

ARE (ALL) BOYS REALLY LIKE THAT?

Presented by the MenEngage Alliance Youth Reference Group

Part.1



Designed by
Sari Kamiyama

Are (All) Boys Really Like That?

is the first of a three-part comic strip series made through a collaborative process by members of the Global Youth Reference Group of MenEngage Alliance.

Youth Reference Group members are youth representatives from MenEngage networks around the world who hold a crucial role in steering the Alliance's work at local, national, regional and international levels.

Illustrator and designer

Sari Kamiyama (she/they)

Content development

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MenEngage Alliance
working with men and boys for gender equality

P R E F A C E

The Netflix miniseries *Adolescence* tells the story of the misogynistic killing of a teenage girl, Katie, by her 13-year-old classmate, Jamie.

In four episodes, the series immerses viewers into the pain caused by Jamie's violence and gives a glimpse into how Jamie was radicalised through his online life.

The show sparked global conversations about the dangers of boys being radicalized into misogyny and violence - particularly through online spaces known as "the manosphere," which glorify violence against women and gender diverse people.

This three-part comic strip was borne out of discussions among members of the Youth Reference Group in response to *Adolescence*.

The MenEngage Alliance Youth Reference Group came together to analyse the show's portrayals of masculinity from a feminist perspective - reflecting on what

was captured, what was missing, and what must be addressed to challenge patriarchal masculinities, misogyny, and the manosphere.

Out of these reflections came the idea to use comics as a creative tool to communicate and engage communities in thinking about patriarchal masculinity and social transformation.

This comic strip series is a collaborative creation that aims to make conversations about issues raised by *Adolescence* - around masculinity, radicalisation, misogyny and violence - more accessible, while addressing issues that were underexplored in the show.

Grounded in an intersectional and accountable feminist approach, this Comic strip series seeks to deepen engaging with young men and boys.

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*The Youth Reference Group
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Something to drink?

Your dad is here...
Is that an apron
he has on?.

Ughhh... embarrassing..
He always forgets to take it
off from his cleaning job...

See? That's why I
must be an Alpha...
Gotta wear this hoodie
and be the man
of the house!!

He seems to have a caring parent.
Where does he even get the ideas
about what it means to "be a man"?

I know, right?



Look what she's wearing.
She's asking for it.

She's begging for
attention by dressing like that
with her shoulders out...

Is that supposed to be a push-up? My little sister would do better. You're embarrassing us!

C'mon bro! You can't even do one push-up, and you're calling yourself a man??

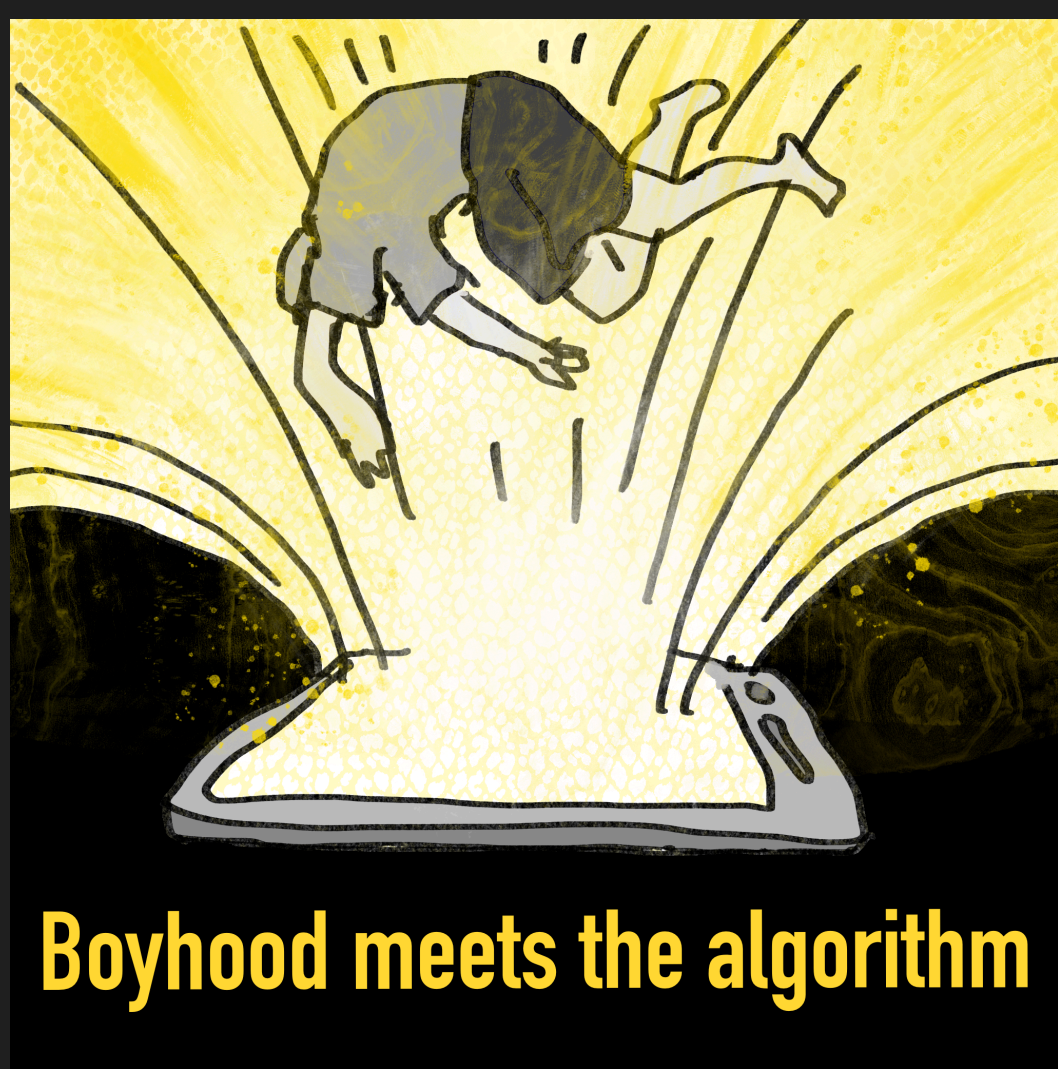
Where are the teachers? Are they even prepared to deal with this?

So "being a man" means mocking others...

I'm a wimp, a loser, too weak... I need to gain more muscles

GET ALL THE GIRLS,
ALL THE MONEY.

CLICK HERE





—What if boys weren't boxed in from the start?

That's the question.

And maybe...
the beginning of an answer.

**to be continued
in part two...**

Illustrator and designer

Sari Kamiyama (she/they) is a researcher and activist focused on men and masculinities studies. She is the founder and president of the International Men and Masculinities Studies Society (IMSS), a student organisation in Tokyo, and a current MA student at Waseda University in Japan. Sari is an individual member of the global MenEngage Alliance, where she also participates in the Climate Justice Working Group and Youth Reference Group.

Content development

Alex Nelson (he/him) is a human rights advocate, researcher, and community organizer specializing in gender justice, masculinities, and youth engagement in global policy spaces.

Shalinee Bahadur (she/her) is a young Indo-Caribbean feminist, based in Trinidad and Tobago. She is the Administrator of the Caribbean Male Action Network (CariMAN), the regional network of MenEngage Alliance in the Caribbean, and is committed to the struggle for gender justice. Shalinee contributed to the content development of the project.

Aromo Odero (they) is inspired and moved to action by those dedicated to building a more just and regenerative world. They are committed to co-creating decolonial social structures that strengthen solidarity, connection, and care. They support communications within MenEngage Global Secretariat and live in Kenya.

Dag Schölper (he/him, b. 1977). In the project, he was an experienced and creative advisor for content development. Dag is Managing director of the German umbrella organization for gender equality-oriented men's policy, Bundesforum Männer, which is a member of MenEngage Alliance.

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MenEngage Alliance is an international civil society network engaging men and boys into the work of women's rights, LGBTQIA+ rights, and gender justice for all, while supporting men and boys to break free of stereotypes of what it means to be a man.

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