



Are Men Necessary?: When Sexes Collide

By Maureen Dowd

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Outspoken, Pulitzer Prize-winning *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist Maureen Dowd tackles the hot-button topic of gender politics in this “funny, biting, and incisive take on women’s place in American society today.”*

Are men afraid of smart, successful women? Why did feminism fizzle? Why are so many of today’s women freezing their faces and emotions in an orgy of plasticity? Is “having it all” just a cruel hoax?

In this witty and wide-ranging book, Maureen Dowd looks at the state of the sexual union, raising bold questions and examining everything from economics and presidential politics to pop culture and the “why?” of the Y chromosome.

In our ever-changing culture where locker room talk has become the talk of the town, *Are Men Necessary?* will intrigue Dowd's devoted readers—and anyone trying to sort out the chaos that occurs when sexes collide.

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Are Men Necessary?: When Sexes Collide By Maureen Dowd Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

She may be smart, incisive, witty, and keenly observant but with the release of *Are Men Necessary?*--a series of pithy (some might say piqued) ruminations on the sexes--Maureen Dowd will never, ever be championed by guys. Not that she cares. Even those who seek to avoid her columns in the august pages of *The New York Times* are certain to stumble over her invective in syndication. Dowd, it often seems, is everywhere. So those seeking even more via this book should be warned: *Are Men Necessary?* not only asks the eponymous question; it seeks to answer it with myriad examples (some convincing, some not) drawn from the *Toronto Star* to Kenneth Starr, from *Cosmopolitan* to Condoleezza Rice. You can bet a lot of folks aren't going to relish the answer.

With hands on hips and eyes wide open, Dowd surveys gender relations in contemporary settings such as the workplace, the White House, the mall, and the media, comparing and contrasting as she goes. And while her secondary sources are endless--and, let's face it, the subject of gender inequality is not exactly new--Dowd manages to produce a fair share of bons mots. To wit, this pearl on the subject of plastic surgery and men: "I have yet to see a man come out of cosmetic surgery without looking transformed into some permanently astonished lesbian version of himself," Dowd quotes a source as saying. "It's terrifying. My friend's father had just his eyes done by the best, most highly sought-after cosmetic surgeon in New York City. And he doesn't look refreshed or well rested. He looks like he's being stabbed to death by invisible people." Dowd's generously dispersed anecdotes, though seldom as funny, are equally readable. In the end, though, one wishes *Are Men Necessary?* went beyond simply grocery listing examples of sexual disparity to offer concrete suggestions for change. Then again, maybe that's too great a task even for a woman like Dowd. --
Kim Hughes

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. Hearing Dowd purr through her own book provides an entirely new, unexpected dimension to her writing. As with her op-ed columns for the *New York Times*, her book on the travails of the modern woman clothes alarming conclusions in fizzy, irony-drenched writing. For her reading of her book on the return of femininity as a man-catching technique, Dowd turns on her own feminine wiles, often beginning new paragraphs by breathing seductively into the microphone before settling back and adopting a more ordinary-sounding tone. To Dowd, the act of reading is a form of seduction, a notion reflected in the audiobook's packaging, whose cover features a painting of a glam redhead reading on the subway. Dowd's sensual reading is a clever gambit, luring listeners in before clobbering them with the sad truth of the backlash to feminism. If her *Times* gig ever falls through, she can always fall back on a second career as an audiobook reader.

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From [Booklist](#)

Sex is a topic generally considered unsuitable for polite conversation. Ah, but the intrepid *New York Times* columnist, winner of a Pulitzer Prize in 1999, steps up to the plate to hit some fly balls well out of the field as she discusses sexual realities and absurdities, doing so with the same verve and nerve with which she handled the other hot-button topic--politics--in her 2004 best-seller, *Bushworld*. Dowd is hilarious, cutting, and provocative--in other words, perfectly willing to express her vision of the truth without an ounce of reservation. And isn't that why readers gravitate to her? Her new book arises from her *New Times* columns, and her observations on how men and women relate lead to pithy commentary on the contradictory path feminism has taken ("the new urban legend is about a young man who loses a girl by asking her to split the

check"), the superior suitability of women as political leaders ("women are affected by lunar tides only once a month; men have raging hormones every day"), and other topics more timid conversationalists would stay away from. Thank goodness *she* doesn't. *Brad Hooper*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Larry Boggs:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a e-book your ability to survive raise then having chance to stand than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a book, we give you this Are Men Necessary?: When Sexes Collide book as beginner and daily reading e-book. Why, because this book is usually more than just a book.

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