

Pink and Blue: Telling the Boys from the Girls in America

By Jo B. Paoletti



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Jo B. Paoletti's journey through the history of children's clothing began when she posed the question, "When did we start dressing girls in pink and boys in blue?" To uncover the answer, she looks at advertising, catalogs, dolls, baby books, mommy blogs and discussion forums, and other popular media to examine the surprising shifts in attitudes toward color as a mark of gender in American children's clothing. She chronicles the decline of the white dress for both boys and girls, the introduction of rompers in the early 20th century, the gendering of pink and blue, the resurgence of unisex fashions, and the origins of today's highly gender-specific baby and toddler clothing.



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Editorial Review

Review

"This is a fascinating piece of American social history, perhaps raising more questions than it answers. It is of potential interest to students and professionals in fields ranging from child development to gender studies to fashion to marketing, as well as to new and prospective parents." —Library Journal

(Library Journal)

"Ms. Paoletti has managed to cram a wealth of information in a relatively fluid narrative that scholars will undoubtedly quote and casual readers will enjoy as an engrossing cultural history of parenthood, as well as childhood." —Worn Through

(Worn Through)

"Pink and Blue is meticulously researched, with references to paper dolls, old retail catalogs and the arcane field of material culture studies. Her findings are fascinating." —PopMatters

(PopMatters)

"A terrific new book...if you're getting flack from someone for dressing your boy in pink or your girl in blue...hit them with a copy of Paoletti's book. When they come to, maybe they'll read it and leave you alone." —CaféMom

(CaféMom)

"In Pink and Blue, Jo Paoletti delivers an insightful analysis of the origins, transformations and consequences of gender distinctions in children's dress over the last 125 years.... A must-read." —Daniel Thomas Cook, The Commodification of Childhood: The Children's Clothing Industry and the Rise of the Child Consumer

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"Pink and Blue is an interdisciplinary tour de force. Readers will never again take gendered children's fashion for granted." —Susan B. Kaiser, The Social Psychology of Clothing: Symbolic Appearances in Context

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"Pink and Blue challenges the cultural panic over how children's clothing affects gender and sexual identity. Paoletti shatters myths about what girls and boys "naturally" like, and does so with details that will fascinate both the casual and professional reader." —Peggy Orenstein, Author of Cinderella Ate My Daughter

(Peggy Orenstein Author of Cinderella Ate My Daughter)

"In Pink and Blue, Paoletti presents an interesting portrayal of an important gendered system—a historical perspective that psychologists might otherwise underestimate and undervalue." —PsycCritiques

(PsycCritiques)

"The author is skilled in writing to a wide audience." —Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences

(Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences)

"Recommended for: Those interested in the history of fashion, gender studies, and gender politics." —

(forbookssake.net)

About the Author

Jo B. Paoletti is Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Maryland.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Phyllis Sharrow:

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Marjorie Thompson:

As people who live in often the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or info even knowledge to make these keep up with the era and that is always change and move forward. Some of you maybe may update themselves by reading books. It is a good choice for you personally but the problems coming to a person is you don't know which one you should start with. This Pink and Blue: Telling the Boys from the Girls in America is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Jill Weber:

Now a day people that Living in the era where everything reachable by connect to the internet and the resources inside it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each details they get. How a lot more to be smart in getting any information nowadays? Of course the answer then is reading a book. Reading a book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information specially this Pink and Blue: Telling the Boys from the Girls in America book because book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the information in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you may already know.

Andrew Hulbert:

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