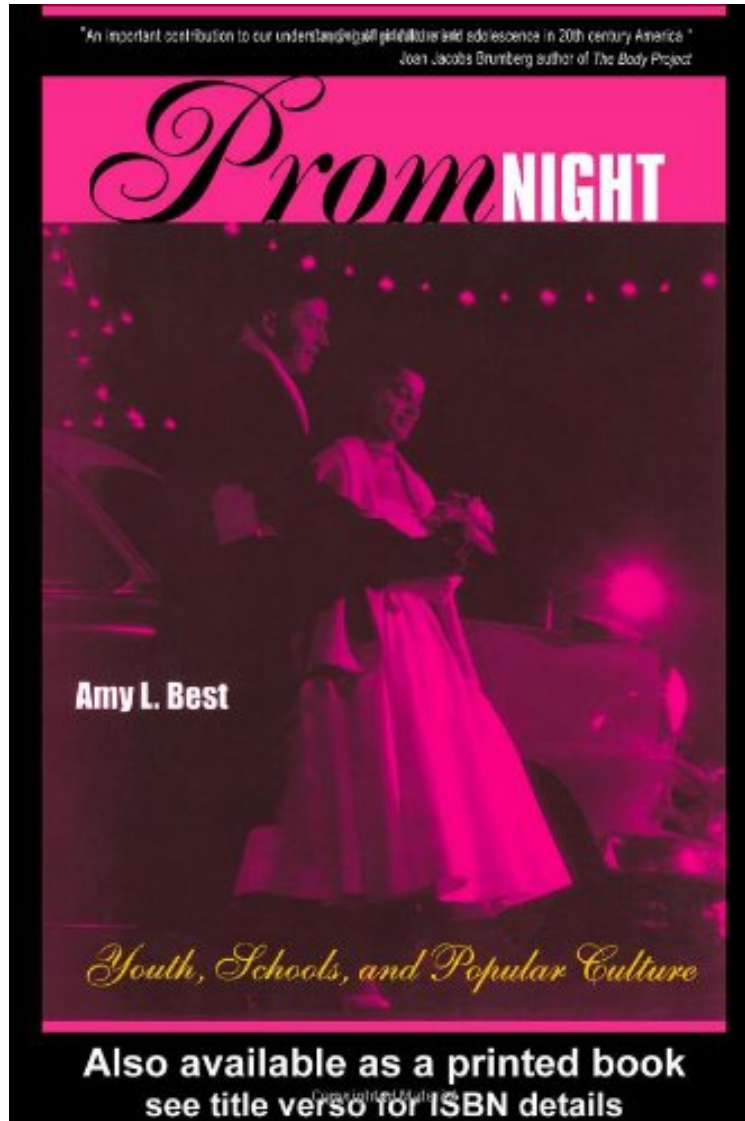


(Pdf free) Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture

Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture

Amy L. Best

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Amy L. Best : Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Prom Night: Youth, Schools and Popular Culture:

0 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Prom Night By Tonya Shride I received the book in good condition and it was delivered promptly. It is an interesting examination of the customs of prom. 5 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A provocative and insightful analysis of the prom By A Customer This is an excellent book -- theoretically sophisticated but eminently readable. It takes the prom seriously as an event which is meaningful to kids and explores the way that the prom operates simultaneously as a site of social control and as an opportunity for

resistance. On the former point, the author examines the way that the prom experience is mediated for kids by schools, parents, the market and popular culture in ways which reproduce and reinforce inequalities based on class, race, gender and sexuality. Further, she highlights the way that kids themselves participate in reproducing these inequalities. But she also looks to ways that kids resist all of the above, for example, through overt protest against non-inclusive proms (ie. boycott of a prom where interracial dating was prohibited), through the organization of alternate events (such as gay proms), or through symbolic acts of resistance by those who do attend (ie. girls in tuxedos). The author's analysis is particularly powerful because it is infused with respect for the kids who are the subjects of her study. 11 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Prom Night meets Senior Thesis By A Customer Don't let the pink retro cover fool you ... a bookworm in a frilly ballgown is still, well, a bookworm. Not a judgement on author Amy Best, but the ingenuity in the concept and research behind this book is really not dealt justice by the pedantic writing. Having noticed the way the proms have taken on a life of their own since the ten or so years since I last donned a poufy pink dress, I was very eager to see what an academic study of this phenomenon. However, reading this book, I often found my fingers searching for the hard plastic comb binding often used on graduate school papers. Granted, the material in Prom Night likely did come from Best's doctoral research, but some cheekier writing is called for to keep lowly Bachelor's Degree holders like myself from being reminded of why we jumped into the commercial, instead of academic world.

Best shows us that, while the prom is often trivialized, most kids take the prom seriously. The prom is a space where kids work through their understanding of authority, social class, gender norms, and multicultural schooling. Proms are more than just pictures and puffed sleeves--they are a mythic part of youth culture and, for better or worse, will always be a night to remember.

From Library Journal For many, the prom is the highlight of their high school senior year. For others, it is a time of expectations, transitions, and transformations. Best (sociology, San Jose State Univ.) looks at students' prom experiences and the impacts they have had on their lives. She also examines the prom as a cultural icon, exploring its role within popular movies, the development of magazines surrounding the prom experience, and how the prom has changed in history. The author interviews students of different cultural and sexual identities and concludes that many feel that the prom is a "white" experience that ignores cultural differences and students with different gender identities. She also discusses how schools try to control the prom experience by, for instance, keeping students away from alcohol and other negative influences. One school even has students fill in a form, providing information on whom they will attend the prom with, for faculty approval. Best provides an interesting sociological study of the prom experience that will find a home in American studies, women's studies, and sociology collections. DDanna Bell-Russel, Library of Congress Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Prom is an event that almost all girls dream about attending during their years in high school. Parents, friends, and the media help to hype this end-of-the-school-year tradition. Best effectively combines interviews with students and school officials, alongside reviews of Hollywood and other media portrayals of the prom, to describe an event that is considered to be the culmination of one's high-school career. Although the prom has evolved over the latter half of the twentieth century from being the first opportunity to play an adult role, e.g., wearing make-up and staying out late, into a chance to display wealth and social status, it is still considered by many to be an important rite of passage into adulthood. Prom Night is a collection of first-person accounts about the preparations, the event, and the after-prom parties. The schools used for this study are located mainly in the northeastern U.S. Best's study provides insight into the thoughts and dreams of today's youth. Julia Glynn Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved A stunning example of cultural analysis that both affirms and engages the experiences of young people in a society that rarely allows them to speak or represent themselves. In this brilliant work, Best reinvents how prom night is constituted as a site of struggle, resistance, and power. This is an important book and should be read by anyone concerned about youth and the crisis of democracy.