

“Exhilarating and inspiring. A beautiful hybrid of memoir, manifesto, instruction manual, and rumination.”

— **REBECCA SOLNIT**, author of *The Mother of All Questions*

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# HOW TO RAISE A FEMINIST SON

MOTHERHOOD, MASCULINITY,  
and the MAKING OF MY FAMILY

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SONORA JHA

***How to Raise a Feminist Son***  
Questions and Topics for Discussion

1. Who is the boy (or boys) you had in mind while reading this book? Why do you want to raise him as a feminist?
2. Which parts of the book did you find most helpful or relate to the most? Did you enjoy the personal stories from the author's life, the research and interviews with others, or the To Do lists at the end of each chapter? Was there a chapter that especially resonated?
3. What do you find hardest about raising a feminist boy? What do you find most joyful or freeing?
4. On page 44, the author writes, "Literature builds empathy and empathy builds solidarity, especially as a toddler boy imagines the wide, wide world and, one day, helps reimagine it." Look at your boy's bookshelf--are there opportunities to build his empathy there?
5. Is your instinct to edit (or limit) the media your boy engages with, or to let him watch or read whatever he wants and circle back to discuss afterward? Has your approach changed as your child has grown? Did the book encourage you to rethink any of your own rules and rubrics about media usage?
6. Who are your "goddesses"? Where do you take inspiration from when raising a feminist boy?
7. The author writes, "What we needed to talk about is proactively going after the problem and training men to read women the way women have been trained to read men" (page 136). What do you want the next generation of men to understand about what it means to live in a woman's body? What do you wish men had known? What will you teach your boy?
8. What expectations do you hold regarding your boy's body? Where might you let go of those in service of *all* of our freedom to be in our bodies?
9. In Chapter Ten, the author writes, "So what are the ways in which a feminist boy might slip up in his growing years? He may use his fists on the playground. He may say to a buddy, 'That's so gay!' He may push a girl off a swing. He may tease his sister for her games and toys and sports and ways of being in the world that society whispers in his ear are 'less than.' He may bully his peers. He may call a classmate a slut. He may join his friends in rating their female peers based on their faces and bodies. He may try to coerce girls into sex as a conquest. He may try to shut a girl down when she's smarter than him. He may try to lash out at a girl when she laughs at him. He may try to talk a girl down when she shares her dreams" (page 173).  
  
What is your worst fear about what your boy could say or do? How do you think you would react? What would you want to do afterward?
10. What are your thoughts on the author's choice to raise her son "here among the oppressed" (page 190)?
11. For those reading as a group, how will you keep each other accountable on the long journey of raising feminist boys?
12. Who else in your life needs to read this book? Who else can you enlist in the job of raising a feminist boy?

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Jha issues an urgent, fervent plea to raise feminist sons in this trenchant guide. At times touching and always impassioned, this is an excellent resource for like-minded parents.

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PUBLISHERS WEEKLY,  
STARRED REVIEW ★