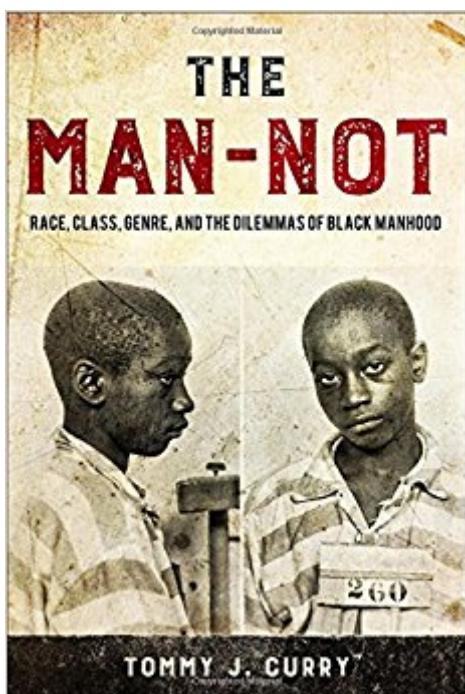


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# The Man-Not: Race, Class, Genre, And The Dilemmas Of Black Manhood



## **Synopsis**

Tommy J. Curry's provocative book *The Man-Not* is a justification for Black Male Studies. He posits that we should conceptualize the Black male as a victim, oppressed by his sex. *The Man-Not*, therefore, is a corrective of sorts, offering a concept of Black males that could challenge the existing accounts of Black men and boys desiring the power of white men who oppress them that has been proliferated throughout academic research across disciplines. Curry argues that Black men struggle with death and suicide, as well as abuse and rape, and their genred existence deserves study and theorization. This book offers intellectual, historical, sociological, and psychological evidence that the analysis of patriarchy offered by mainstream feminism (including Black feminism) does not yet fully understand the role that homoeroticism, sexual violence, and vulnerability play in the deaths and lives of Black males. Curry challenges how we think of and perceive the conditions that actually affect all Black males.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Tommy Curry has written a cool, brilliant defense of the men who are the pariahs of American society: the ones who, regardless of class, find themselves at the bottom of every hierarchy; the ones whose demographics and statistics in terms of the criminal justice, health care, and other systems are abysmal. Countless billions have been made from the portrayal of Black males as Boogymen. *The Man-Not* is heavy work, but the general reader will find its arguments well worth the time and effort. This book is controversial. Those who've dogged and stalked Black

men in the academy and popular culture for the past few decades are sure to have their critical knives out. I know. But it's rare for an American intellectual to step up, regardless of the fallout. This book is the one that I've been waiting for.Â CurryÂ has taken a bullet for the brothers."â "Ishmael Reed, Professor Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley, and Visiting Scholar at the California College of the Arts" In a boldâ "indeed, fearlessâ "intervention in the ongoing race/gender/sexual orientation debates, Tommy Curry challenges the cozy consensus among self-conceived progressives in the humanities. The oppression of black men has been conceptually erased, he argues, by theoretical frameworks indifferent to the social science data that refute them. Sure to ignite a firestorm of controversy,Â The Man-NotÂ is an impassioned protest against orthodoxies, both mainstream and radical, white and black. It is required reading for anyone interested in understanding oppression or having unquestioned assumptions put to the test."

â "Charles W. Mills, Distinguished Professor at the City University of New York Graduate Center Â

Introduces the conceptual foundations for Black Male Studies, going beyond gender theories that cast the Black Male as a pathological aspiring patriarch

Sooo, "The Man-Not: Race, Class, Genre, and the Dilemmas of Black Manhood" by Dr. Tommy J. Curry has finally been released to the public. My Kindle Edition arrived on time at 12 am tonight, and I must say, I am totally blown away by the book. Dr. Curry has done an outstanding job in his book of articulating the historical and contemporary conundrum that leading academics, black and white alike, find themselves in when confronted with the study of black man and boys. The good doctor draws a line in the sand and prosecutes his case expertly against academia, as well those who have concocted or perpetuate, the negative mythology about black men and boys, which have real life or death consequences."The Man-Not", is not only a much-needed book to open a long overdue conversation about black men and boys, black masculinity, and black manhood, it is also a call to action. In light of the numerous revelations of Dr. Curry's examination of the subject matter concerning black male's being raped, sexually assaulted, marginalized, and having violence visited upon them by white men and women from slavery till the present day, the data and evidence he reveals forces us to challenge long-held biases, mythologies, and outright lies we've force fed for decades about black men and boys. This book should be on the bookshelf of every black home in America, as well as the diaspora, and of those who want to know and understand what has happened to black men and boys historically. You can't have a conversation about the black family, the black community, and journey of black people, without having the story of black men and boys,

told in full. Dr. Tommy Curry has given us a gift it that regards, and I hope that we appreciate that gift. Enjoy this historical read!

This book is a game-changer! For Black men in particular, Curry has provided a powerful and necessary vindication, an incisive refutation of the negative stereotypes through the clear presentation of credible empirical evidence and an eye-opening survey of American intellectual history. For all readers, if you fancy yourself a "feminist," you need to read this. Moreover, if you are a "black feminist," you need to read this. And if you are a Black man (gay or straight!), this text will arm you with the arguments and resources to understand your condition here in America. This text sets the stage for a new field of study—Black male studies—that will hopefully redress some of our current problems concerning gender and race.

Dr. Tommy J Curry has given us a seminal piece of work in "The Man-Not: Race, Class, Genre and the Dilemmas of Black Manhood". "The Man-Out" will definitely evoke much discourse, as it positions the Black Male as victim of White male patriarchy, instead of a co-conspirator or the proverbial "man in waiting" posited by some in academia. In "The Man-Not", Curry superbly argues his case by revising and deconstructing the mythologies of the Black male as rapist, super-Macho militant and superpredator, among others. "The Man-Not" returns to the Black male what has been denied him for centuries and that is his humanity, by way of his vulnerability. This book challenges us to view the Black male in a different context, through a different lens, and began to appreciate that Black males have not benefited from gender but have actually been disadvantaged by it. I love it and, in my opinion, anyone who is serious about the study and understanding of the Black male in America will likewise. Highly recommend!

if YOU ARE A SELF RESPECTING , INTELLECTUAL BLACK MAN THIS BOOK IS MANDATORY READING. I WORE OUT 2 HIGHLIGHTERS AND HAVE COPIOUS NOTES IN THE MARGINS OF NEARLY EVERY PAGE. BUY IT. READ IT. ABSORB IT. DR. CURRY METICULOUSLY DESTROYS ANTI BLACK MALE THEORIES SUCH AS INTERSECTIONALITY WITH THE PAINSTAKING PRECISION OF A MASTER SURGEON.

I've read (and am now re-reading) this monumental work. Dr. Curry has written a needed and timely book that both deconstructs popular gender theory "mythologies" as it surrounds the varied forms of victimization that construct the reality of life for black men. Through a strong read of history,

philosophy, gender theory, and black male studies, the greatest contribution of Curry's work is his strident insistence on both the centrality of black male vulnerability within an anti-black society, and his insistence on making this vulnerability a useful tool for theory in the development of gender studies. This book also provides a strong indictment of both the multifaceted terrain of black male oppression in an anti-black society (racial, sexual, economic), and the relative silence on, and the decentering of, black men's experiences within the canon of gender studies--which is, according to Curry, weakened for its inability to link intersectional theory to the real-world settings of black men and their varied victimizations. It is particularly Curry's focus on the sexual victimization of black men at the hands of white men AND women, coupled with his racial and economic disadvantages, that places black men in the unique position of a kind of "triple jeopardy" (to borrow from Theresa Hoover). The black man, like his female counterpart, faces varied oppression(s) at the level of race, sex, and class. This has been an overlooked, and frankly, an ignored feature of gender theory infused with race theory. Beyond this, at its most basic, and profound level, Curry's text also makes central the argument for a complex reading of black male life and thought--especially as it relates to gender and sexuality. Black men and boys are more than a "DuBoisian problem"--black men and boys are NOT "copy-cats" of white masculinity norms--black men and boys are more than corpses grounded in historical trend of effervescent white male and female lust for the destruction and exploitation of black male flesh-as-phallus. We should make a better effort to read black men as manifestations of their total experiences of oppression, and to connect these experiences to his self-development and self-identity. In sum, gender theory, per Curry's work, must move beyond the simple-minded and reductionistic depictions of black manhood and open itself to black male humanity--in all its forms and through his particular self-definitions and reflections on his existence. Given its interdisciplinary trajectory, this will be a welcome resource for scholars interested in Africana philosophy, black male studies, and American race and sexuality studies, just name a few fields. The *Man-Not* will prove to be a foundational text for scholarship that envisions different conceptions of black manhood beyond the limitations of academia, and beyond the insidious distortions of racist logics that pervade our discourses of black manhood.

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