

Sorry I Don't Dance: Why Men Refuse to Move

By Maxine Leeds Craig

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If you want to learn about masculinity, ask a man if he likes to dance. One man in this study answered, "Music is something that goes on inside my head, and is sort of divorced from, to a large extent, the rest of my body." How did this man's head become divorced from his body? To answer this question, Maxine Craig sought out men who love music but hate to dance. Combining interviews, participant observation and archival research, *Sorry I Don't Dance* uncovers the recent origins of cultural assumptions regarding sex, race, and the capacity to dance. From the beginning of the twentieth century through the Swing Era young men of all races danced. But in the 1960s suburbanization, homophobia, and fragmentation of music cultures drove white men from the dance floor, and feminized, sexualized and racialized dance. *Sorry I Don't Dance* reveals how changing beliefs concerning gender, race, class, and sexuality over the past half-century have redefined what it means to be a man in America.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Yes! Real men dance-which comes as quite a relief to this man who spent hundreds of hours in front of a mirror mastering the dance steps to the Temptations' 'My Girl.' And they always have danced-from mining camps to tea lounges, army bases to discos. Combining deft historical excavation and discerning interviews, Maxine Craig shows men hogtied by an ideology of masculinity that leaves them barely able to sway against the wall. Her book will help them heed the urgings of so many singers, from Sly Stone to David Bowie. Let's dance." -Michael Kimmel, Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies, SUNY Stony Brook

"Rich with insight, *Sorry I Don't Dance* maps the ever-shifting field of dance and movement, its entanglements with race, sex and sexuality, social class, the meaning of American patriotism, and morality. Craig draws together a range of materials that permit both historical analysis of masculine dance practice and a fine-tuned analysis of the everyday landscape of contemporary men and masculine embodiment. A sensitive investigation of a complicated topic." -Amy Best, author of *Prom Night*

"For anyone who has tried to get a man to dance, Maxine Craig shows how a man's refusal or acceptance has little to do with his would-be partner and much to do with how he was raised, in what communities and time period, and whether he experiences dance as threatening or enhancing his masculinity. Craig weaves together sophisticated analyses of the race, class, gender and sexual dimensions of embodied performance with evocative and eye-opening stories and interviews." -Miliann Kang, author of *The Managed Hand*

"Maxine Leeds Craig has written an important book for anyone who wants to understand masculinity. Craig shows through historical analysis a variety of modern examples of dance associated with the image of man. When men say they do not want to dance, or when they express a negative view on dance, it is much more complex than just an expression of personal taste. If you want to learn about masculinity, ask a man if he wants to dance. If you want to learn more about dance and masculinity, read *Sorry I Don't Dance*." -*Nordic Sport Science Forum*

"The most important aspects of the book for sociologists are the ways that Craig contributes by theorizing across boundaries. At a time when subareas of the field have become relatively autonomous from each other and are speaking only internally to themselves, here we have an opportunity to see queer, gender, and sexuality theory speaking to a wider sociological audience. By drawing both a historical account and linking these notions to embodiment, cultural practices, and performativity, *Sorry I Don't Dance* does not just speak to those interested in gender and sexuality, but to those theorizing social life more generally-an address that is of importance for us all." - *American Journal of Sociology*

About the Author

Maxine Leeds Craig is Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies at the Univeristy of California, Davis. She is the author of *Ain't I a Beauty Queen?: Black Women, Beauty, and the Politics of Race.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Helen Palmer:

Book is written, printed, or created for everything. You can realize everything you want by a publication. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important factor to bring us around the world. Alongside that you can your reading expertise was fluently. A e-book Sorry I Don't Dance: Why Men Refuse to Move will make you to possibly be smarter. You can feel much more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think that will open or reading a book make you bored. It isn't make you fun. Why they could be thought like that? Have you in search of best book or suitable book with you?

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In this 21st one hundred year, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive now, people have do something to make these people survives, being in the middle of typically the crowded place and notice simply by surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated it for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a publication your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading a new book, we give you this specific Sorry I Don't Dance: Why Men Refuse to Move book as beginner and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Joan Ortega:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to try and do! A lot of people spent their leisure time with their family, or all their friends. Usually they accomplishing activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book might be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the publication untitled Sorry I Don't Dance: Why Men Refuse to Move can be fine book to read. May be it could be best activity to you.

James Ojeda:

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book and learn it. Beside that the e-book Sorry I Don't Dance: Why Men Refuse to Move can to be a newly purchased friend when you're really feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of these time.

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