

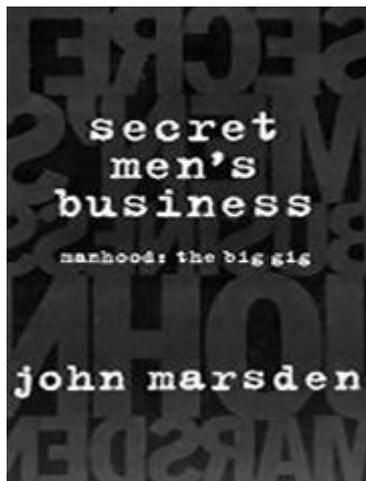
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Book Reviews: Secret Men's Business

Manhood: The Big Gig

Reviewed by Col Eglington

Article appeared in Polare magazine: September 1999 Last Update: October 2013 Last Reviewed: September 2015



Secret Men's Business:
Manhood "The Big Gig" (1998)
Author: John Marsden.

Secret Men's Business: Manhood 'The Big Gig'

by John Marsden
Published by Pan McMillan (1998)
I.S.B.N.-13 978 0330360746

[Secret Men's Business] is aimed at adolescent boys but is very useful for us F.T.M. trying to sort it all out.

This book is a good easy read on how to be a functioning adult male. It's aimed at adolescent boys but is very useful for us F.T.M. trying to sort it all out. It gives us a look at what transitioning to manhood would be like for a boy and the issues facing them and us. I found I could relate to many of the fears, lack of experience and confusions felt by the youth that are mentioned.

John Marsden's writing style is single, clear, absorbing and non-judgmental.

For boys trying to work out what manhood is about, this book is a good common sense starting point. It covers appropriate and inappropriate behaviours at a very practical level. It's not about where and how to buy a suit, it's about how to be a responsible and emotionally mature man.

The topics covered include how to separate physically and emotionally from our parents; the lies young people are told about life; what becoming a man is really all about; drugs; puberty; sex (it positively acknowledges gay sexuality); girls and women and solving your

problems.

A very interesting section is on boys' relationships with their fathers, the need for a positive one, what you can do if you don't have a father to learn from and rely on and how to cope and fill that gap.

Polare Magazine is published quarterly in Australia by The Gender Centre Inc., which is funded by the Department of Family & Community Services under the S.A.A.P. program and supported by the N.S.W. Health Department through the AIDS and Infectious Diseases Branch. Polare provides a forum for discussion and debate on gender issues. Unsolicited contributions are welcome, the editor reserves the right to edit such contributions without notification. Any submission which appears in Polare may be published on our internet site. Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, The Gender Centre Inc., the Department of Family & Community Services or the N.S.W. Department of Health.

The Gender Centre is committed to developing and providing services and activities, which enhance the ability of people with gender issues to make informed choices. We offer a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, family members and friends in New South Wales. We are an accommodation service and also act as an education, support, training and referral resource centre to other organisations and service providers. The Gender Centre is committed to educating the public and service providers about the needs of people with gender issues. We specifically aim to provide a high quality service, which acknowledges human rights and ensures respect and confidentiality.