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Wild Things: The Art Of Nurturing Boys



Synopsis

Playing off the themes in the Caldecott Medal-winning children's book *Where the Wild Things Are*, this informative, practical, and encouraging guide will help parents guide boys down the path to healthy and authentic manhood. *Wild Things* addresses the physical, emotional, and spiritual parts of a boy, written by two therapists who are currently engaged in clinical work with boys and their parents and who are also fathers raising five sons. Contains chapters such as "Sit Still! Pay Attention!", "Deficits and Disappointments," and "Rituals, Ceremonies, and Rites of Passage."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I've read a bunch of parenting books - but, I must say that this one is one of my faves. When I read it, I don't feel like I'm wasting my time with a bunch of fluff. There are great sections on practical areas such as developmental stages, learning, relationships, discipline and more. The book is big - 340 pages - but it is well worth reading all the way through.

Section One: The Way of a Boy In this section, James and Thomas describe the different developmental stages that a boy goes through. And they give helpful tips for parents at the end of each description.

Section Two: The Mind of a Boy The first part of this section reviews what a boy's mind is like physiologically, and the theoretical implications of that. It basically puts forth that boys are typically spatial, problem-solving, and may struggle in the schoolroom environment for various reasons.

Section Three: The Heart of a Boy This final section of the book is divided up into 4 chapters: *Nurturing a Boy's Heart*, *A Boy and his Mother*, *A Boy and his Father*, and *Rituals, Ceremonies, and Rites of Passage*. The book then ends

with a few pages on hot-button topics such as: sex, drugs, porno, ADD, etc..Near the beginning of this section, they say,"No guy makes it past seventeen or eighteen without receiving his fair share of dings to his manhood - and that's if he's lucky. By the time most guys get their driver's license, they have already experienced enough emotional and spiritual fender benders that their hearts are dented for years to come...When a guy's heart has been wounded, the results are significant: Self-protection, distrust of others, suspicion of God, and fervent reliance on the four horsemen of self-sufficiency: training, talent, intellect, and willpower.

In the classic children's story *Where the Wild Things Are*, little Max goes through the life journey of a boy in one night. In this book, authors Steven James and David Thomas describe the steps a parent must take to help nurture a son into the best man his nature allows him to be. They follow the general path all boys take from Wanderer toddler to Warrior man, giving mothers, fathers, and caregivers suggestions on what will probably happen, good ways to respond, and lots of "This too shall pass" assurances. These family therapists draw heavily on the "Love and Logic" parenting camp and rely heavily on anecdotal evidence for their work. Though they are Christian therapists, anyone who has some kind of religious belief can draw good suggestions from their writings (atheists, you'll just have to skip over any mentions of God-the book is helpful enough to do so). They are somewhat understanding in discussing homosexuality, but for the most part, eschew the topic. With that, their discussions of masturbation and pornography, I'm sure there are plenty of people who will dislike this book, either because they are too conservative or too liberal. I think for a general parenting book, they struck a good balance. But, they also make so many points throughout the book to take what works for your son and ignore what doesn't, it doesn't feel like any of their suggestions on these topics need to be followed like dictates anyways. Their descriptions of how boys act are general enough for me to see both my 5 year old autistic son in their descriptions, and my boyfriend's normal 7 year old. But these general descriptions are also specific enough for me to find good suggestions for interacting with both boys. I was appreciative of their chapter on boys and their mothers.

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