



Little Big Men: Bodybuilding Subculture and Gender Construction (Paperback)

By Alan M. Klein

State University of New York Press, United States, 1993. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.Little Big Men is a study of competitive bodybuilders on the West Coast that examines the subculture from the perspective of bodybuilders everyday activities. It offers fascinating descriptions and insightful analogies of an important and understudied subculture that has risen to widespread popularity in today s mass culture. Alan Klein conducted his field study of bodybuilding in some of the world s best-known gyms. In studying the social and political relations of bodybuilding competitors, Klein explores not only gym dynamics but also the internal and external pressures bodybuilders face. Central to his examination is the critique of masculinity. Through his study of hustling among bodybuilders, Klein is able to construct a social-psychological male configuration that includes narcissism, homophobia, hypermasculinity, and fascism. Because they exist as exaggerations, these bodybuilder traits come to represent one end of the continuum of modern masculinity, what Klein terms comic-book masculinity. This study is a rare foray into the critique of contemporary American macho.

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