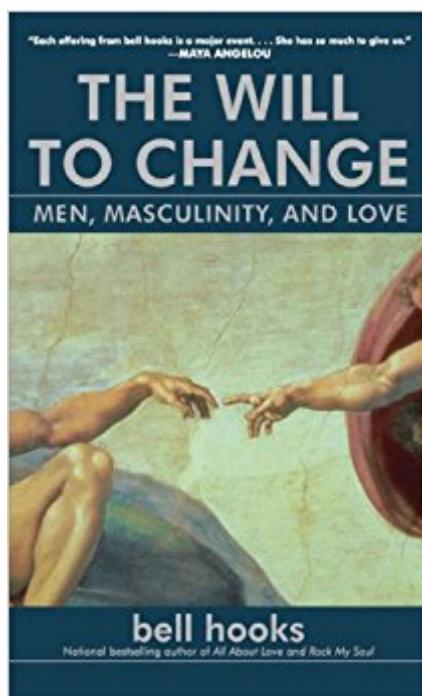


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# The Will To Change: Men, Masculinity, And Love



## **Synopsis**

Everyone needs to love and be loved -- even men. But to know love, men must be able to look at the ways that patriarchal culture keeps them from knowing themselves, from being in touch with their feelings, from loving. In *The Will to Change*, bell hooks gets to the heart of the matter and shows men how to express the emotions that are a fundamental part of who they are -- whatever their age, marital status, ethnicity, or sexual orientation. With trademark candor and fierce intelligence, hooks addresses the most common concerns of men, such as fear of intimacy and loss of their patriarchal place in society, in new and challenging ways. She believes men can find the way to spiritual unity by getting back in touch with the emotionally open part of themselves -- and lay claim to the rich and rewarding inner lives that have historically been the exclusive province of women. A brave and astonishing work, *The Will to Change* is designed to help men reclaim the best part of themselves.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A companion to *We Real Cool: Black Men and Masculinity*, hooks's 23rd book for adults is a fierce, quirky denunciation of patriarchy and a clarion call to the uncommitted to align themselves with visionary radical feminism. In 12 slim chapters, hooks examines the stages of a man's life, from babyhood through boyhood to the teenage years into manhood. She finds patriarchy plays a role in most socio-sexual ills, as boys and men seek alienating sex as a substitute for the love that often seems, because of demands on families that destroy them or keep them from forming, unavailable

to men: "Sex, then, becomes for most men a way of self-solacing. It is not about connecting to someone else but rather releasing their own pain." The men who can lead us out of patriarchal chains are "men of color from poor countries, men who live in exile, men who have been victimized by imperialist male violence"-the Dalai Lama for example. While she calls Will Smith films such as Men in Black and Independence Day tools of the patriarchy, hooks saves her big guns for J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter books, scornfully exposing them as foisted on us by "rich white American men" and no more than updated version of the British schoolboy books that fueled the fantasies of Victoria's empire. A better book to buy for children, she suggests, might be her own recent Be Bop Buzz. Hooks is always readable, but her takes on mass media here have a retro ring to them.

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Publishers Weekly A fierce...denunciation of patriarchy and a clarion call to the uncommitted to align themselves with visionary radical feminism. George Weinberg author of Why Men Won't Commit [A] compelling study of the culture's unfairness to men.

Great book. bell hooks is one of our most prominent scholars who makes feminism accessible to everyone, and also demonstrates the benefits of a feminist perspective for everyone, not just women. This is appropriate for both genders, especially men. Her perspective on patriarchy outlines how its continued social organization is detrimental to all of us equally. I found her work revealed pain I couldn't previously have recognized or uncovered.

This was a great read to reflect upon and think through the patriarchy. My only critique is not her observations of patriarchy, but at her lack of vision for a future without it. (She even notes her struggle when writing a children's book) It's been helpful for me to read and reflect on her process and work towards being a more self-actualized person as we get to co-construct a new feminist world together.

Read this when it was published and couldn't put it down. Recently bought it again and gave it to my boyfriend. He struggles with masculine expectations, people in his life have urged him to be more tough and manly. He read this in a couple of days and came out with a thoughtful analysis of how patriarchy has influenced his life and the people he's known. He doesn't call himself a feminist but he has a critique of how harmful patriarchy is.

This is the most healing book that I have ever read! As someone who has struggled my entire life to understand my disconnect with men, this book has offered me a perspective that has facilitated a deeper connection to myself as well as a deeper connection to men. I feel healing taking place in areas I had previously lost hope. Words cannot express how profoundly appreciative I am that Bell Hooks wrote this book.

The copy I received was in perfect condition. I gave this as a gift to a male coworker who was interested in feminist ideology. This book was perfect because Bell Hooks takes incredibly dense feminist ideology and compartmentalizes it in a way that makes it accessible. She also includes men in the larger feminist conversation here in such a way that is both inclusive and is able to hold men accountable for their actions in the larger society.

I think Bell Hooks' ideas about patriarchy help illuminate the general arc of our culture today. When self help books value emotional IQ, when modern management books like from the Studor group encourage mentoring, these all come from the "feminine" side. Loving the stranger was the first cultural cornerstone laid 2,000 years ago. Loving our closest other is happening just today and is of equal moral and cultural importance. She describes a radical, "old style" male which we can all still feel inside ourselves.

hooks has yet again produced a needed book on the concept of love along with a feminist critique. The Will To Change provides the ground work for men to start to explore how Patriarchal culture has divorced us from our emotional lives. hooks speaks with deep love and passion about the Feminist movement's need to see how Patriarchy is damaging to men.

This book is perfect if you want to gain a critical, deeper understanding of how the patriarchal construct that we live under is a burden to men. It reveals how patriarchy damages mens' true sense of self and overall well-being. Bell Hooks does a superb job presenting the issues, as well as some solutions that promote transformation in the lives of the men we love.

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