

Welcome to SASH Club Online!



Students Against
Sexual Harassment



SASH Club Online Workshop:

#MisogynyFreeSchools Zine Showcase

Students Against Sexual Harassment



Background

Students Against Sexual Harassment





What is a zine?

- Zines are **self-published** magazines or booklets.
- They're usually **DIY, creative**, and can be about **anything you care about**.
- Zines have **roots in activism**, feminism, and youth culture, used to raise awareness, build community, and inspire change.





Our Zine Focus: #MisogynyFreeSchools Campaign

- **#MisogynyFreeSchools** is a [campaign](#) started by **Stop Sexual Assault in Schools**, the organization that created SASH Club and SASH Club Online.
- The campaign combats the alarming **rise of misogyny, hostile sexism, and gender bias** that is impacting youth and shaping the next generation.





What is misogyny?

- **Misogyny =**
 - **Prejudice, dislike, or hostility** toward women and girls
 - Belief that women, girls, and gender queer people are **inferior, unequal,** or **undeserving** of respect
 - Attitudes or behaviors that **devalue, dismiss, or harm** them



Zine

Students Against Sexual Harassment





Resources

Students Against Sexual Harassment





New Article



[When Title IX Is Weaponized, How
Can We Protect Students?](#)
By Esther Warkov, Ph.D.
Stop Sexual Assault in Schools Cofounder



Power Topic - Misogyny and Male Supremacy: It's Not Just a Joke





Resources:

- [#MisogynyFreeSchools Campaign Website](#)
- [Webinar: Addressing the Rise and Impact of Misogyny Among Students in Grades 6-12](#)
- [Article: #MisogynyFreeSchools: A New Movement for Respect and Safety](#)



Connect with SASH Club

- Follow us on Instagram:
[@sashclub.online](#)
[@sashclubs](#)
[@ssaisorg](#)
- Reach out via email: sashclub@ssais.org
- [Sign up for SASH Club Online](#)
- Sign up for the [SASH Club newsletter](#)
- Learn more about starting a club: <https://sashclub.org/start-sash-club/>



Discussion

Students Against Sexual Harassment





Reflection

- What **stood out** to you from the zine? Why?
- What **messages** or **ideas** from the zine or the #MisogynyFreeSchools campaign feel important to you to share with others?





Discussion

- How can we use this zine to **raise awareness** or **create change** in our communities?
- What spaces, online or in person, could we **share the zine** to spark meaningful conversations?





Contributor Spotlight



If you submitted to the zine and want to talk about it,
we'd love **for you to share!**

- Optional Prompts:
 - What is your zine submission about?
 - What was it like putting your piece together?
 - What do you hope readers will take away?

Share only what feels comfortable.
You can pass or stay anonymous!



Closing Question



- What's **one** small, **concrete step** we could take this month to **amplify** the messages in the zine and **advocate** for #MisogynyFreeSchools?



Opportunity: Write a Blog Post About the Zine!

Share your reflections with others!

- You can **write a blog post** to share your thoughts, ideas, or favorite pages — even if you didn't submit to the zine!
 - What inspired you or stood out to you?
 - What did you learn or want others to know?
 - Any ideas for creating #MisogynyFreeSchools in your community?



Contact sashclub@ssais.org for more information!



Thank You!

*Thank you to all the
contributors who made this
zine possible!*

Tremendous gratitude to [Darko Dojcinovski](#) for bringing all the submissions together.

Thank
You

Thank You!

Contact Us:
sashclub@ssais.org

Students Against Sexual Harassment



WE
HAVE
THE
POWER

to Create

#MisogynyFreeSchools

A zine by SASH Club—Students Against Sexual Harassment



We Have the Power to Create #MisogynyFreeSchools

We Have the Power to Create #MisogynyFreeSchools raises awareness about the rise of misogyny and gender bias impacting youth and shaping the next generation. Let's learn, reflect, and make change, one person, one school, one community at a time. **We affirm the power of youth voices and intergenerational advocacy to create #MisogynyFreeSchools.**

Our zine is inspired by the [#Misogyny Free Schools™](#) movement, an initiative of [Stop Sexual Assault in Schools](#) (SSAIS). Explore the [#MisogynyFreeSchools webpages](#) for innovative resources, videos, and ways to get involved.

This zine is a project of SSAIS and its [SASH Club](#) program, Students Against Sexual Harassment. SASH Club provides free peer education resources to create clubs and build safety, equity, and respect, both on and off campus.

Select the images in the zine to access resources.

Misogyny leads to violence

Have you noticed that the atmosphere in schools is filled with judgment? That's what it's like when guys openly talk about how women should "stay in their place," "get back to the kitchen," or when someone says being gay is "unnatural."

I've heard guys say that feminism "went too far." That men are now "the real victims."

Meanwhile, it's the girls who are being harassed in the halls and LGBTQ+ kids still get bullied in and out of school.

When we call it out, we're told we're "overreacting" or "too sensitive."

No! We don't ignore it. We speak up! We push for teachers and students to challenge these narratives. We make sure our schools are safe for everyone.

If we don't stand up, these ideas won't just stay in middle and high school. They'll turn into violence.

I don't know about you, but I refuse to let that happen!

—Andrea on MisogynyFreeSchools playlist

Resource: [Misogyny and Male Supremacy: It's Not Just a Joke](#)

—SASH Club, Students Against Sexual Harassment

Beliefs and Terms Associated with Male Supremacy

Definition

Male supremacists believe that men are inherently entitled to women's love, attention, service, and labor. When male supremacists hear that these expectations are not being met, their reactions can be angry and/or violent.

Defining Male Supremacy

- > Male supremacy is the belief that cisgender men are naturally biologically and genetically superior to women, transgender men and nonbinary people.
- > Male supremacists believe that men's social, political, economic and legal dominance over women, transgender men and nonbinary people is justified and legitimate.



Is this the new school culture?

I want my son to be kind, confident, and respectful. But what is he learning from peers at school and influencers online?

That girls are objects.

That harassing girls and LGBTQ+ students is "just a joke." That showing emotions make him weak.

Is this the new school culture?

Fueled by toxic influencers, group chats, and silence from adults who should know better.

We need to talk to our boys about their social media feed, respect, equality, and consent.

As a parent, I won't let misogyny raise my child.

—Brendan M

Femmephobia

Misogyny isn't just about hating women and girls.

It's about hating femininity.

And that's why it not only harms girls, but it also harms LGBTQ+ youth.

There's a word for this in sociology: femmephobia.

It's the fear, devaluation, or hatred of anything seen as feminine, from clothing and voices to emotional expression and softness. So when a gay boy is bullied for "acting like a girl"...

Or a trans girl is excluded or harassed...

That's not just homophobia or transphobia. That's misogyny, too.

Because in a world built on patriarchal values, being feminine is seen as weak.

And anyone who embraces femininity, no matter their gender, gets punished for it. This is why intersectionality matters.

You can't fight misogyny without fighting for LGBTQ+ youth.

And you can't fight for equality if you still hate femininity.

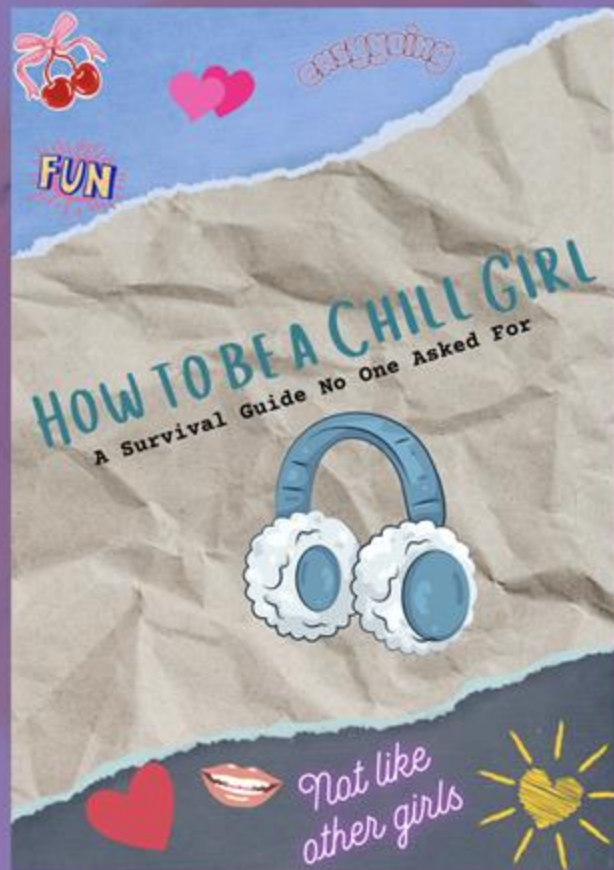
-- Kel



MISOGYNY FREE

I WANTED TO SHOW HOW MISOGYNY IMPACTS SO MANY PARTS OF BEING A STUDENT, FROM THE CARPOOL TO THE CLASSROOM, FROM THE LUNCH TABLE TO THE FIELD, FROM SCHOOL EVENTS TO SOCIAL MEDIA.

—ARIELLA





reality CHECK

The "Chill Girl" is built through men's expectations and women's socialization to please them. She exists to be comfortable for men, not authentic for herself. Misogyny creates and rewards this image because it keeps women's behavior within boundaries that serve male comfort and control. The "chill girl" isn't empowerment. She's patriarchy's PR makeover. She's what misogyny looks like when it smiles and says, "I'm fine."



DECONSTRUCTING CHILL

I AM DONE BEING CHILL.

I WANT TO FEEL HEAT.

I WANT TO BE

LOUD,

ANGRY,

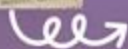
TENDER,

MESSY.

HUMAN.

THE OPPOSITE OF CHILL ISN'T CRAZY.

IT'S ALIVE.



hang on...
THAT DOESN'T
SEEM RIGHT

BRING THE HEAT
fight misogyny

—Jane

Dating in the Face of Misogyny

Dating in this day and age isn't just about chemistry: **it's about safety.** Because with so many men consuming misogynistic content, dating today means asking: Is this person safe? Do they actually respect women?

So you get strategic.

You casually ask what kind of media they like.
Joe Rogan? Caution.
Andrew Tate? Absolutely not.

Then you scroll their Instagram.
Who are they following? Is it full of misogynistic creators?
That's not just a preference; that's a preview of how they see you.

Pay attention to the "jokes."
The ones they say just to see if you'll laugh.
The weird reaction when someone mentions a political topic.
That's not harmless. That's them testing your boundaries.

Ask the real questions:
Do they have women in their lives they actually respect?
What do they think about a woman's right to choose?
Do they believe in human rights, or just their own comfort?

Dating now is about being alert.
You're protecting yourself in a world that still makes
misogyny look like a personality trait.

—Bella B.



Who's responsible?

In our elementary school, boys are targeting girls with aggressive verbal threats and unwanted physical contact. My daughter was punched in her private parts in kindergarten. During a game at recess, an older boy yelled "I'll get you, bitch" at girls and threatened others saying, "I'll touch you later!" Boys intimidate girls screaming "F** you!" My daughter has missed school because she feels unsafe and distracted in class. She's not alone.

B*T%#H!
F*cK Y%?!
:S %*#@!



It seems girls are now responsible for creating boundaries when the school district should have addressed its long history of gender-based discrimination and sexual harassment. So my daughter and I are practicing responses to these attacks like, "We wish we could play with you, but we don't feel safe," and "I don't feel comfortable answering you because there isn't an answer that feels safe." We need schools to step in to protect girls, and we also need the boys to get counseling and learn respectful behavior towards all students.

To make change, we need to unite and advocate together.

—Anonymous parent

**GIRL
POWER**

Protecting Girls by Policing Them

A major reason schools put dress codes in place is for the "safety" of their students, particularly their female students. And yet, there's no proven relationship between clothing and assault. Girls and women and even toddlers get catcalled, harassed, groped, or raped in everything from bikinis to burqas. The onus shouldn't be on girls to control male behavior. And if schools are so concerned about protecting girls, why do so many of them not only fail to properly report but also make it difficult for students to come forward when incidents of sexual harassment and violence occur? By the end of high school 90 percent of girls have experienced sexual harassment at least once. Surely not all of them were violating dress codes—and if they were, does it mean it's their fault?

By focusing on girls' bodies instead of their minds, we're teaching them their naturally developing bodies are shameful and require covering up. This is particularly true for curvier girls and girls of color, who receive dress code violations far more often. Black girls in particular are unfairly targeted for their bodies, attire, and hair. We're teaching girls even at school that they can't escape having their bodies sexualized. Children want to be seen for their developing intellects, not their developing bodies. Maybe schools worry that if they risk letting girls feel smart, they'll speak out against absurd policies.

Toolkits:

Can Dress Codes Harm Students?

How to Reform or Abolish School Dress Codes

—Jo-Ann Finkelstein, Ph.D.

Excerpted from *Sexism and Sensibility*

www.joannfinkelstein.com

Sasha hurries getting her stuff together at her locker, trying to avoid Nick between classes. But just as she's adjusting the lock, Sasha feels it: SNAP! Nick has snapped her bra strap again! He cackles. Sasha hides her irritation as she walks to class. The bra-snapping has already happened several times. Sasha is unsure about reporting these incidents.

Any type of unwanted touching, whether it's a hug or pulling a girl's bra, is sexual harassment. When the adults fail to protect students, it has lasting effects on the victim and the harasser. Ignoring sexual harassment sends a message that it's acceptable to treat students this way.



Unprotected,
Anxious,
and Unsure

SNAP!

sexual gestures, sounds, catcalls
sexual comments, jokes, rumors
written sexual messages
showing or sharing sexual photos, illustrations
asking for sexual photos
unwanted pressure for dates or sexual favors
listed in "slam books" or "slut pages"
online posts with students' names and sexual comments

"flashed," "mooned," touched, grabbed, or
pinched in a sexual way
clothing pulled off or down, "panting"
brushed up against by someone in a sexual way
blocked or cornered in a sexual way
forced to kiss or hug someone
forced to watch someone touch or display their
own genitals
hazing

—Tanya G., a college student in France

Tanya *Playlist* on SSAIS YouTube



Content warning for
rough language and
abhorrent behavior!



The Andrew Tate Effect: Abuse of Female Students and Teachers

Female teachers are being sworn at, sexually harassed and physically threatened in high schools by male students.

These young men are under the thrall of Andrew Tate and other online influencers and are taking his misogynist ideas into the classroom.

Why have these so-called "menfluencers" taken hold? And what can parents do to push back against this toxic content?

Dr. Stephanie Westcott is a former teacher turned researcher who has studied Andrew Tate's impact on teens. She joins Bec Sparrow alongside a teacher who shares what's really going on in your child's classroom.

The advice in this podcast is general and does not consider your personal situation. If you require further advice specific to your needs, please consult a professional.

Guest: Dr. Stephanie Westcott

**Male student to teacher
microaggression after
being reprimanded:
"You're emotional, are
you on your period?"**

Listen here:

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/parental-as-everything-with-maggie-dent/rise-of-andrew-tate-influence-in-teenagers/103990906>

—Submitted by a teacher who experienced sexual harassment and objectification.



Intimidating girls and teachers in Australia

In this study:

Another teacher told us

Boys are increasingly using misogynistic language towards female students and teachers, telling them to 'make me a sandwich' (a well-known misogynist insult).

Other respondents noted the use of terms such as 'dude' and describing women as 'repulsive'. They also reported male students making sexual noises ('moaning or harking') or making offensive gestures ('grabbing their genitals and making other male gestures') at girls and women in the school.

One primary school teacher described how several students in her Year 1 class have been making 'sex sounds' to herself a co-teacher and other students.



The behavior can be physical, teachers say.

"...male students are working in groups to physically intimidate their female teachers and peers. This includes corralling girls/women into corners, out of sight of male staff.

"...male students will walk 'quickly behind female teachers to rush them down stairs'. Another high school teacher said she had noticed a trend of male students invading her personal space.

'entering my classroom at break time/ coming up to my car window and pointing for me to wind it down to just stand there or getting their friends to call out my name when I walk past. They do this when I am alone and there are no witnesses.'

'But I know these behaviours are intended to be intimidating and to make me uneasy. I find it disconcerting that by the age of 14 or 15 they know how to use their presence to menace [...] if they are behaving like this with me, what are they like with young women their own age or the women in their families?'

'I know I shouldn't let it affect me but it is draining and I have anxiety and dread going to class.'

<https://theconversation.com/make-me-a-sandwich-our-surveys-disturbing-picture-of-how-some-boys-treat-their-teachers-228891>

Dressin' slutty, degrading and dehumanizing girls



You're at a party and overhear Miles and Jake commenting on Angela's outfit:

"She's asking for trouble dressin' slutty."

"Yeah, she's such a ho."

They're normalizing treating Angela like a sexual object, dehumanizing her. Objectifying and dehumanizing people create an environment known as "rape culture" where sexual violence is considered normal and excused.

People who hear Miles and James may think that those two are OK with degrading and harassing girls. When they act like this, Miles and James contribute to rape culture and harm themselves and others. They probably don't even know why they think this way about girls, women, or gender queer people.

Sexist comments and "jokes" influence how people act toward girls and reinforce rape culture. When you hear such comments or see harassing behavior, speak up. Guys, learn about healthy masculinity and do your part to call out sexism and misogyny.



-Tanya, a college student in France.

Watch Tanya's reel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGkX1pZabE&list=PLZuMkLHy5g-Faw16_insCr-mdtQt3m6t_1&index=12

Not a Punchline: Misogynistic
Humor Has Consequences

Sexist humor

is not harmless



*It shapes how people
think, speak, and
act.
Every joke told at
her expense teaches
the audience
something—
what kind of harm
doesn't matter,
who doesn't deserve
empathy,
and which violence
can be laughed away*



NOT

A

PUNCHLINE



Misogynistic humor has
real consequences



Sexist humor is
propaganda with a
punchline.

We normalize what we
laugh at

Laughter becomes
permission.
Silence becomes
complicity.



ha
ha
ha



research shows

In a lab study, men who listened to sexist jokes reported higher levels of rape proclivity and victim blaming. Some even said acquaintance rape was "less serious."
(Viki et al., 2007)



"College students who enjoyed sexist jokes were found to have more aggressive tendencies—sexual, physical, and sexual-toward women."
— Ryan & Kanjorski, 1997

"Exposure to sexist humor significantly increased tolerance for discriminatory actions in male participants who exhibited high levels of hostile sexism."

— Ford & Ferguson, 2004

Women who are exposed to sexist humor also exhibit higher levels of acceptance of interpersonal violence, suggesting that women's exposure to sexist humor can lead to internalized misogyny. This can cause women to accept harmful gender stereotypes and the normalization of violence against women.

What we can do

1. CALL IT OUT

When someone hides behind "just a joke," ask who's laughing and who's being hurt.

Silence is approval; interruption is resistance.

2. REWRITE THE SCRIPT.

Share humor that punches up, not down. Support comedians and creators who use laughter to expose sexism, not excuse it.

3. EDUCATE & UNLEARN.

Talk about how humor shapes attitudes. Show your friends the research.

4. STAND WITH SURVIVORS.

Believe them. Amplify them. Refuse to let their stories be reduced to punchlines.

5. BUILD NEW CULTURE.

Create spaces — online, in schools, in art — where laughter is a language of care, not cruelty.

**The next time
someone says
“It’s just a joke”**

REMEMBER! →



humor creates culture

and we create humor!

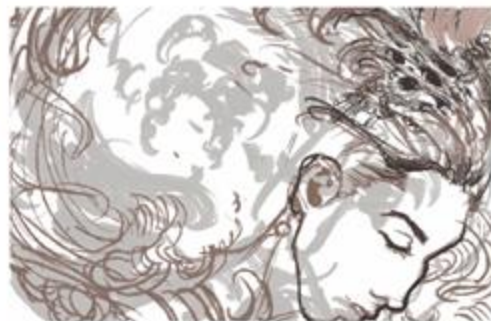
—Daniel,
Alumni of Jordan High School SASH Club

I wrote a research paper last year on sexist humor and its contribution to rape culture. I hope to share the message that academic research exists demonstrating that sexist humor is not harmless.

Consider Me



Lead the way, My Butterfly



I was inspired by women around me and my own experiences as a teenager. I hope to bring awareness to the process of healing and actively making a difference by standing up for what you believe in. In this piece specifically, I was thinking about how women encounter similar experiences regarding misogyny and disrespect from men. Kindness doesn't cost anything, but it means everything.

-Anonymous, [wr.sashclub](#)

TOOLING UP AGAINST MISOGYNY IN SCHOOLS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER

by Ayanna De'Vante Maddox, Ph.D.

"A preschool teacher friend shared a surprising story about a four-year-old in their school. A boy began running down the hall, yelling, 'You're such a b---!' at another preschool girl before continuing down the hall laughing. I was stunned to hear that this happened between preschoolers.

Researchers find that young people are taught misogynistic language and behavior at an early age at home and online... Much of this rhetoric can be attributed to the rise of the 'manosphere'... detailed in a recent report Not Just a Joke: Understanding & Preventing Gender and Sexuality-Based Rigority: 'The dialogue within these online spaces has helped reshape how young men see and understand issues related to gender, sexual consent, perceived injustice, and who is to blame for their personal problems and grievances. Conversations within the manosphere also harm boys and young men, preying on low self-esteem, mental health vulnerabilities and still-developing perceptions of self.'

As a millennial woman...I am deeply concerned that younger generations are not only facing the long legacy of misogyny in schools but also more incidents and increasingly violent encounters with it."

Take action with:

- [Addressing the Rise and Impact of Misogyny Among Students in Grades 6-12](#)
- ["Misogyny and Male Supremacy: It's Not a Joke"](#)
- [#MisogynyFreeSchools](#) campaign



It happened to **Taylor Swift**. Teachers are victims of misogyny too.



Angela Tipton was disgusted when she heard that her students were circulating a lewd image around their middle school. What made it far worse was seeing that the picture had her face on someone else's naked body.

For Tipton, a classroom teacher for 20 years who lives in Indianapolis, the incident with an AI-generated deepfake drove her to change jobs. She now works with an alternative program within her city's public school system that lets her help students one-on-one or in small groups.

"The way it impacted my career is indescribable," Tipton said of the picture in an interview. "I don't know if I'll ever be able to stand in front of a classroom in Indianapolis again."

Schools can also raise discipline incidents through Title IX, the federal law banning sex discrimination in education programs, said Esther Wacker, the executive director and co-founder of the nonprofit Stop Sexual Assault in Schools.

"This points to a larger need, which is to ensure that [a school district's] Title IX procedures are properly in place," Wacker said. "Many school districts may not identify this problem as a potential Title IX issue."

<https://www.politico.com/news/2024/05/28/ai-deepfake-nudes-schools-states-00160183>



I'M NOT BUYING WHAT THEY'RE SELLING!



What's the allure?

- Presenters are worldly, successful, confident, authoritative, engaging
- Recommend real self-improvement advice
- Frame success and masculinity in simple terms
- Offer a sense of identity and belonging
- Appeal to feelings of frustration, insecurity, rejection



Why 'manosphere'
content is appealing to
some young men



Ask before buying:

- Fact or opinion?
- Generalizations about all girls and women?
- "Us versus Them" approach?
- Oversimplified arguments about biology or behavior?
- Makes me feel better about myself, or angry and resentful?
- What other voices could I listen to?

#MisogynyFreeSchools

#MisogynyFreeSchools™ combats the alarming rise of misogyny, hostile sexism, and gender bias impacting youth and shaping the next generation. #MisogynyFreeSchools is here to disrupt the cycle. Are you in? ([click links](#))

It's not just a joke! From microaggressions to blatant sexism, girls, gender expansive youth, and males—including young children, school staff, and perpetrators—are all victims of harmful beliefs and behaviors.

Why Now?

- Gender-based harassment is spreading widely in schools.
- Girls and gender-diverse students feel unsafe, silenced, and demeaned.
- Boys absorb and spread harmful stereotypes from the manosphere.
- Schools lack clear strategies to address destructive behaviors.

Campaign Aims

- Empower all stakeholders to take action with a wide range of resources
- Support teachers and school staff with practical strategies
- Involve students, families, and organizations to create positive change
- Help ignite a global movement to combat misogyny and gender bias in schools

Join the Campaign ([click links](#))

- Visit our [Take Action](#) page
- Share [toolkits and presentations](#)
- Download [campaign media](#)
- Watch videos on our [playlist](#)
- Share [stories](#)
- Contribute [resources](#), blogs, reels, stories, and creative projects
- Bring the campaign to your community and school [clubs](#)



A campaign of Stop Sexual
Assault in Schools

Take a Stand!

Together we can create
#MisogynyFreeSchools



My Dream School

In my schoolyard,
silence weighs heavier than screams.
Girls lower their eyes,
not out of shyness,
but from the exhaustion of having to
defend themselves.

They are taught to stay quiet,
to dress "appropriately,"
to avoid narrow hallways,
lingering stares,
and words that carry too much weight.

But I dream of a school
where girls walk with pride,
where boys listen,
where teachers protect,
where walls do not hide injustice.

I dream of a school
where respect is not optional,
where equity is the rule,
where we learn to unlearn violence.

I dream of a school
where every voice matters,
where everybody is safe,
where every dream can grow.

-Souleymane Sayoré, Team Leader Project "Filles Saines
et Conscientes," Organization: Youth in Action for
Development, Burkina Faso



When young people get
informed, stereotypes
crumble



-Souleymane Sayoré
Country: Burkina Faso
Organization: Youth in Action for Development



Smart Sons, Pretty Daughters

Parents are two and a half times more likely to ask Google "Is my son gifted?" than "Is my daughter gifted?" and twice as likely to search "Is my daughter overweight?" Though it may not be conscious, the belief that boys should be smart and girls should be pretty runs deep. The New York Times explains, "It's not that parents don't want their daughters to be bright or their sons to be in shape, but they are much more focused on the braininess of their sons and the waistlines of their daughters."

Still, across the globe, parents estimate their sons have significantly higher IQs than their daughters, despite there being no actual difference. One of the girls I see in therapy said, "It's weird. I always thought my brothers were smarter even though I got the higher grades." One in three girls with a grade point average above 4.0 do not think they are smart enough for their dream career!

Excerpted from *Sexism and Sensibility*

—Jo-Ann Finkelstein, Ph.D.

Google

Is my son gifted?

X

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Is my daughter
overweight?

X

Google Search

www.joannfinkelstein.com

The Love and the Fear



Love and fear, they were the two things that always stuck with a person. Cassy loved Jacob, but at the same time, she feared him. Their relationship had been happy, at least she thought it was. They had started talking on Valentine's Day when Jacob asked for her number. They had gone on plenty of dates over the summer, but Cassy had always had a strange feeling about Jacob.

At first she thought it was because she was nervous about someone liking her, but when the feeling didn't fade with time, it started to scare her more, he started to scare her more. When school started again, it got worse. He started following her around, not walking her kindly from place to place like a boyfriend would, but following her. She wouldn't have even noticed it unless her friend had pointed it out to her when they had been walking home together.

Jacob had started sending her cryptic and obsessive texts and leaving deranged letters in her mailbox. The letters scared her most because they didn't have stamps on them, meaning he would have had to hand-deliver them to her house.

By September, Cassy's friend had been begging her to break up with Jacob; they saw how much his presence in her life had been affecting her; she had stopped eating, stopped sleeping, and she was flighty and always on edge.

She broke up with him before October, but that didn't stop the fear. She held on to some of the things he had given her when they had been together, as much as she feared him, she loved him and didn't want to lose every piece of him she had.

One of the things she kept was a small doll that he had given her when they went on her first date. It was a small thing, made to be a large keychain. It was weird, it had large eyes that would glisten in the light, and its face looked oddly perceptive, like it was watching her at all times. But no matter the oddity of the thing, Cassy kept it to remind her of their relationship before it went bad. Her parents, however, disagreed with her keeping the memento; they thought it would keep her from recovering from the emotionally draining relationship. They eventually convinced her not to get rid of it, but to hide it in storage so that it wasn't a visible reminder of the relationship. At first, she put it in a drawer that she kept all her precious things in, but somehow it ended up sitting propped up on her bed. She tried to put it in her closet a few weeks later, but it, again, ended up on her bed, looking at her when she entered the room. For the majority of October, she tried in vain to put it in places around the house, but it always ended up on her bed, waiting for her to come and hold it to her chest, reminiscing about the dream-like beginning of her relationship with Jacob.



On Halloween night, Cassy always spent at home alone; she would hand out candy while her parents went out to a Halloween party. That week, Cassy had put the doll in the family's safe; it hadn't reappeared in her bed that week, and she was glad for the lock on the safe. She was returning to the living room after refilling the candy bucket when she froze. There on the couch, waiting as always for her return, was the doll. Its eyes glistened in the low light of the fireplace, almost twinkling with mischief. She walked towards the doll and picked it up gently before throwing it into the fire.

The fabric of the doll burned off to reveal a mechanical inside. There were two cameras behind the melting eyes. Cassy stepped back, looking at the burning spy device. She stood there watching it burn. Soon, the fabric and plastic were gone, and only the camera eyes remained, still staring expectantly at her. Long, lanky arms wrapped around her, and a spindly hand smothered her scream. Cassy kicked and struggled, but she was unprepared for Jacob. He picked her up, using his height as an advantage.

Later, when the cops had long given up looking for her, the last pieces of Cassy that could be found were the hours and hours of video from the doll; they had been directly sent to the cloud and had recorded up until they had burned apart. They captured the fear in Cassy's eyes as she was dragged away by Jacob, who had nothing but love in his eyes.

—Ash

"I had to write a short story for a class that I considered 'creepy' or 'scary'. So I decided on making a short story about someone dealing with a toxic relationship and also dealing with their own mixed emotions. In the story the main character deals with their feelings of still being in love with a person while also fearing them. The toxic character in the story is loosely based on someone from my own life that I had to deal with, so I was able to put a lot of myself into the story."



No Means No



It's a poem about saying "no." I got inspired by some of the research from my senior project and flowers. I love flowers. My favorite scent is a floral scent from Bed Bath & Beyond. I love poems and it's been a long minute since I sat down and created something. -Sophia

What Makes Up Misogyny



I have an autistic daughter that has suffered as a result of what has happened to her brother. I want to protect others from experiencing the same. -Christina



The Mental Load of Objectification

We live in a world obsessed with girls' appearances and sexuality. This affects not only how girls feel about their bodies, but also their ability to think. Girls feel constantly on display and gradually they internalize those objectifying gazes themselves. They begin to evaluate their bodies as an observer might. In other words, being objectified by others turns into objectifying yourself. Studies find that girls who self-objectify have more difficulty with cognitive tasks because self-objectification steals your cognitive resources which makes it difficult to get into the flow states necessary for performance and achievement. If you compliment a girl, you'll improve her mood but impair her mental capacity. Same with dress-coding her. Same with scanning her body. It's worth wondering how often attention is called to a girl's body comment right before an important test or piano recital. Girls are outperforming boys in school right now which is amazing given the mental gymnastics they have to do to focus on what matters while they're in school.

— Jo-Ann Finkelstein, Ph.D.

Excerpted from *Sexism and Sensibility*

www.joannfinkelstein.com

Finding freedom from gender stereotypes

**FABRIE
WINGS**

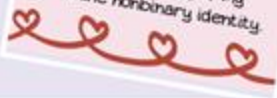


**AND
OTHER
ADULT
THINGS**

Preface:

As a result, I lost the last few years of childhood in a haze of binary-ness. However, even though I am almost of age now, I am making up for lost time. I am allowing myself to just be.

And these poems are the story of my lost childhood and the claiming of my feminine nonbinary identity.



Preface:

In my years since coming out as nonbinary, I still am a woman in a cultural sense. I present fully feminine and I live the feminine experience. However, I didn't understand I could be both nonbinary and feminine as a tween.



Glass on the Gold Leaves of My Childhood Home

When did we stop being
fairies wandering the woods,
playing with barbies and telling tales?

When was the climatic moment
when everything around us
broke open

and the window separating
our world from the beast
shattered on the floors
of our childhood homes?



Ribboned Wishes

When I wore a white ribbon in my braided hair,
I wanted flowers, a veil, a daughter named Sage
I prayed every night
to become a beautiful wife to a handsome man
to become like the women I'd seen who lived to serve

When my ribbon turned red, still in braided hair,
I wanted hope, a hug, a grace of sorts
I prayed every night
to become a beautiful butterfly to a younger me
to become like the women I'd seen who survived

As my ribbon turns black, in short braided hair,
I want to run free in the bushes like I used to
I pray to still look pretty, to be in love, but also
to become who I secretly wanted to be
to become more like me



Always Bring Enough Poise Dust to Fly

And so, one must, always carry
a bit of faith, trust, and poise dust
when they cross from Neverland to the Real World

Growing up in Gardens

I spent my summer days
whittling stick dolls
eating strawberries off the vine
skipping stones off the lake

Now my summer days are spent
burning hearts into the wood for birdhouses
staining my hands as I share my berries with friends
carrying stones with luck painted on them

I may be older,
my hair turned dark with soil,
my clothes covered in sunburns up
my skin marked with cuts from the garden,
but I am still God's child



Sweet and Sinner

As I came of age,
I learned to harbor venom in my looks
I learned to hide scars in protective jackets
I learned to never smile at a man

I learned what every girl must

Now, I peel back the fishnets and dark eyeshadow
to find a porcelain girl, fragile as I was
the day I learned what it means to be a queer kid
in a state made of dysphoria

In my new home, nestled in the mountains,
I harbor the porcelain girl
until she learns that this new home is softer

As I come of age,
I learn that being kinder makes me feel sweeter
I learn that sometimes it's good not to hide scars
I learn that smiles can change a person's life

I learn that it should not be a must
for a girl to learn how to fend off beasts



End Note:

I am still blooming.
I am still fighting.
I am still trying my best to be me.



—Grey, they/them

COMMUNITY SERVICE

remember to REST
sometimes too

ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE

DO YOUR PART

MUTUAL AID

find something
to do and do it

WWW.GIRLSLEARN.ORG



[illegible]