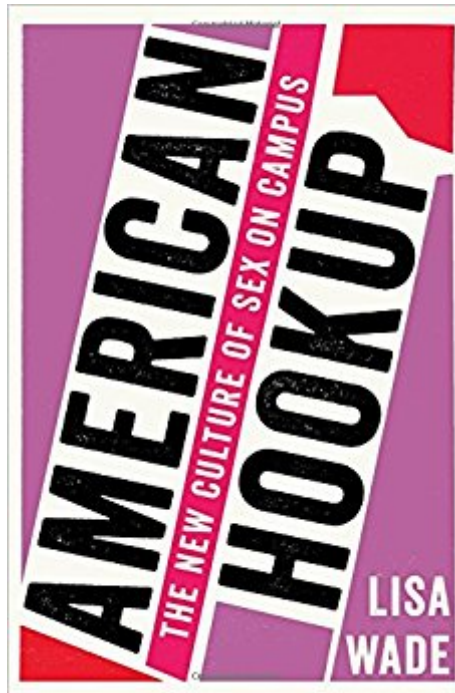




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American Hookup: The New Culture Of Sex On Campus



Synopsis

A revelatory account of the new culture of sex that has come to dominate the American college experience. The hookup is now part of college life. Yet the drunken encounter we always hear about tells only a fraction of the story. Rising above misinformation and moralizing, Lisa Wade offers the definitive account of this new sexual culture and demonstrates that the truth is both more heartening and more harrowing than we thought. Offering invaluable insights for parents, educators, and students, Wade situates hookup culture within the history of sexuality, the evolution of higher education, and the unfinished feminist revolution. Using new research, she maps out a punishing emotional landscape marked by unequal pleasures, competition for status, and sexual violence. She discovers that the most privileged students tend to like hookup culture the most, and she considers its effects on racial and sexual minorities, students who “opt out,” and those who participate ambivalently. Accessible and open-minded, compassionate and brutally honest, *American Hookup* explains where we are and how we got here, asking not “How do we go back?” but “Where do we go from here?”

Book Information

Hardcover: 304 pages

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company; 1 edition (January 10, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 039328509X

ISBN-13: 978-0393285093

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.1 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #13,065 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Human Sexuality #15 in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Student Life #20 in Books > Medical Books > Psychology > Sexuality

Customer Reviews

“Wade provides constructive strategies to address how campus sex practices can be humanized, and undertaken with greater respect and empathy.” - Alli Joseph, Salon
“A myth-busting, eye-popping, and important work of social research. Lisa Wade spent years observing hookup culture on college campuses across the United States and analyzing all the good data available. The result is the best book about sex on campus, bar none.” -

Eric Klinenberg, author of *Going Solo* and coauthor of the New York Times bestseller *Modern Romance* – “Lisa Wade pulls back the curtain on campus culture and reveals the tableau of racial, class, and gender inequality on which the not-really-so-pervasive phenomenon of student hookups is playing out. If you want to understand what is happening on campus today, this book is not only excellent; it’s necessary.” – Michael Kimmel, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Stony Brook University and author of *Guyland* – “An extraordinary window into today’s hookup culture among young people. In its pages, you will find incredible insights tying together the history of college campuses, human brain development, and cultural shifts on gender norms to explain how young people conduct their sexual relationships. Working with young people myself, I see what Lisa Wade describes every day. This is an extraordinary and important book.” – Rosalind Wiseman, author of *Queen Bees and Wannabees* – “In this fascinating book, Wade shines the bright light of sociology and feminism onto American college sexual culture, exploring both its positive and its bleakest aspects. An intelligent, sympathetic, and unflinching analysis of hookup culture, interweaved with intimate narratives from those living in it.” – Cordelia Fine, author of *Delusions of Gender* – “An urgently needed and well-researched front-line report on hookup culture.” – Are young women taking on a traditional male view of sex? Is commercialism monopolizing their imaginations? Is hooking up a way of shutting down genuine emotional connections? If so, why? This book is a welcome wake-up call to the nation. Read it and pass the word.” – Arlie Hochschild, author of *The Time Bind* – “[P]rovides an engaging, thought-provoking, and accessible examination of current social behaviors.” – Booklist, starred review – “An eye-opening, conversation-starting examination of sex on the American college campus.” – Kirkus Reviews

Lisa Wade, PhD, is a professor at Occidental College. She is an accomplished scholar and award-winning teacher with degrees in philosophy, human sexuality, and sociology. She lives in Los Angeles but calls New Orleans “home.”

This text is an excellent examination of sexual culture on college campuses. Wade’s voice is clear, accessible, and still maintains its basis in research-based knowledge. Wade manages to point out the downsides of hookup culture while still avoiding a tone of panic. Moreover, she acknowledges

the "fun" of college life and sexual freedom (or at least, the potential for fun) that comes with it. The voices of students are always at the forefront of this text, as Wade uses their own language and stories to describe hookup culture and its relationship to students' lives. I would unequivocally recommend this as a text for First Year Seminar or similar classes, and similarly recommend it to anyone about to attend college.

I took a course under the author and it changed my life. This book was just as eye-opening and important. I recommend it to all in University settings. 10/10.

great book, great seller

Very good condition

While reading this book I felt sorry for the children substituting meaningless sex for meaningful conversation. I found it difficult to understand why taking the easy path and putting themselves at risk, wasn't more obvious to the participants. I'm also concerned about their future and the future of people that build a cold shell around themselves to survive. Nevertheless, I found this description of Hookup Culture in America fascinating, and I learned a lot. Each of us have comfortable biases that prevent us from doing what we ought to do, and I am grateful the author's insights and her recognition that the future of America depends on the diversification of what is possible. The author's writing style is inviting and I am grateful for her ability to clearly share knowledge about a complicated topic.

It's a high bar to expect a well-researched piece of sociological scholarship to be a page turner, but this is exactly what Lisa Wade has accomplished in this readable, thoughtful book on the sexual culture in American universities. Wade's analysis of the hookup culture, its positives and negatives, thinks through the tumult of on-campus partying and casual sexual encounters from the perspectives of men and women, of enthusiasts and abstainers, from those who embrace it and those who are hurt by it. She grounds this work in a historical perspective that emphasizes the social structures ordering the university and student life. I find this book fascinating, frightening, and hopeful at turns, because it is Wade's particular talent to turn the crystal of hookup culture every which way to see all the different lights reflecting from it. I recommend this book to everyone.

I stumbled across American Hookup while randomly searching the Web for something else. Once I saw the subject matter of the book and how it was being approached, I was intrigued. I'm still reading the book and am just amazed at the light it sheds on the games people play when it comes to the pursuit of sex. If, like me, you've never been one of the "it" people or part of the "in crowd" in college or at night clubs after college, and you've wondered why you're on the outside looking in, this book will make you feel somewhat better. The basic tenet of the book is that hookup culture is (straight) male-dominated and driven by a vocal group of people that influence everyone else to play along or be stigmatized. The book covers the roles that alcohol, peer pressure, and darker influences take. The author - a PhD in sociology - conducted a study on college students from across the United States - many of the sentiments being expressed in journals she had them submit. What's surprising about the findings you'll read about is that not everyone is thrilled about "the way things are" but they go along to get along - they play the games so as not to be ostracized. And, as it turns out, hooking up is not about love at all, but about "scoring" - a theme you'll see throughout the book. What I found especially helpful about the book is that even though I'm out of college, many of the very same pathologies the book describes still undergird club culture and anyone who's interested in getting laid, but not necessarily just for the sake of "doing it." Hookup culture, as described in the book, is mostly a debauched state of affairs in which women mostly are the patsies, (straight) men are the exploiters, and everything is a big farce. Even if you're out of school, you'll want to read this book to learn about just what's running through the heads of young adults now. It's nice to know that there's a contingent who think this "system" is silly, but they apparently are not in the majority, and no one has figured out a way to break up the game. American Hookup is a revelation. One can hope that this part of American culture - like many other aspects that have proven toxic in recent years - can be fixed.

When I started to read this book, I thought it would be an ESSENTIAL tool for soon-to-be college students. Now that I have finished this amazing collection of research and insight into hookup culture, I realize that it is an awareness that everyone needs to have. You will relive your college years, realize that young people are making many of the same mistakes as previous generations, yet under relentless peer pressure. Lisa Wade is right. In order for hookup culture to change, American culture needs change. I highly recommend this book!

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