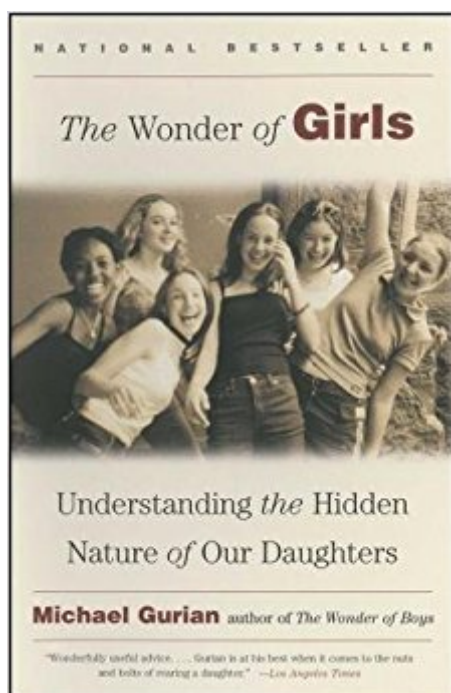


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# The Wonder Of Girls: Understanding The Hidden Nature Of Our Daughters



## 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

In *The Wonder of Girls*, Michael Gurian aims to bring us new insights into the lives of our daughters in much the same way he attempted to open up the lives of adolescent males in *The Wonder of*

Boys. While many of the chapters read like lessons in biology, plenty of parents will find useful tidbits and reflections from this father of two. Gurian emphatically agrees with Deborah Sichel's (Women's Moods) idea of "A woman's biology is the cornerstone of her mental health." He elaborates on this theory throughout his discussion on the physical changes in childhood and adolescence. This concept certainly holds some validity, but there's a fine line from here to "biology is destiny." Some readers may find Gurian crosses that line with his claims of "brain pruning" and insistence about hormones: "they don't just change a girl into a woman, they are, to a great extent, the woman herself." Others find his recommendations on hormonal treatments to be a literal lifesaver, and the book is peppered with positive anecdotes from his own life and families encountered in his training sessions. Important issues like self-esteem, eating disorders, and sexual experimentation are all addressed, along with the role of the father and "the absolute sanctity of motherhood." Gurian offers a somewhat narrow path as a guide through your daughter's adolescence, but if nothing else, this book will provide a solid background in the physical aspects of her growth. --Jill Lightner --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Therapist Gurian probes the unique aspects of girls' emotional, social and physical development in a follow-up to his bestselling *The Wonder of Boys*. First, though, he takes a few stabs at feminism, arguing that several of its theories (which, it must be noted, he incorrectly oversimplifies) need to be revised or even discarded by parents seeking to raise healthy girls. But Gurian's trademark is examining how biology impacts behavior. Biological matters hormones, brain differences (girls' brains are "more broadly active" than boys' and have 15% more blood flow) ultimately define girls' and boys' journeys through childhood and adolescence, Gurian argues. Even a girl's drop in self-esteem during adolescence is a "natural," biological phenomenon rather than a result of negative cultural influences. Feminists, he argues, have ignored the biological differences in order to successfully compete with men in the workplace; in so doing, they have denied or downplayed a girl's desire for intimacy and the experience of motherhood. Gurian urges parents to use a new model in raising girls (he calls it "Womanism") in which motherhood is a "season" when careers must be adjusted or put on hold. The author boldly suggests that parents prepare their daughters for the sacrifices of motherhood, and ensure that girls establish a three-family system (the nuclear family, the extended family and institutions such as church or school) that will meet their need for intimate relationships. Expect Gurian's arguments to stir controversy and inspire thought.

(Jan.)Forecast: Gurian's success with *The Wonder of Boys* and other parenting titles should make this an easy sell, though some readers may object to what feels like a rejection of feminist tenets.

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I really liked this book. It really reminded me of when I was a girl - how I felt, how I communicated, what I would've liked from my family and friends. It even helped me understand myself a little better, which was a bit surprising. I read the book, passed it on to my neighbor, recommended it to my friend who is a single dad, and then purchased another one for my daughter's dad in hopes that he would read even a portion of it. I now recommend this to anyone who cares for a girl. It really just gives you a different perspective. So much feels!

I am not a scientist or psychologist but Michael Gurian's presentation of biological differences between males and females makes total sense to me. For years it seemed that many "experts" kept insisting there were no differences that mattered. Apparently they really do matter. As the father of a daughter, and having interacted frequently with a wife, sisters, female co-workers, a mother, aunts and many other females I find this information tremendously liberating. For example, key parts of the female brain are larger on average than in males, and more parts are active at once. Gurian argues that this leads to females having a greater tendency to use words to solve problems rather than, say, starting a war. A good read!

I really am impressed and moved after reading this book. I not only read it, I study it, use it as a reference guide on bringing up my girls. The thing is my wife (God bless her soul, went to be with the Lord January 25, 2011), gave me a Spanish edition and I never got around to reading it until now. Thank you Mr. Michael Gurian.

This book is amazing. I chose to read it for class but I think it is a useful tool a part from the academic arena. The book gives biological and social information about girls. I would recommend this book to anyone.

I admire Michael Gurian who with the knowledge and wisdom on this practical book make us understand the "hidden nature of our daughters" in a language that we the average parents can understand, and give us strong moral guidance to be better parents.

We all need to know more about our kids! This book helps a lot!

The concept of the biological differences affecting the nature of my daughters is one I did not really think about. It looks promising to try and show me the differences between the sexes and how I can teach and learn from my daughters.

Excellent book full of researched facts by the author. Every parent should take the time to read this book. Thumbs up.

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