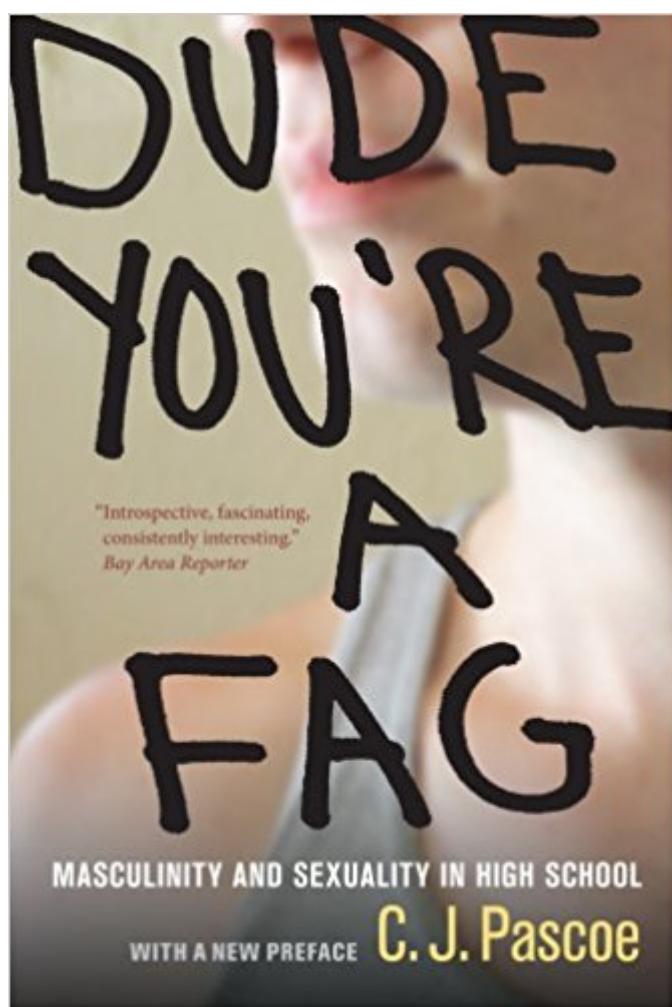


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# Dude, You're A Fag: Masculinity And Sexuality In High School



## Synopsis

High school and the difficult terrain of sexuality and gender identity are brilliantly explored in this smart, incisive ethnography. Based on eighteen months of fieldwork in a racially diverse working-class high school, *Dude, You're a Fag* sheds new light on masculinity both as a field of meaning and as a set of social practices. C. J. Pascoe's unorthodox approach analyzes masculinity as not only a gendered process but also a sexual one. She demonstrates how the "specter of the fag" becomes a disciplinary mechanism for regulating heterosexual as well as homosexual boys and how the "fag discourse" is as much tied to gender as it is to sexuality.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Laced with evocative stories based on ethnographic observations and interviews with high school kids, *Dude, You're a Fag* tells gripping stories of life in high school, while helping to extend the cutting edge of scholarly theory on gender and sexualities. C.J. Pascoe has contributed a highly readable and extremely insightful book that will be required reading for students and scholars of youth and the construction of sex and gender in schools." Michael A. Messner, author of *Taking the Field: Women, Men and Sports*"This is a strikingly original study of schoolboys renegotiating class, gender, and ethnicity, along with the labeling as 'fag'. Here homophobia is at work in a path breaking study, which is also a highly readable must-read." Ken Plummer, University of Essex, and editor of *Sexualities*"We know that schools are a central site for the construction of gender identity, but until C. J. Pascoe's careful and compassionate ethnography, we haven't known exactly how gender conformity is extracted from a slurry of humiliations, fears, and

anxieties. Boys will not be boys unless they are made to be, by violence, real or implied. A troubling, thoughtful work." Michael Kimmel, author of *Manhood in America*"Pascoe's thoughtful analysis of the rhetorical and interactional processes that constitute the field of masculinity for young, high school men coming of age is rich and engaging. With fresh insight and careful observation, Pascoe sheds new light on the complex interplay of masculinity, homophobia, sexuality, and the body, compelling us to rethink the formation of gender identities, collective gender practices, and the reproduction of gender inequalities." Amy L. Best, author of *Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture and Fast Cars, Cool Rides: The Accelerating World of Youth and Their Cars*"In this superb ethnography of daily life in a contemporary high school, C. J. Pascoe highlights the sexualized dynamics of youthful masculinity. With vivid detail and perceptive analysis, she examines the 'fag talk' which pervades boys' conversations; the convergence of gender, sexual, and racialized practices in school rituals like the 'Mr. Cougar' contest; and the experiences of girls who display themselves as masculine. The result is a book that breaks fresh ground in masculinity and gender studies-and is a very good read!" Barrie Thorne, author of *Gender Play: Girls and Boys in School*

C.J. Pascoe is Assistant Professor of Sociology at Colorado College.

An excellent read great for classroom discussion for master/ doctoral students. Supplement texts or media would compliment this nicely

Gives a good perspective on how children grow up in society in America when it comes to gender and sexuality.

This was required reading for a "Men's Studies" course. It was a good insight into toxic masculinity.

good read, especially when she links multiple strands of theory together.

The title is provocative, eye-catching, makes you pick up the book and see what's going on here. The book isn't exciting or gripping. It is a dry research study that reads like the scholarly piece it is. The whole thing is basically the movie *Never Been Kissed...* in that the author, C.J. Pascoe, goes into "River High," the alias of the high school in which she dove to do her observations and interviews on adolescents' interactions. The book is dense; extremely academic material. You could

spend hours dissecting one chapter in a classroom lecture at a university, certainly. But for the content within, the title is so far from what lies behind the cover. I had to keep the book in a drawer so it would not offend anyone at work. What you get with this book is excellent material for your own undergraduate or graduate research paper, but not really an entertaining recreational read.

A fascinating ethnography and vivid look into the often horrifically sexualized nature of high school. Pascoe witnesses some remarkable behavior from teens and her findings of just how compulsive boys and girls are to be masculine will leave you incredulous. She may have her own biases behind her interpretations and is often quick to jump to the most anti normative viewpoint possible. Take her analyses with a dose of skepticism and you will still be amazed by her findings.

Very compelling.

Such a great book!

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