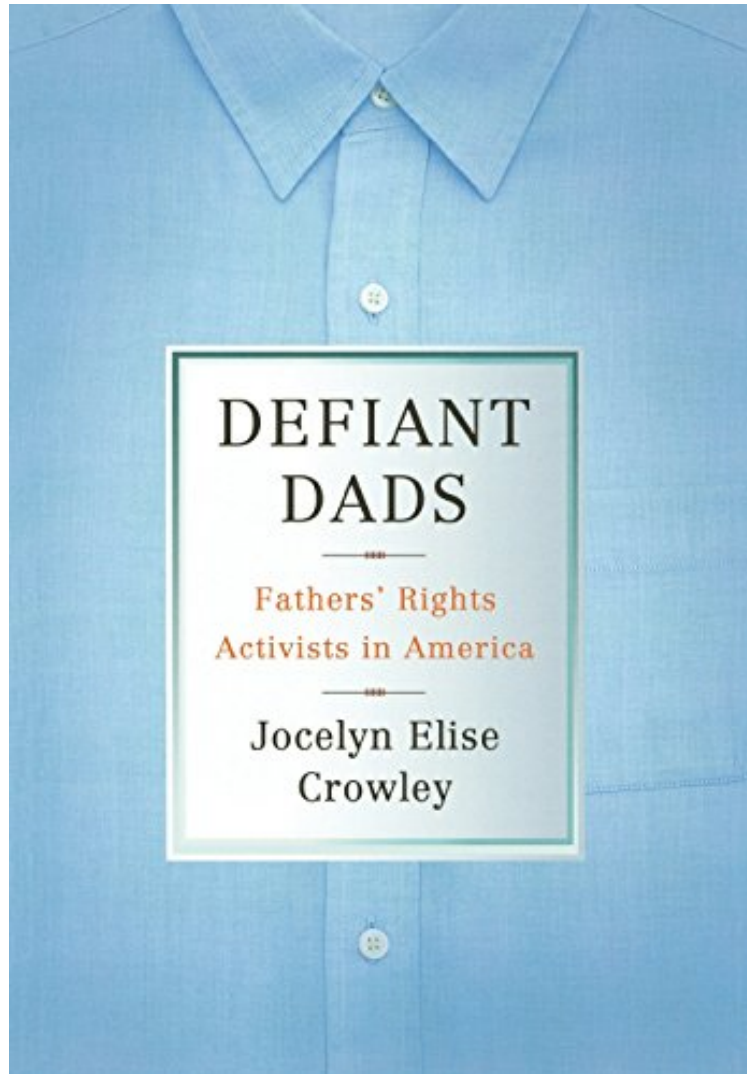


(Read now) Defiant Dads: Fathers' Rights Activists in America

Defiant Dads: Fathers' Rights Activists in America

Jocelyn Elise Crowley

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Jocelyn Elise Crowley : Defiant Dads: Fathers' Rights Activists in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Defiant Dads: Fathers' Rights Activists in America:

8 of 13 people found the following review helpful. To be read between the linesBy Richard K. StephensIt is important that all pro-family and pro-parent activists read this book closely -- not because it offers an accurate assement of the problems it discusses, but rather, because the book provides a blue-print for the anti-family strategy of (one camp of) the extremely influential social engineers who do so much to make sure children are raised bt the nanny state. The policy aims promulgated by the author are directed at "domesticating" those pathers who are increasingly being pushed out of their children's lives.In short, the ideal expressed in this book is to see fathers "helped" through

supervision, intrusion, intervention into becoming obedient drones who allow themselves to be docile subjects, obedient to the control-freak priorities of bureaucrats who enforce the rule of big government. "Abolish the family!" said the Communist Manifesto in 1848. The road to hell is paved by social engineers with therapeutic "solutions" used as paving stones. 46 of 62 people found the following review helpful. Defiant Dads Deceived By PCLEMI If you Google Jocelyn Elise Crowley, you'll find that she's a professor of Woman's Studies. So it's no wonder she's written a book that trashes the fathers rights movement. On the last page (269) we find the statement: "Why should men alter their political agenda to help secure equality for women?" Which is what she is proposing as the conclusion to this book. On page 11, she is talking about the goals of the fathers rights groups, and the three themes of the book. She clearly states her bias: "the uniqueness of their mission does not automatically mean that their objectives have merit." Indeed, Crowley finds no merit in ANYTHING fathers rights groups want. She admits, "that their stories are compelling," but trivializes their concerns. In doing so, Crowley reneges on the promises made to interviewees, and her claims of trying to be fair and unbiased. She admits that, "mothers retain primary physical custody in the OVERWHELMING percentage of cases", but denigrates claims of fathers that they are being discriminated against in family courts. Crowley goes on to say that "the push by fathers rights groups for equality with women completely discounts the disadvantages women must confront in contemporary American society." She thereby ignores the same fact she states so clearly above: mothers retain primary custody in the overwhelming percentage of cases." She misses the question her own words present: If men must push for equality with women, mustn't they, therefore, be UNEQUAL to begin with? Going on, she claims, "women work for less pay," (a reference to the feminists' "glass ceiling"), (an idea Dr. Warren Farrell has debunked in his book, Why Men Earn More)] Why Men Earn More: The Startling Truth Behind the Pay Gap -- and What Women Can Do About It. She goes on: "(women) suffer enormous financial instability when their adult relationships fall apart." This bit of nonsense, of course, results from Lenore Weitzman's ADMITTED and PROVEN false statistics regarding the economic standards of men v. women following divorce. (Divorced Dads: Shattering the Myths Finally, we come to the REAL reason Crowley wrote this book. She states: "Without substantial and effective child support, women and children would face enormous (she likes that word) economic hardship. That theme surfaces numerous times in the book. Crowley obviously believes that women are entitled by their gender to be supported, in a Communistic "Transfer of Wealth" scheme, by the men THEY CHOOSE to divorce. Of course, Crowley doesn't mention the fact that WOMEN initiate the divorce in 88% of cases. (U.S. Census Bureau) In maintaining this belief, Crowley IGNORES the "compelling" (her word) stories told by interviewees about the unfairness and abuses of the child support system. On Page 17, Crowley acknowledges that increases in the divorce rate were due to the feminist movement, but later decries fathers' rights emphasis on the same conclusion. After No Fault divorce became law, she admits, "Unhappiness became sufficient justification" (for divorce). However, she will not admit to the righteousness of the feelings of betrayal suffered by the fathers. Perhaps the best part of the book are several telling statistics which support fathers' claims. On page 20, we find that, where illegitimate births represented 4% of the total births in 1950, that rate had risen to 46.1% in 2004. She tacitly admits that fact to be due to WOMEN'S choices, but continues to blame men. She admits that raising children in a single parent home (citing 84% of custody decisions as favoring the mother, Page 31)) (other studies set the figure at 95 -97%) is detrimental to the children. However, her solution to that problem is to extract child support from the father to give to the mother. She obviously didn't do her homework for this book, or she would have known that MOTHERS are 62% more likely to abuse children than dads. (never mind, more child support will fix that) Indeed, Crowley uses the tired old excuse of a fear of domestic violence as a reason for opposing shared physical custody. True to her feminist roots, she simply IGNORES the truth of female violence. Domestic Violence: The 12 Things You Aren't Supposed to Know Finally, on Page 21, she admits that child support was originally intended for welfare purposes. (to ease the burden of welfare on taxpayers) However, she CHEERS the implementation of Public Law 98-378, which made NON-welfare divorces eligible for child support. She says: "Fathers of non-welfare children form the core foundation of fathers' rights groups." And there you have it! If easing the welfare burden is NOT the reason for child support enforcement, then the middle class fathers complaints are valid. THEY are the targets. The income to the states and courts from federal incentive payments for collecting child support has become the main purpose of child support! But Crowley continues to maintain, throughout the book, that women are in need, and deserving of, child support from the father, regardless of their economic situation, and regardless of HIS loss of due process rights, or the impoverishing results on him and/or his subsequent family. Crowley approached her interviewee fathers with the stated purpose of writing a fair, unbiased treatment of their issues and concerns. This writer was one of those. However, although she includes numerous horror stories, she totally ignores the truths those fathers wanted to bring to the public, truths exemplified by those stories. Her main focus throughout was the maintenance and enhancement of the child support program as an entitlement for women. She ignores legitimate research, citing her own writings more frequently than is warranted, and denigrates the fathers rights efforts in favor of a feminist agenda. The book is a sham from front to back, written more to enhance the academic reputation of a feminist writer than to expose the truths behind the fathers' rights movement. For a better insight, we suggest the reader purchase a copy of Dr. Stephen Baskerville's book, TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. Taken into Custody: The War Against Fatherhood, Marriage, and the Family There, you will learn the reason why DEFIANT

FATHERS are defiant. Crowley's book is a waste of time and money, appealing only to the feminist choir, presenting nothing new, nothing that hasn't been written before in hundreds of feminist newsletters and editorials. Certainly nothing of interest to those concerned with the issues facing divorced fathers. 4 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Wolf in Sheep's Clothing By Nala I've read your clever book, "Defiant Dads", and find it to be hogwash, masked as work of objective research. I truly found it most appalling and detrimental to the moral good. You wrote, referring to father's rights supporters, that the "uniqueness of the mission does not automatically mean that their objectives have merit," as if to leave a reader to believe that you are capable of being objective in the chapters that follow. As you so "insightfully" describe, in a condescending and dismissive manner, that the father's rights groups provide only therapeutic value, and discount the validity of the real father's rights cause because in your seemingly simple mind you perceive the "political goals to be problematic." It reminds me of the times when this country's most brilliant men formed similarly "objective" conclusions, based upon "scientific research", rationalizing why women should stay in the kitchen, and blacks in the fields as slaves. I read your positions as simply ignorant, and call into question the value of your PhD. Your book only raises the real question: what has happened to you in your life that has caused you to become an "expert" on this issue, of all issues? Well the reader shall need to read no further than page 11 for a glimpse into what I believe is your true motive. It bubbled subtly to the surface in an acrimonious cry that the "father's rights groups push for equality with women completely discounts the disadvantages women must confront in contemporary American society." Ah that's it, well if women have disadvantages, then so shall men. That's quite mature. So let me help connect the dots for you, Ms. PhD... Gender prejudice is most obviously exemplified by the rulings against fathers all across our Judicial System each and every day. To prolong the state of gender inequality for as long as possible, state legislatures (historically and primarily run by white men) allow for family court hearings to remain secretive under the guise of "protecting the privacy of the family"; however, this only serves to ensure the secretive continuation of this gender prejudice. Even though data show that as many as 90% of all contested custody cases result in rulings that are favorable to the mother, this statistic doesn't account for the majority of men who, recognizing the gender prejudices, refuse to engage in the just fight for fair time with their children. Those men that do fight are met by mothers that feel entitled and expected to play the primary parenting role. Furthermore, these Mothers are coached by parasitic family lawyers who only take positions in Mother's favors; those which have historically been most successful in court. Some think that if changes are necessary, they would come from within the Family Law System. The changes to the Family Court System will never come from within the Family Law community, as these gender biases serve to put food on these unscrupulous lawyers' plates (and apparently yours). They are lower on the food chain than ambulance chasers. It should also be glaringly obvious to women's equal rights activists that the prejudice against men in child custody matters only serves to keep women with a disproportionate burden of the child rearing responsibilities and render them, therefore, less economically potent than men. As you are also probably well aware, the minority communities carry an overwhelming majority of the burdens that result from absentee fathers and, therefore, in the same way that these gender prejudices suppress women, they ensure the continued disparities between the white and minority communities that result from absentee fathers. Fathers are more likely to be involved in raising their children if they are guaranteed the right to exercise their parental responsibilities equally. Wake up "Women's Studies Professor" and recognize that if you truly believe in equal rights, you won't apply the moral standard in only the scenarios that are convenient to you. As penance, I recommend you change your positions, take your book off the market, and work to change the system for the good. You may be pleasantly surprised that providing equal rights to men in this area, would have secondary effects of enhancing equality for women in the workplace. After all, isn't that your primary objective? An alternative option would be to resign as a professor at Rutgers, in order to restore it to the image I previously had of it as an institute of "higher" learning. REPOSTED AFTER THIS WAS PREVIOUSLY REMOVED, UNDOUBTEDLY AT THE REQUEST OF THE AUTHOR.

All across America, angry fathers are demanding rights. These men claim that since the breakdown of their own families, they have been deprived of access to their children. Joining together to form fathers' rights groups, the mostly white, middle-class men meet in small venues to speak their minds about the state of the American family and, more specifically, to talk about the problems they personally face, for which they blame current child support and child custody policies. Dissatisfied with these systems, fathers' rights groups advocate on behalf of legal reforms that will lower their child support payments and help them obtain automatic joint custody of their children. In *Defiant Dads*, Jocelyn Elise Crowley offers a balanced examination of these groups in order to understand why they object to the current child support and child custody systems; what their political agenda, if enacted, would mean for their members' children or children's mothers; and how well they deal with their members' interpersonal issues concerning their ex-partners and their role as parents. Based on interviews with more than 150 fathers' rights group leaders and members, as well as close observation of group meetings and analysis of their rhetoric and advocacy literature, this important book is the first extensive, in-depth account of the emergence of fathers' rights groups in the United States. A nuanced and timely look at an emerging social movement, *Defiant Dads* is a revealing investigation into the changing dynamics of both the American family and gender relations in American society.

"Crowley has written a thorough, evenhanded account of the fathers' rights movement in the United States. To her credit, she conducted in-depth interviews with participants in these groups and observed them in action, as well as reviewed research studies. After reciting the history of such groups, the author analyzes their structure from a sociological perspective. In succeeding chapters, discussing child support laws, custody rules, and post-divorce family dynamics, she marshals statistics and anecdotes to address points made by fathers' rights advocates. While critical of the groups' political goals, which call for less state involvement in custody and child support, she defends their personal goal of more involvement by fathers with their children."Library Journal, February 2009

"Crowley has written an important, theoretically rich book that empirically examines the fathers' rights movement and engages a wide range of scholarship, including scholarship on family law and policy, feminism, social movements, and ideology and public policy. In examining the movement, she finds important positive aspects, such as its emphasis on responsible fatherhood, but she also notes the pervasive antifeminist and neoconservative-influenced antistatism of the movement. These are barriers to the movement's growth and effectiveness. Crowley importantly notes the problems with completely neutral approaches to issues of equality, particularly in the context of the movement's call for 50-50 arrangements in child custody and child support. This, of course, ignores the difficulties and burdens that mothers still face in the workforce, especially with continued child care expectations and employment discrimination. As a result, Crowley is rightly skeptical of the policy agenda of the movement for ignoring these continuing realities. Also interesting is the insight that the movement is still a genuine grassroots movement, having avoided the professionalization and elite dominance common to so many contemporary social movements. Summing Up: Highly recommended."Choice, June 2009

"Defiant Dads contributes important new perspectives to the lively body of scholarship seeking to understand the gendering of politics; much of this work focuses on states' potential 'woman-friendliness,' while Crowley explores the strong antistate orientation of fathers' rights groups, grounded in tensions between these men's gendered understandings and the interventions of judges, child support officials, and legislatures in families."Ann Shola Orloff, Northwestern University

"With the stroke of a pen granting divorce or custody, thousands of doting daddies turn into furious fathers who feel aggrieved by a process that deprives them of the kind of access to their children to which they feel entitled. Jocelyn Elise Crowley's strength as a researcher is that she gets inside these grievances. Her gift as a writer is that she explains these fathers' positions with neither caustic dismissal nor pandering acquiescence. A landmark study!"Michael Kimmel, Stony Brook University, author of *Manhood in America*

"In *Defiant Dads*, Jocelyn Elise Crowley addresses an important and controversial set of questions about modern divorce parenthood and a key political movement related to family law. In offering an empirical study of the fathers' rights movement, Crowley makes a significant and original contribution. No other such works exist in the United States or elsewhere in terms of the numbers of groups, leaders, and members interviewed and studied."Susan B. Boyd, University of British Columbia

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About the Author Jocelyn Elise Crowley is Professor of Public Policy at the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, as well as a member of the Graduate Faculty in the Department of Political Science and Affiliated Faculty Member of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. She is the author of *Defiant Dads: Fathers' Rights Activists in America* and *Mothers Unite!: Organizing for Workplace Flexibility and the Transformation of Family Life*, both from Cornell, as well as *The Politics of Child Support in America*. Visit her website at jocelyncrowley.com.