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Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender, And The End Of Normal (Queer Ideas/Queer Action)



Synopsis

A roadmap to sex and gender for the twenty-first century, using Lady Gaga as a symbol for a new kind of feminism. Why are so many women single, so many men resisting marriage, and so many gays and lesbians having babies? In *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender, and the End of Normal*, J. Jack Halberstam answers these questions while attempting to make sense of the tectonic cultural shifts that have transformed gender and sexual politics in the last few decades. This colorful landscape is populated by symbols and phenomena as varied as pregnant men, late-life lesbians, SpongeBob SquarePants, and queer families. So how do we understand the dissonance between these real lived experiences and the heteronormative narratives that dominate popular media? We can embrace the chaos! With equal parts edge and wit, Halberstam reveals how these symbolic ruptures open a critical space to embrace new ways of conceptualizing sex, love, and marriage. Using Lady Gaga as a symbol for a new era, Halberstam deftly unpacks what the pop superstar symbolizes, to whom and why. The result is a provocative manifesto of creative mayhem, a roadmap to sex and gender for the twenty-first century, that holds Lady Gaga as an exemplar of a new kind of feminism that privileges gender and sexual fluidity. Part handbook, part guidebook, and part sex manual, *Gaga Feminism* is the first book to take seriously the collapse of heterosexuality and find signposts in the wreckage to a new and different way of doing sex and gender.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“Jack Halberstam—the king of feminism—has managed to make sense of pregnant men, Lady Gaga, gay marriage, and the advent of the bromance in this provocative and pleasurable romp through contemporary gender politics. *Gaga Feminism* is as fun as it is illuminating. Ariel Levy, author of *Female Chauvinist Pigs* and staff writer at the *New Yorker*—“Like the remixed and mashed cultures that produced her, Lady Gaga defies simple logics and explanations. Perhaps no scholar is better equipped to go there with Gaga than J. Jack Halberstam, whose work, like Gaga, resists categorization. If *Gaga Feminism* is a politics of free form and improvisation, Halberstam bravely lets loose the reins. Mark Anthony Neal, co-editor of *That’s the Joint: The Hip-Hop Studies Reader*—“In this important and spirited manifesto, Jack Halberstam’s signature wit, depth, and wide-ranging cultural appetites are on full display. Amid Halberstam’s stories about the many-gendered world we live in, this book gives us hope that we might move toward ever more liberated modes of living. Sara Marcus, author of *Girls to the Front: The True Story of the Riot Grrrl Revolution*—“Jack Halberstam’s wild, playful intelligence wreaks dazzling havoc on pop culture and feminism and gender—from butch fish to deadbeat dudes, marriage, hetero(in)flexibility, rom-coms, global capitalism, and, of course, Lady Gaga. Halberstam is the crier for and contributor to a gleeful anarchism that begins in the streets or the universities or maybe the television, and comes raging into our most intimate spheres. Michelle Tea, author of *Valencia*—”

J. Jack Halberstam is the author of four books, including *Female Masculinity* and *The Queer Art of Failure*. Currently a professor of American studies and of ethnicity and gender studies at the University of Southern California, Halberstam regularly speaks and writes on queer culture and gender issues and blogs at [BullyBloggers](#).

Although I don’t find it to have the same depth and fire as Halberstam’s earlier volume, *Female Masculinity*, this is a fun and thoughtful look at how Lady Gaga’s persona has impacted popular culture and what that means for people who want to expand the meaning of gender in our current cultural moment. The book is pretty firmly rooted in Halberstam’s personal gender journey, which certainly affects how the theory progresses, but there is plenty of subversive potential in this text for people all over the spectrum of gender presentations. If you are looking for more emphasis on queerness, I would recommend Halberstam’s other book, *In A Queer Time And Place*, over this

one, but for pop culture commentators and Gaga's "Little Monsters," this is a great look at the emerging icon and how her public self can help us rethink gender and the boundaries that surround it. Definitely worth a read.

a bit wishy washy and popular cultureish without the intellectualizing so a light read with too much fluff

No damage, great store!

One of my favorites books. Love everything about it.

Great book. Easy and wonderful read! Definitely would recommend.

This is an interesting read. I really enjoyed it until almost half-way through and felt that it went a bit gaga in a bad way in that I felt like it lost the plot a bit. Despite the conscious attempt to make the text accessible, which I appreciate, I would have liked a more polished argument. I'm also not sure that some of the ideas discussed are as revolutionary as they seem. Then again, I might just be a bit gaga-in-a-bad-way myself.

A quick read, and a fresh take on gender studies. I am not sure that everything Halberstam proposes is correct, but this work creates a lot of interesting discussion points, and in my opinion, that always makes for a great book.

EXTREMELY COOL THEORYS!

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