



Odd Girl Out

By Rachel Simmons



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REVISED AND UPDATED
WITH NEW MATERIAL ON CYBERBULLYING AND
HELPING GIRLS HANDLE THE DANGERS OF LIFE ONLINE

When *Odd Girl Out* was first published, it became an instant bestseller and ignited a long-overdue conversation about the hidden culture of female bullying. Today the dirty looks, taunting notes, and social exclusion that plague girls' friendships have gained new momentum in cyberspace.

In this updated edition, educator and bullying expert Rachel Simmons gives girls, parents, and educators proven and innovative strategies for navigating social dynamics in person and online, as well as brand new classroom initiatives and step-by-step parental suggestions for dealing with conventional bullying. With up-to-the-minute research and real-life stories, *Odd Girl Out* continues to be the definitive resource on the most pressing social issues facing girls today.

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Odd Girl Out By Rachel Simmons Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

There is little sugar but lots of spice in journalist Rachel Simmons's brave and brilliant book that skewers the stereotype of girls as the kinder, gentler gender. *Odd Girl Out* begins with the premise that girls are socialized to be sweet with a double bind: they must value friendships; but they must *not* express the anger that might destroy them. Lacking cultural permission to acknowledge conflict, girls develop what Simmons calls "a hidden culture of silent and indirect aggression."

The author, who visited 30 schools and talked to 300 girls, catalogues chilling and heartbreaking acts of aggression, including the silent treatment, note-passing, glaring, gossiping, ganging up, fashion police, and being nice in private/mean in public. She decodes the vocabulary of these sneak attacks, explaining, for example, three ways to parse the meaning of "I'm fat."

Simmons is a gifted writer who is skilled at describing destructive patterns and prescribing clear-cut strategies for parents, teachers, and girls to resist them. "The heart of resistance is truth telling," advises Simmons. She guides readers to nurture emotional honesty in girls and to discover a language for public discussions of bullying. She offers innovative ideas for changing the dynamics of the classroom, sample dialogues for talking to daughters, and exercises for girls and their friends to explore and resolve messy feelings and conflicts head-on.

One intriguing chapter contrasts truth telling in white middle class, African-American, Latino, and working-class communities. *Odd Girl Out* is that rare book with the power to touch individual lives and transform the culture that constrains girls--and boys--from speaking the truth. --Barbara Mackoff

From Publishers Weekly

Although more than 16 years have passed, Rhodes Scholar Simmons hasn't forgotten how she felt when Abby told the other girls in third grade not to play with her, nor has she stopped thinking about her own role in giving Noa the silent treatment. Simmons examines how such "alternative aggression" where girls use their relationship with the victim as a weapon flourishes and its harmful effects. Through interviews with more than 300 girls in 10 schools (in two urban areas and a small town), as well as 50 women who experienced alternative aggression when they were young, Simmons offers a detailed portrait of girls' bullying. Citing the work of Carol Gilligan and Lyn Mikel Brown, she shows the toll that alternative aggression can take on girls' self-esteem. For Simmons, the restraints that society imposes to prevent girls from venting feelings of competition, jealousy and anger is largely to blame for this type of bullying. It forces girls to turn their lives into "a perverse game of Twister," where their only outlets for expressing negative feelings are covert looks, turned backs and whispers. Since the events at Columbine, some schools have taken steps to curb relational aggression. For those that haven't, Simmons makes an impassioned plea that no form of bullying be permitted.

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From [Booklist](#)

Forget the stereotypes of sugar and spice. Girls are *mean*, and as this book and a recent *New York Times Magazine* cover story indicate, their subtle, insidious style of bullying is rapidly garnering attention and concern. Simmons, a twentysomething with a political background, calls on her extensive face-to-face research with teens in this book that exposes the social minefields of female adolescence and the deep scarring that can result. Bolstered with numerous revealing anecdotes and quotes, *Odd Girl Out* does an excellent job

of articulating to adults exactly the pain and sublewarfare that many teen girls experience, and Simmons offers thoughtful motivations for both bullies and the parents who are reluctant to rein them in. She also offers admirable, groundbreaking insight into an all-too-common issue and will be invaluable to any adult struggling to help a girl get through her teens. Also suggest Sharon Lamb's revealing title *The Secret Lives of Girls*. Gillian Engberg

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Linda Callaway:

What do you with regards to book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the one you have problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to try and do others business, it is make you feel bored faster. And you have extra time? What did you do? Everybody has many questions above. They should answer that question because just their can do that. It said that about e-book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on guardería until university need this particular Odd Girl Out to read.

Callie Allen:

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William Ward:

The particular book Odd Girl Out will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. Should you try to find new book you just read, this book very suitable to you. The book Odd Girl Out is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book from official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

Helen Chandler:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to complete! A lot of people spent their down time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic from the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Will you something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to try out look for book, may be the book untitled Odd Girl Out can be very good book to read. May be it could

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