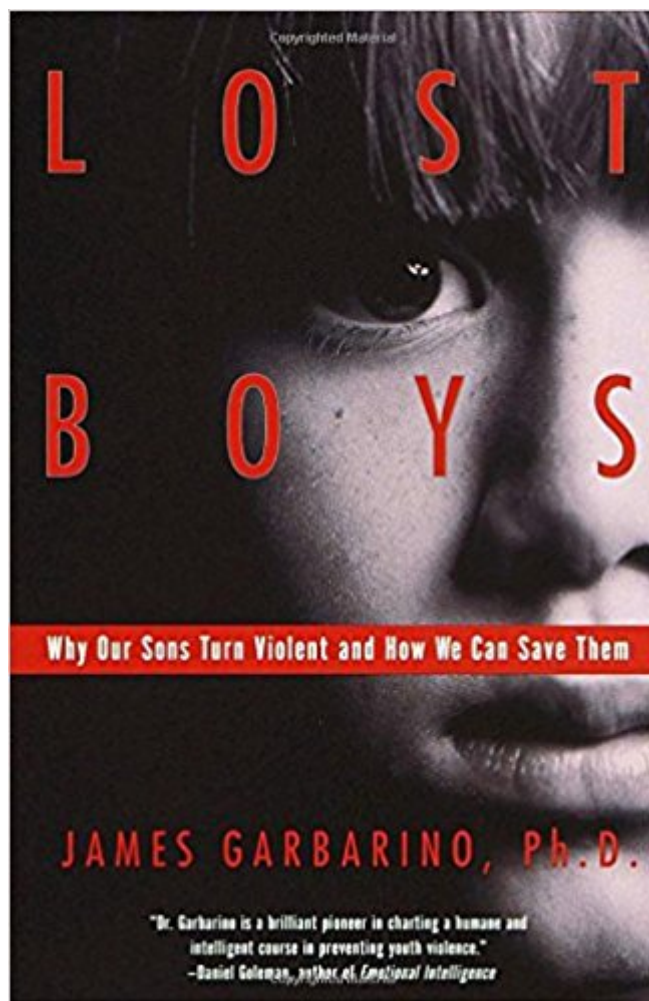


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# Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent And How We Can Save Them



## Synopsis

"Remarkable. What sets *Lost Boys* apart from the ordinary lament is the author's palpable sense of care and compassion."--*The Washington Post Book World* Our national consciousness has been altered by haunting images of mass slaughters in American high schools, carried out by troubled young boys with guns. It's now clear that no matter where we live or how hard we try as parents, our children are likely to be going to school with boys who are capable of getting guns and pulling triggers. What has caused teen violence to spread from the urban war-zones of large cities right into the country's heartland? And what can we do to stop this terrifying trend? James Garbarino, Ph.D., Cornell University professor and nationally noted psychologist, insists that there are things that we, both as individuals and as a society, can do. In a richly anecdotal style he outlines warning signs that parents and teachers can recognize, and suggests steps that can be taken to turn angry and unhappy boys away from violent action. Full of insight, vivid individual portraits, practical advice and considered hope, this is one of the most important and original books ever written about boys.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Striking a sober but ultimately hopeful note, psychologist and Cornell University professor Garbarino (*Raising Children in a Socially Toxic Environment*) lends his voice to the growing chorus of concern about the difficulties boys face in their journey to manhood. We live in dangerous times, he asserts, citing the ready availability of guns (nearly half of all American households contain one) and the escalating rate of youth homicide (which increased 168% in the past decade alone). Noting that the

highly publicized killings by children of the 1997-1998 school year have served as a kind of wake-up call, Garbarino devotes the first part of his book to examining the roots of violence among boys. He traces it to class and race issues, as well as risk factors such as child neglect, parental abandonment, physical and emotional abuse, spiritual emptiness and a culture that legitimizes violence in movies, television and video games. In the second half, he outlines how involved adults might prevent the downward spiral by identifying and treating patterns of aggression early in a boy's life, and how providing the proper spiritual, psychological and social anchors can keep a troubled boy from drifting into violence. Garbarino effectively illustrates his points with stories of his own work with violent boys. Solidly researched and written, this book is of equal value to parents, educators, family therapists and other professionals. It could easily serve as a blueprint for preventing more tragedies like the ones in Jonesboro, Ark., and Springfield, Ore. 20-city TV and radio satellite tour. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The school murder sprees of 1997-98 provide a backdrop for this inquiry into an "epidemic" of youthful male violence that has been worsening over the past 25 years. The bulk of the book is devoted to an analysis of the roots and meaning of lethal violence as revealed through interviews with perpetrators. Garbarino (human development, Cornell Univ.; *Raising Children in a Socially Toxic Environment*, Jossey-Bass, 1995) discusses these narratives in the context of statistical and psychological/ psychiatric research. Causative factors like abuse, gangs and codes of honor, substance abuse, neurological deficits, and school problems are considered from a social ecology perspective grounded in the work of Garbarino's mentor, Urie Bronfenbrenner. The book concludes with a catalog of strategies to combat boyhood violence. Solutions call for spiritual literacy as well as government action and research-based programs. Readable yet well documented and brimming with ideas, this book is recommended for larger public libraries and public policy collections. Antoinette Brinkman, Southwest Indiana Mental Health Ctr. Lib., Evansville Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Excellent copy was received. Everyone concerned with our youth should read this. We should start doing more for crime than putting people in jails and prisons. People who commit crimes need help - not torture!!!!

I was a bit hesitant to order a used book and at the purchase price for which I obtained it. Other than a few highlighted parts, the book is in very good condition. The content of the book is informative and well worth reading. The research cited by author, James Garbarino, certainly indicates that the growing trend of extreme violence by teen and even sub-teens is a very complex problem.

great book if you have not read it

If you want to see a clear examination of the problems that lead to the type of terrible violence we saw this week in Littleton, Colorado browse a copy of LOST BOYS: Why our sons run violent and how we can save them. By James Garbarino, Ph.D. Free Press; ISBN: 0684859084I saw this this morning and thought that Professor Garbarino talks convincingly about the effects of isolation and marginalization of kids (boys especially); the easy availability of firearms; and the effects that point and shoot videogames and violent media have in removing the normal human reluctance that people have innately that makes most of us reluctant to point a weapon at another person to shoot to kill. Garbarino offers some hope and some concrete ideas about how we can contribute, individually and as a community, to stemming this increasingly common tragedy. If you have an interest in making your community safer from the kind of violence that ambushed Littleton, Colorado; Jonesboro, Arkansas and all too many other American communities I'd recommend reading this book.

Thanks item as described.

This book is life changing. Explains so much.

Boys are sometimes victims of a society that doesn't appreciate them. Their adventurous, high-spirited characteristics are suppressed by teachers and a world that says, "Behave." They should behave of course but they should also be allowed to be boys. This means picking up snakes, carrying pocket knives, and learning to hunt. Garbarino does an excellent job of explaining how boys can turn violent. They are frustrated with a world that doesn't see them for the valuable beings they are. This is an excellent book that can help parents and youth workers better understand the emotional needs of boys.

Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them - James Garbarino has

been referred to by Edward Zigler as one of the nation's major social critics, his groundbreaking research and writing on children in refugee camps around the world, his study of children growing up in war zones from Cambodia, Mozambique, Kuwait, Nicaragua, and Palestine, not to mention his work with children growing up in this country in inner city war zones has influenced a whole generation of child development specialists, mental health professionals, politicians, and policy makers. He has been a truly inspirational figure for me and so many in the field in informing and guiding our work with violent youth. This book is destined to be a classic in the field and makes a compelling case for viewing in a humanistic way those youth who suffer traumatic, often unrecognized, and untreated lacerations to the soul that ultimately lead to a huge cost to society, not just economically, but more poignantly in pain and suffering. Garbarino along with Kenneth Hardy, who is another leading voice in this work, don't condone violence, in fact they deplore it, but they recognize a complicated underlying emotional process consisting of devastating emotional wounds to many of these youngsters who ultimately hurt and in rare, but extreme instances murder others. Typically these wounds have been ignored. In so many cases as Garbarino points out, when you peel away the layers, you will ultimately come to a traumatized child at the core. Tragically, many opportunities along the way are missed with these youngsters to recognize and treat the underlying pain; to provide the trauma-informed treatment that could offer healing to these deeply hurting youth. Our culture has become increasingly punitive as if these methods were novel. The basic philosophy behind these harsh methods is that we need to break down the spirit of the kid. What is sadly missed in this approach is that for most of these kids their spirit is already broken down. Garbarino injects a refreshing breath of fresh air in the stale, dank, and limiting prevailing approaches that further demoralize our youth and offer little respite from violence in our society. To simply demonize our youth and to heap still harsher punitive measures on them is a deadend. By contrast, Garbarino's humanistic philosophy and deep commitment to hurting youth opens the door to newer, more hopeful possibilities. His work has been instrumental in the encouraging movement in the last 8 years to develop trauma-informed treatment programs for youngsters in residential treatment diagnosed with conduct disorder. The Sanctuary Model developed by Sandra Bloom is one sterling example of such an approach. This is the first book I recommend to people working with violent youth. The field will be forever indebted to James Garbarino for this humanistic turning point in the treatment of deeply troubled youth.

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