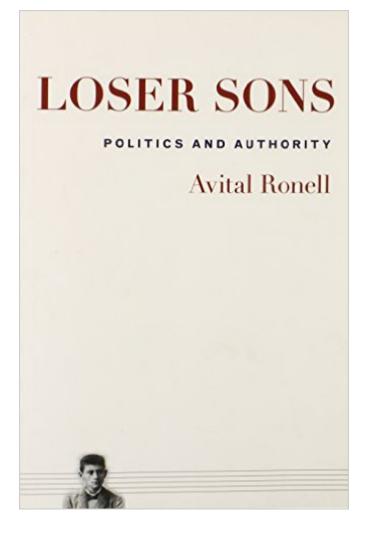
The book was found

# **Loser Sons: Politics And Authority**





## Synopsis

There are sons who grow up unhappily believing that no matter what they do, they cannot please their fathers. Often unable to shed their sense of lifelong failure, either they give up and suffer in a permanent sulk, or they try with all their might to prove they are worth something after all. These are the "loser sons," a group of historical men as varied as President George W. Bush, Osama bin Laden, and Mohammed Atta. Their names quickly illustrate that not only are their problems serious, but they also make serious problems for others, expanding to whole nations. When God is conceived and inculcated as an angry and impossible-to-please father, the problems can last for generations. A In Loser Sons, Avital Ronell draws on current philosophy, literary history, and political events to confront the grim fact that divested boys become terrifying men. This would be old news if the problem didn't recur so often with such disastrous consequences. Looking beyond our current moment, she interrogates the problems of authority, paternal fantasy, and childhood as they have been explored and exemplified by Franz Kafka, Goethe's Faust, Benjamin Franklin, Jean-FranÁ§ois Lyotard, Hannah Arendt, Alexandre Kojà ve, and Immanuel Kant. A Brilliantly weaving these threads into a polyvocal discourse, Ronell shows how, with their arrays of powerful symbols, ideologies of all sorts perpetuate the theme that while childhood represents innocence, adulthood entails responsible cruelty. The need for suffering--preferably somebody else's--has become a widespread assumption, not only justifying abuses of authority, but justifying authority itself. Â Â Shockingly honest, Loser Sons recognizes that focusing on the spectacular catastrophes of modernity might make writer and reader feel they're engaged in something important, while in fact what they are engaged in is still only spectacle. To understand the implications of her insights, Ronell addresses them directly to her readers, challenging them to think through their own notions of authority and their responses to it.

### **Book Information**

Paperback: 208 pages Publisher: University of Illinois Press; 1st Edition edition (September 10, 2013) Language: English ISBN-10: 0252079698 ISBN-13: 978-0252079696 Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 9 inches Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies) Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews (1 customer review) Best Sellers Rank: #1,299,713 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #213 in Books > Gay & Lesbian > Literature & Fiction > Literary Criticism #11081 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Criticism & Theory #11946 in Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Movements & Periods

#### Customer Reviews

This is one of Ronell's strongest books after The Telephone Book and Stupidity. More personal than the others, Ronell focuses on the diminishment of authority figures from the supernatural (god) to the secular (Daddy). She has an extended reading of Kafka's "Letter to His Father" and moves out from a mention of Ben Franklin that Kafka makes to a brilliant reading of Franklin's Autobiography. Rowell also engages older works by Jean-Luc Nancy and Lyotard that never got the attention from U.S. academics they deserved. Rowell also mentions Kafka's Abraham parable and says it has gotten almost no attention. Perhaps because she is till grieving Derrida's death, she passed over his essay on Kafka's parable, "Abraham, the Other" in Judeities: Questions for Jacques Derrida (Perspectives in Continental Philosophy). If you like Ronell, read this book. Her lively, witty style is deeply refreshing.

#### Download to continue reading...

Loser Sons: Politics and Authority Cheated & Deafeated: Mistress Harley's How To Gambling Guide: Stop being a loser & start being less of a loser (Cheated & Defated Book 1) I Give You Authority: Practicing the Authority Jesus Gave Us Diet > Comparison of Most Popular Diets and Weight Loss Plans: Atkins, Biggest Loser, DASH, Jenny Craig, Mediterranean, Slim-Fast, South Beach, Vegan, Volumetrics, Weight Watchers Loser Take All: Election Fraud and The Subversion of Democracy, 2000 - 2008 The Memoir of a Successful Loser The Story of Weight Watchers States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control (Princeton Studies in International History and Politics) The Politics of Everyday Europe: Constructing Authority in the European Union Your Kids at Risk: How Teen Sex Threatens Our Sons and Daughters Autism Every Day: Over 150 Strategies Lived and Learned by a Professional Autism Consultant with 3 Sons on the Spectrum The Pursuit of Diarmuid and Grainne / The Exile of the Sons of Uisliu Du Rose Sons: Love and Intrigue in the Stunning New Zealand Wilderness (The Hana Du Rose Mysteries Book 8) Fathers and Sons (Oxford World's Classics) Fathers and Sons (Modern Library Classics) The Complete Works of D. H. Lawrence (22 Complete Works of D. H. Lawrence Including Women in Love, The Rainbow, Sons and Lovers, Fantasia of the Unconscious, Aaron's Rod, Twilight in Italy. & More) Sons of Mississippi: A Story of Race and Its Legacy Teach Yourself

Visually iPod Touch (Teach Yourself VISUALLY (Tech)) by Hart-Davis, Guy published by John Wiley & Sons (2013) Sam Choy & the Makaha Sons' A Hawaiian Luau The Harney & Sons Guide to Tea Without You, There Is No Us: My secret life teaching the sons of North Korea's elite <u>Dmca</u>