answers the question most asked of Clementine: 'How do I raise my son to respect women and give them equal space in the world? How do I make sure he's a supporter and not a perpetrator?'

All boys start out innocent and tender, but by the time they are adolescents many of them will subscribe to a view of masculinity that is openly contemptuous of women and girls. Our world conditions boys into entitlement, privilege and power at the expense not just of girls' humanity but also of their own.

Ford demolishes the age-old assumption that superiority and aggression are natural realms for boys and demonstrates how toxic masculinity creates a disturbingly limited and potentially dangerous idea of what it is to be a man. Crucially, *Boys Will Be Boys* reveals how the patriarchy we live in is as harmful to boys and men as it is to women and girls and asks what we have to do to reverse that damage. The world needs to change, and this book shows the way.

Discussion Questions

1. What defines masculinity?
2. Is manhood being redefined?
3. What are the expectations from men in society? What kind of results they have?
4. What kind of a relation is there between feminism and masculinity?
5. Does misandry hurt Clementines's cause?
6. What can men learn from feminism?
7. When have you heard the term "boys will be boys" used?