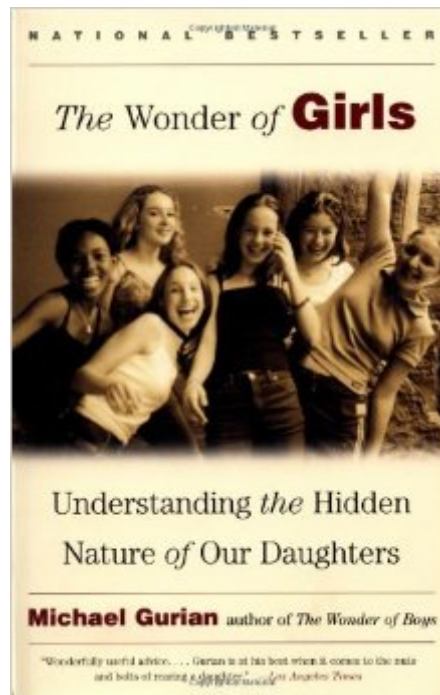


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# The Wonder Of Girls: Understanding The Hidden Nature Of Our Daughters



## Synopsis

A revolutionary approach to raising girls that combines groundbreaking research with practical parenting advice. In *The Wonder of Girls*, as in its predecessor, *The Wonder of Boys*, Michael Gurian presents radical and enlightening views of parenting. Using as his springboard up-to-date scientific research on female biology, hormones, and brain development and how they shape girls' interests, behavior, and relationships, Gurian offers crucial information for fully understanding girls' basic nature. As such *The Wonder of Girls* is essential "and riveting" reading for anyone involved in raising daughters. In a culture caught between traditionalism and feminism, Gurian, himself the father of two girls, debunks long-standing myths about girls and presents a new vision that provides for the equal status of girls and women, yet acknowledges their nature as complex and distinct from men. He explains what is "normal" for girls each year from birth to age twenty; what developmental needs they face in each stage; and how to cope with developmental crises such as early sexuality, eating disorders, parental divorce, and more. With his scientifically based developmental map of girlhood, Gurian helps parents to get to know their daughters from the inside out. Challenging our culture to embrace this crucial piece of the puzzle, *The Wonder of Girls* elevates the dialogue on parenthood.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I wasn't exactly thrilled to be reading a book called *The Wonder of Girls* - especially as it's written by a chap - novelist, poet, neurobiological researcher, psychologist, husband & father of two

girls notwithstanding! I was dreading it would be either incomprehensibly technical or a sappy, feel-good read. I should have known better because I had already reviewed Michael Gurian's *A Fine Young Man* & had found this author to be personable, charmingly thoughtful & invaluablely informative. Through research, memories, poems, letters, family moments & professional cases Michael Gurian sets out to inform us *Why Girls Are the Way They Are*. In his simple, direct & pleasant way he starts at the beginning of the search for A New Logic of Girls' Lives. He presents precisely & calmly that it is time for Feminists to grow up & become Womanists. As an erstwhile rabid Feminist, I have long since outgrown its angst. In *Looking Beyond Feminism: Old Myths and New Theories*, Michael Gurian catches up to me & explains how Feminism might now be what's keeping us back. Biology, Feminist ideals notwithstanding, still rules supreme & if we don't know how we work, then we don't know why we're doing what we're doing. One vital passage: *Girls' Stress Responses* needs to be read by everyone: "When a child is under inordinate stress for a prolonged period...her brain development will definitely be affected. She will be "rewired" neurologically...The stress hormone, cortisol,(as well as adrenal and other "lower" brain functions) have dominated brain growth...and this affects normal brain growth patterns." Why then, are we surprised by the depression in all our early adolescent girls? In Part II: *What Girls Need*, we explore *The Artful Mother: What Girls Need from Mom*.

I am a working mother of three children - a son and two daughters. I bought *The Good Son, Shaping the Moral Development of our Boys & Young Men* by Michael Gurian, and picked up *The Wonder of Girls, Understanding the Hidden Nature of Our Daughters*, also written by Gurian, simply because if I'm going to buy a book about the boy, as an Equal Opportunity Parent, I feel compelled to buy a book about the girls, even though I generally feel much more confident in my ability to parent my girls than I do my son. After I bought these books, I checked some reviews and was a little put off by one review that classified *The Wonder of Girls* as an attempt of a man trying to tell women what their nature was when he, by nature, could never have a true understanding of women. I decided to start with *The Wonder of Girls* because, frankly... it's the shorter of the two. And I was a girl once upon a time, so I figure reading it will be like eating cotton candy... sweet but requiring little effort. I couldn't have been more wrong, and I find myself rereading passages many times. Gurian includes a great deal of scientific detail, neurological information about how male and female hormones shape our reactions and development, and debunks a great deal of the argument that boy and girl behavior is all due to socialization. Gurian doesn't dismiss it entirely, nor does he try to assert that generalizations about the biological nature of women are absolute for every woman, but

makes a very strong case that while socialization plays a role in behavior, socialization has been overemphasized and biology has been grossly underemphasized. I don't know a mother who hasn't lamented on the difference between her boys and girls...

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