



## Men in the Middle: Searching for Masculinity in the 1950s

By James Gilbert

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**Men in the Middle: Searching for Masculinity in the 1950s** By James Gilbert

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In *Men in the Middle*, James Gilbert uncovers a fascinating and extensive body of literature that confronts the problems and possibilities of expressing masculinity in the 1950s. Drawing on the biographies of men who explored manhood either in their writings or in their public personas, Gilbert examines the stories of several of the most important figures of the day-revivalist Billy Graham, playwright Tennessee Williams, sociologist David Riesman, sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, Playboy literary editor Auguste Comte Spector, and TV-sitcom dad Ozzie Nelson-and allows us to see beyond the inherited stereotypes of the time. Each of these stories, in Gilbert's hands, adds crucial dimensions to our understanding of masculinity the 1950s. No longer will this era be seen solely in terms of the conformist man in the gray flannel suit or the Marlboro Man.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"In *Men in the Middle*, James Gilbert looks at an array of cultural figures and material from the 1950s that, as a whole, offers an exciting and entertaining illustration of the diversity of public images of masculinity during this period. This boldly revisionist study challenges the popular view that a 'crisis of masculinity' provoked by an increasingly 'feminized' culture constituted, for men, the decade's dominant theme. I warmly recommend this astute and pleasurable new interpretation of an often misunderstood period of postwar American life."

(Paul S. Boyer *Paul S. Boyer* 2004-10-11)

"Informative, entertaining, and overdue, Jim Gilbert's study of masculinity in the 1950s provides an important counterweight to our limited picture of cold war gender roles. Women may have been trapped in Betty Friedan's *Feminine Mystique*, but Gilbert returns us to *The Lonely Crowd* and 1950s fears that men, caught between John Wayne, Ozzie Nelson, and James Dean, faced their own definitional conundrums. In this carefully drawn study of the many masculine icons available to men in the 1950s, he quietly reminds us that most people get along and do just fine—and that stories of crises often make better copy than historical truth."

(Sharon Ullman *Sharon Ullman* 2005-02-24)

"Focusing on several iconic, yet under-appreciated, 50s-era figures, James Gilbert provides a timely corrective to the nostalgia-tainted stereotypes of mid-century masculinity. As confused as they were conformist, as restive as they were resigned to a bland suburban life, they were truly men in the middle. Something was happening, as Dylan would sing, and many of these Mr. Joneses knew just what it was."

(Michael Kimmel *Michael Kimmel* 2005-02-24)

"There is much to appreciate here, including a thoughtful analysis of the literature on the 'crisis' of masculinity in American history and some rich details about the debates over postwar conformity and mass culture."

(Stephanie Coontz *American Historical Review*)

#### From the Inside Flap

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About the Author

**James Gilbert** is professor of history at the University of Maryland. He is the author of nine books, including *Perfect Cities* and *Redeeming Culture*, both published by the University of Chicago Press.

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Now a day people who Living in the era just where everything reachable by talk with the internet and the resources within it can be true or not require people to be aware of each info they get. How people have to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Looking at a book can help men and women out of this uncertainty Information especially this Men in the Middle: Searching for Masculinity in the 1950s book because book offers you rich information and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred per cent guarantees there is no doubt in it as you know.

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This book untitled Men in the Middle: Searching for Masculinity in the 1950s to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, that's because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book retailer or you can order it by way of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason for you to past this e-book from your list.

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