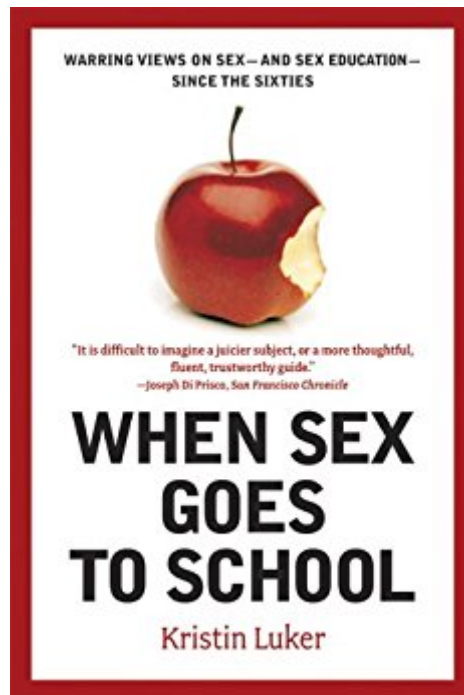


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When Sex Goes To School: Warring Views On Sex--and Sex Education--Since The Sixties



Synopsis

"It is difficult to imagine a juicier subject, or a more thoughtful, fluent, trustworthy guide for its exploration." —San Francisco Chronicle A chronicle of the two decades that noted sociologist Kristin Luker spent following parents in four American communities engaged in a passionate war of ideas and values, *When Sex Goes to School* explores a conflict with stakes that are deceptively simple and painfully personal. For these parents, the question of how their children should be taught about sex cuts far deeper than politics, religion, or even friendship. "The drama of this book comes from watching the exceptionally thoughtful Luker try to figure [sex education] out" (Judith Shulevitz, *New York Times Book Review*). In doing so, Luker also traces the origins of sex education from the turn-of-the-century hygienist movement to the marriage-obsessed 1950s and the sexual and gender upheavals of the 1960s. Her unexpected conclusions make it impossible to look at the intersections of the private and the political in the same way.

Book Information

File Size: 968 KB

Print Length: 384 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0393329968

Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company (April 17, 2007)

Publication Date: February 20, 2012

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0071083BU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #925,870 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #164

in Books > Education & Teaching > Schools & Teaching > Instruction Methods > Health #463

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Education & Teaching > Teacher Resources > Education

Theory > History #468 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Education & Teaching > Teacher

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Customer Reviews

This was an engaging book to read and it was also well researched. I had Kristen Luker as a professor and true to form, she is fair in her research and portrays both sides of an issue so that each makes sense to the reader. She is a very talented sociologist and unlike some sociologists, she's also manages to write an interesting book. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in the debate over sex education.

I was pleasantly surprised by the generally fair presentation by Dr. Luker in "When Sex Goes to School". Given that she is a feminist sociologist at UC Berkeley, I had expected a very biased treatment of those holding traditional views of sexuality. However, she demonstrated a real understanding of the issues, particularly in how conservatives are not "anti-sex" (the typical liberal claim) but in actuality value sex very highly as something sacred. The whole battle stems from the two sides holding fundamentally different views of sexuality: something "natural" vs. something sacred. The one thing that annoyed me about the book was Dr. Luker's stereotypes about conservative women. She portrays them all as less interested in education & career and believers in patriarchy. We may be traditional in certain areas, but that doesn't mean we're traditional in *everything*. We may be bright & ambitious, feel that men & women are equal (although not identical), and still hold that the proper place for sex is between a husband & wife.

This is a very interesting book which takes the standard debate about sex education and examines where each side is coming from. I read it for a research paper and I actually decided not to resell the book when the semester ended because it was very interesting.

I bought this book a while ago when it was recommended through after purchasing a number of textbooks for a sexuality course in college. I recently picked it up again, and thought the discussion of sex education was useful in thinking about how to incorporate frank discussion of sex in my own classroom.

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