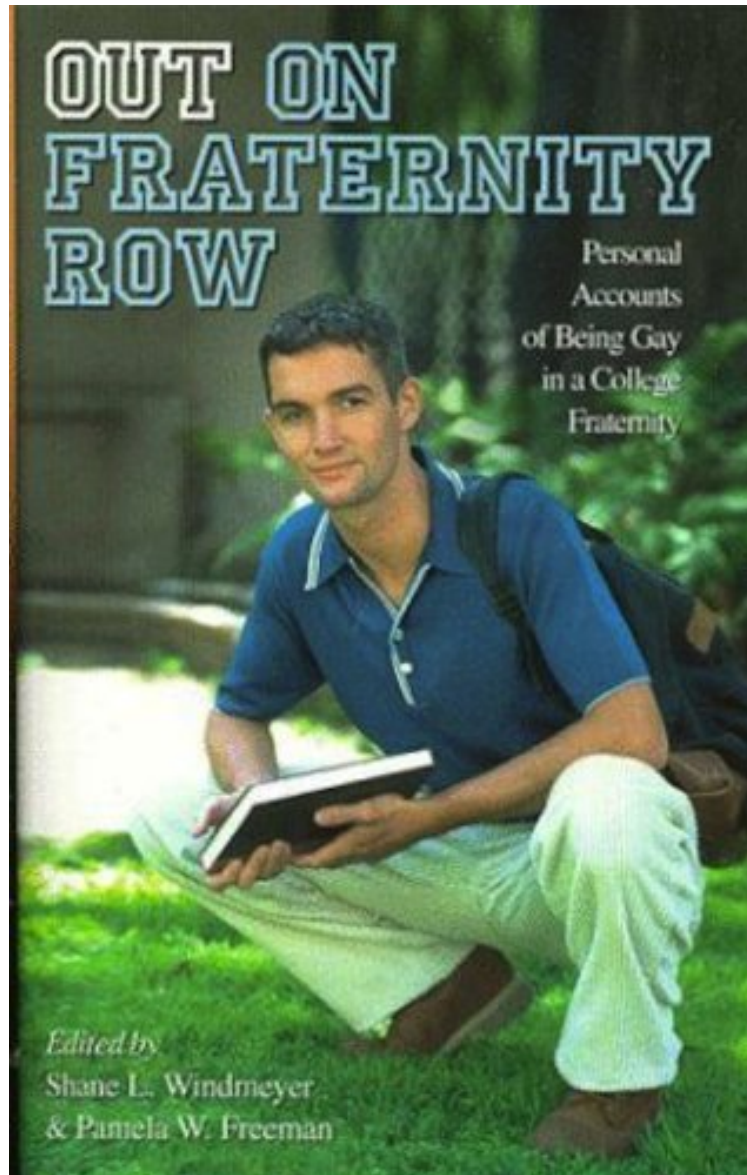


(Download pdf ebook) Out on Fraternity Row: Personal Accounts of Being Gay in a College Fraternity (English Edition)

Out on Fraternity Row: Personal Accounts of Being Gay in a College Fraternity (English Edition)

Von Shane Windmeyer
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Von Shane Windmeyer : Out on Fraternity Row: Personal Accounts of Being Gay in a College Fraternity (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Out on Fraternity Row: Personal Accounts of Being Gay in a College Fraternity (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Greek Advisor ponders effects of homophobiaVon Mike Esposito esposito@selway.umt.eduWhat is it like to be gay and Greek? Are fraternities safe places for gay brothers? What kind of environment do fraternity houses provide homosexual members? The first-hand accounts of 30 gay men in the book OUT ON FRATERNITY ROW (Alyson Books), provide answers to those questions. Written with candor and honesty, each tale in this anthology gives a glimpse of the Greeks' most invisible minority. The individuals telling their stories are diverse in background, age, fraternity and geographic location. Each goes through phases of coming out, some quickly, some not at all. However, even with these differences, certain themes are common. Gay men become Greek for the same reasons as heterosexual men--for the brotherhood and companions fraternities provide. But once in the fraternity, many writers tell how they felt isolated and alone, unable to tell their secret. The prevailing homophobic atmosphere--conveyed through gay jokes--kept many men locked in closets. Some writers hoped fraternities would teach them not to be gay. Many of the stories told of men's excessive use of alcohol to drown gay feelings. Fraternity men, both gay and straight, would objectify women as 'cover' to prove they weren't gay. A large portion of the men who came out after college tell of distancing themselves from brothers after graduation. Many felt disconnected from the former brothers, or other brothers distanced themselves from the out member. But not everyone had a negative experience being gay and Greek. Indeed, several stories show that when a brother is up-front about his homosexuality the brotherhood remains strong. In chapters with solid camaraderie and mutual respect, coming out was not a negative experience. One wrote, 'My brothers' unconditional acceptance and support helped me move from being afraid of my brothers to being at peace with their companionship.' As I read this book I kept thinking, these are my students talking to me. They are telling me what they feel. And as I read, I kept asking, how can I make it better for them? Thankfully, OUT ON FRATERNITY ROW offers interventions and educational tools to combat homophobia. Anyone who works with fraternities needs to read this book. OUR students are talking to US, telling us what they are going through. Many are isolated, afraid of their own brothers and do dangerous things to fit in. If we leave homophobia unchallenged, what kind of environment are we providing not just for gay students, but for all?0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich.

"Fraternity Row" sheds light on gays in college fraternitiesVon Ein KundeSay the word 'fraternity,' and images of college keggers, varsity letters, and pledge rituals come to mind. Add 'jock' or 'straight' and the images don't change much.But for an estimated five percent of frat brothers, 'fraternity' meant something very different- it meant keeping secrets as the price for brotherhood.It's the subject explored in 'Out on Fraternity Row.' The anthology presents the accounts of 32 fraternity brothers--two of whom are straight--talking firsthand about their experiences of homosexuality within the Greek system. Each chapter is a personal glimpse into the memories that made their frat days both blissful and painful.The editors of the book, Shane Windmeyer and Pamela Freeman, carefully selected essays which represent a wide range of experiences within the Greek system. Many of the men in 'Out on Fraternity Row' felt that hiding their sexuality was the price they had to pay for acceptance by their brotherhood. Others came out completely and retained the loyalty and admiration of their fellow frat brothers. All of the essays reveal some inherent contradiction of the homophobia within fraternities.The accounts are strikingly honest and will speak to any man who ever felt a strong bond with another man. Even though the book is geared toward gay men, it's bound to have an extensive cross-over audience, since there are more than 60 active college fraternities in the US, and an estimated 5 percent of these members are gay, according to Douglas Case, a university fraternity administrator. Windmeyer and Freeman smartly included an educational appendix with resources on how to use the stories as tools for learning. One section, 'What Do You Do When You Learn a Brother Is Gay?' provides tips for straight frat brothers. And an essay on 'How Homophobia Hurts the College Fraternity' is equally enlightening. Also included are several resolutions made by fraternity groups regarding sexual orientation.Far more than a book of stories, 'Out on Fraternity Row' provides heartening details on male friendship, bonding, and brotherhood that will likely prove illuminating to other all-male groups.0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Much ado about the obvious.Von Ein KundeI recently read most of this book after coming upon an excerpt of a chapter written in the Indiana University alumni magazine. The chapter was written by a student who I actually knew from the dorm (Go Teter Quad!) before he pledged. After reading his chapter and many others, one question continued to plague me: Why is it not more obvious to these individuals that the Greek system (which is clearly both highly elitest and discriminatory even to the most casual and neutral observer) would largely reject them? I felt sorry for these individuals that they did not recognize this fact and move on to relationships with individuals and organizations that would be more supportive. Fraternities (at least at IU, one of the largest in the nation) are not founded upon the desire of its members to experience the diversity in our world - let alone our campus, but instead to shut it out and exist in a homogenized setting.I find it curious that the author and the related project that funded this book are focused on trying to bring diversity to a system that was created to avoid it - at least the so-called "social fraternities" which make up the lions share of the greek houses on college campuses.This book might provide insight or comfort to those similarly situated as the authors, but to me it was disappointing. The stories were repetitive and somewhat complaining, though apparently the need to belong in the greek system for some is so strong that they will sacrifice themselves and their identity. That's the true

tragedy of this book.

KurzbeschreibungFrom the Inside FlapA Chance To Belong...Anonymous Letter to the Lambda 10 Project Dear Lambda 10 Project:Being gay and a member of the Greek community has been a frustrating experience to say the least. Because of the intense paranoia people have about gay individuals, I have only admitted my sexual orientation to one other person. There is no doubt whatsoever that I would have been pushed out of my chapter had my homosexuality been revealed, and my fraternity experience meant too much to risk losing it that way. Therefore, if I wanted to stay Greek and active in my fraternity, I had to "be" straight. It wasn't hard, as I've had to do that my whole life. But I feel no one really knows me as I really am.I am the kind of guy no one would ever think was gay, other than the fact that I haven't seriously dated a woman in a very long time. I'm straight-acting, frequently hit on by lovely women, president of my fraternity chapter as a senior... but as much as I want to be straight, I know I'm not, and I suppose I never will be. It's really difficult for me to realize that the contributions I made to one of our national fraternity's top chapters would be completely discounted had my sexuality been made public. I wasn't president of some lame chapter: we're one of the best they've got! And we're consistently selected as the top fraternity on campus. Yet for me to have admitted being gay would have instantly discredited me from any values I brought to the chapter.One of our chapter brothers was coming to terms with his homosexuality, but found himself ostracized because of it. We were notified a couple of years later that he had committed suicide, feeling alone, and pushed aside from both family and fris. Yes, he was dealing with issues other than his sexuality that led to such a tragedy, but his inability to find acceptance from those he wanted it from was undeniably a significant factor. Yet I'm not sure things changed much in the minds of our active members and alumni.I know of at least one other brother from our chapter who is gay, yet held significant leadership roles within the chapter while active. I wonder how many more? If our brothers could see what goes on in the minds of closeted gay members when homophobic slurs fly around the house, would they care? If I was truly a brother when I was seen as straight, why can't I be as a homosexual as well? My deep friship and unquestioning loyalty to my brothers and fraternity were never suspect before: why would my being gay change anything?I am still closeted, and might possibly be so the rest of my life. I care too much about some relationships between relatives and fris to admit my sexuality right now. My parents are just not ready to handle that reality, and my fraternal friships still mean too much to throw them away. Yet I know that I will never be able to "act" my way to being straight.I think the Lambda 10 Project will show that I'm not alone in my experience. There are many men in fraternities who are gay, but live a straight life for fear of being shunned. Some would really be surprised to learn of certain chapter members being gay. Indeed, I know of homosexual men in every fraternity on campus. But until the larger Greek community is ready to be a brother to another person regardless of his sexual orientation, these Greek members will continue to live a lie among their chapters, trading their true identity for a chance to belong.From the Back CoverThis uncompromising first-person series of accounts of life inside that traditionally homophobic institution-the college fraternity-is riveting and brutally honest. Brotherhood, friship, and a chance to belong are the promises offered to young men by campus fraternities. But what if the young man happens to be gay? Will his brothers accept him, or will he lose his friships and his community? More than 30 men join voices in this emotionally charged and important anthology to tell their individual stories of coming oKurzbeschreibungFrom the Inside FlapA Chance To Belong...Anonymous Letter to the Lambda 10 Project Dear Lambda 10 Project:Being gay and a member of the Greek community has been a frustrating experience to say the least. Because of the intense paranoia people have about gay individuals, I have only admitted my sexual orientation to one other person. There is no doubt whatsoever that I would have been pushed out of my chapter had my homosexuality been revealed, and my fraternity experience meant too much to risk losing it that way. Therefore, if I wanted to stay Greek and active in my fraternity, I had to "be" straight. 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