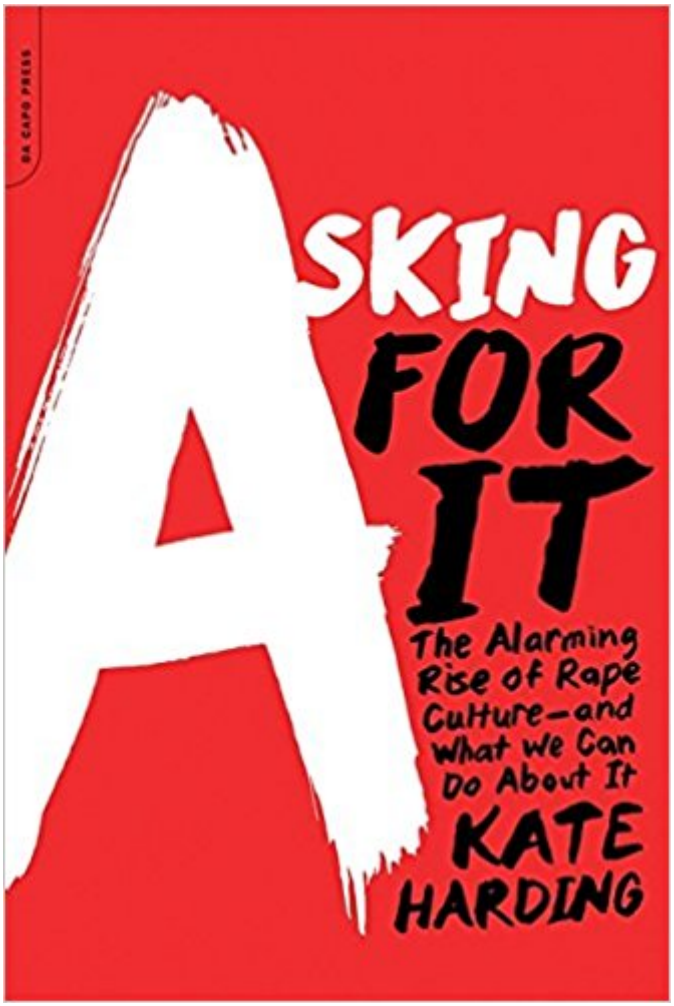
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Asking For It: The Alarming Rise Of Rape Culture--and What We Can Do About It



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Synopsis

Every seven minutes, someone in America commits a rape. And whether that’s a football star, beloved celebrity, elected official, member of the clergy, or just an average Joe (or Joanna), there’s probably a community eager to make excuses for that person.In Asking for It, Kate Harding combines in-depth research with an in-your-face voice to make the case that twenty-first-century America supports rapists more effectively than it supports victims. Drawing on real-world examples of what feminists call "rape culture"—from politicos’ revealing gaffes to institutional failures in higher education and the military—Harding offers ideas and suggestions for how we, as a society, can take sexual violence much more seriously without compromising the rights of the accused.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Asking for It is a must-read for anyone who cares about ending sexual violence. Kate Harding takes on politicians, the media, and commonly held myths in a way that’s accessible for antiviolence experts and novices alike. This is a timely and brilliant book that will put a much-needed dent in rape culture."—Jessica Valenti, author of The Purity Myth and He’s a Stud, She’s a Slut"[A]n unflinching and nuanced map of a culture in crisis; Harding’s singular voice makes it a page-turner. It’s required reading for anyone who wants to know why there’s so much fuss about rape culture these days, as well as for everyone who wants to do something about it."—Jaclyn Friedman, editor, Yes Means Yes Chicago Reader, 1/2/15“[Harding] has an amazing capacity for

transforming her outrage into clear, considered arguments.Ã¢â ¬Â•Bustle, 8/27/15“Harding skillfully breaks down the factors that have converged to create the United States' rape culture. Asking For It mixes statistics and research with true stories that show our flawed collective attitude toward sexual assault, resulting in a book that will leave you both outraged and inspired to make change happen.Ã¢â ¬Â•AV Club, 8/19/15"It's less depressing than it might sound, in part because of Harding's funny and occasionally sarcastic style, and for something so full of facts and figures, it's a pretty enthralling read. This book probably isn't going to get through the thick skulls of true rape apologists, but it is a good read if you keep hearing the term “rape cultureÃ¢â ¬Â• and don't really know what it means, or if you're enraged by the media that calls Patrick Kane a 'target' of a rape investigation instead of a 'subject' of one."Bitch Magazine, 9/2/15“Asking For It offers a smart, concise, and surprisingly funny contribution to the dialogue on patriarchy, misogyny, and rape.Ã¢â ¬Â•Library Journal, 9/1/15“Harding's book serves as a welcome addition to the conversation…she doesn't mince words…meticulously documented…Harding writes with courage and passion that may rankle some readers—which might not be an entirely bad thing.Ã¢â ¬Â•New York Journal of Books 8/25/15“Insightful and provocative book…Using news from current popular culture, as well as her own experiences, Harding has put together a no-holds-barred examination of the social phenomenon of rape culture…Everyone should read this book no matter their gender identification, sexual orientation, religious, or political beliefs….The book is written accessibly and intelligently, without hyperbole, and is a sincere work of scholarship no library or bookshelf should be without.Ã¢â ¬Â•The Week, 10/9/15“Journalist Kate Harding, who possesses ‘a finely honed impatience with bull----,' has produced a valuable primer on sexual violence in America. It makes clear how rarely rapists are held accountable and how much damage is done by the popular beliefs that false rape accusations are common and that the line between consent and refusal is ambiguous. If the concept of ‘rape culture' baffles you, this is the book to read.Ã¢â ¬Â•Slate, 8/20/15"Asking for It serves as a useful reminder of why we still need books—even nonfiction books—in the age of the Internet. Just the sheer volume of stories and examples Harding collects in one place is disquieting and extremely convincing in a way that getting it in pieces through the day-to-day grind of Internet reading will never accomplish. Harding doesn't shy away from tough topics, especially when it comes to false rape reporting. To be clear, this book is not a chronicle of depressing stories of sexual assault, which would be a miserable read. Harding isn't here simply to register the existence of crime; she is working as a cultural critic, focusing on the cultural response to and understanding of sexual assault more than

the crimes themselves. Luckily for the reader, Harding has a wicked sense of humor."Los Angeles Times, 8/23/15"Deft and timely... Informative and informal, the book is a smart, impassioned and well-researched agenda for a strictly no-nonsense understanding of rape culture."

Kate Harding is the coauthor of Lessons from the Fat-o-Sphere and a contributor to The Book of Jezebel. A columnist for DAME Magazine, she lives in Minnesota.kateharding.infoaskingforitbook.com

Articulate, well documented treatise on the problems caused by a culture that promotes the idea of women as objects, possessions, prizes, toys, etc., that exist for men to pursue and use as they will. The glorification of this distorted idea of masculinity that men are more manly when they conquer and take, that they are entitled to sex with any woman who happens to strike their fancy, that they cannot help but give in to their sexual urges because after all they’re men, that they bear no responsibility for their sexual actions, that submission whether achieved through drugs, alcohol, intimidation or physical force is the same as consent, and that it is totally dependent upon women to live so that they are never "guilty" of "provoking", "exciting", "enticing", "tempting", "seducing", or "bewitching" a male to do what just supposedly comes naturally, i.e. rape, puts women in danger and demeans men. And yet it is a narrative that many men and some women want to cling to like a drowning person to a lifesaver, while others are content to simply deny any problem exists. Ms Harding does an excellent job of presenting and supporting her case that there is indeed a problem and offers some suggestions as to how we can address it. I highly recommend this book.

Fantastic review of an important topic. I highly recommend this read, especially if you’re someone who thinks the term "rape culture" is just too extreme.

Harding presents a well-researched, rational account of the status of female oppression - what we currently refer to as "rape culture", aka ’male entitlement’. She mixes facts, opinion, and true stories of all-too-real women in all-too-horrible-no-win situations. Toward the end of the book, Harding almost apologetically relates the story of her own rape as a freshman at a small New England college, and the all-too-familiar unjust aftermath. As a counselor who works with sexual assault survivors, I hear many horrible stories, but never become immune to the individual horrors and psychological traumas inflicted. Harding - don’t ever apologize for sharing your experience. I wept for you, as I do for all who have had to endure the helplessness of rape. Asking For It is an amazing

piece of work. Thank you.

Amazing book.

This book is a wonderful example of well researched data combined with personal opinions and experiences; an effective marriage of facts and feelings that explore rape culture’s devastating effects. "Asking For It" will make you rethink politics, the legal system, the media, and will empower you to advocate for victims of sexual violence. Highly recommended for anyone who desires an enlightening read, especially relevant and important for teens/college students. Harding’s voice is clear and concise, with plenty of personality to keep the reader engaged in a difficult subject from cover to cover.

The best thing you could do with this book is buy it and give it to those men and women who really believe that any woman is "asking for it". Kate has written a fantastic, thought-provoking book you will find engaging, occasionally enraging, funny, and extremely informative. I recommend creating groups to meet and read the book, and discuss it for, well a VERY long time. Let Asking For It open a dialogue, and listen to women and their experiences.

This book is amazing. Whether you’re passionate about feminism, curious about the issue of sexual violence, or simply wanting to educate yourself about rape culture in the United States, you need to read this book. This should be required reading for every freshman political science, criminal justice, sociology, gender studies, and psychology course. Harding explains rape culture and its various contributors with clarity, depth, and passion. She uses a wealthy of statistics that immediately combat the assertion that these are just "theories." Rape culture is real, and Harding does an excellent job explaining its causes and consequences holistically and with the intention of moving us forward as a culture and a nation.

Essential reading on the subject of how rape culture permeates our society.

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