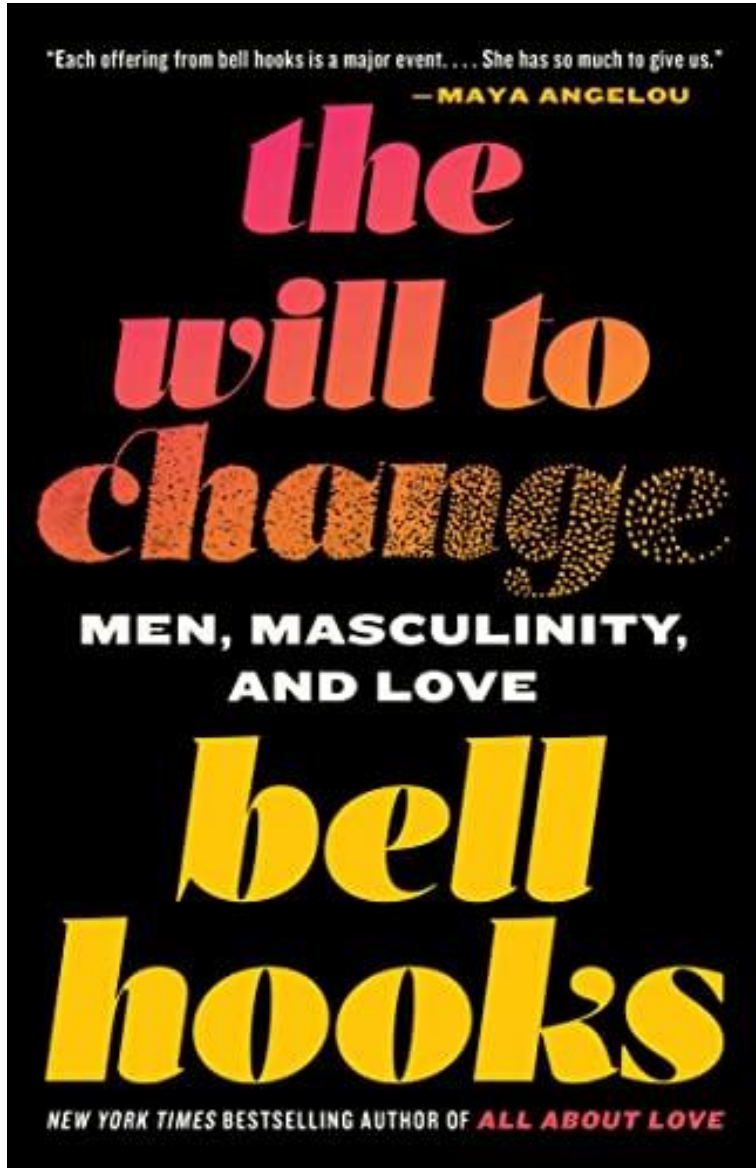


bell hooks



Clara Serra
Lecture *Who is the enemy?*



≠ CONTEXTS
bell hooks



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Main ideas

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- Patriarchy is maintained by both men and women, cis and homosexual

Example with her mother



Feminism won't succeed if it only focuses on women

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She was accused of sleeping with the enemy

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https://elpais.com/economia/2018/08/19/actualidad/1534709488_687720.html

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→ *liberal or mainstream feminism (actually, if we only need to take them 50% of the power)*



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- “Non-political feminism” solutions: working more, speaking out, + flexibility...and **PRIVILEGE**

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hooks/serra comments on this



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Emotional amputation

- Boys at around 5yo are socialised to cover their emotions to have **success on life (powerful)**. ← **US influence**
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Patriarchy doesn't promise happiness to boys. It promises struggles, fights and **victory**.

This male role is overrepresented in media: Harry Potter, Skywalker (Rei also), Dune, traumatised superheros, soccer players, Greek Mythology (Ulyses)

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- Without the tools to deal with other emotions, boys cannot become healthy and happy adults.
- Men struggle dealing with loss and grief and cannot solve personal conflicts talking
- Men are unable to enjoy **intimacy**.

Instead, they focus too much on sexuality, which usually don't provide emotional wellbeing

→ permanent dissatisfaction → sexual obsession

Men, capitalism and power

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Multiple levels of oppression

Men, capitalism and power

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- The world that Patriarchy sells to them does not exist: their chances to “succeed” are minimal (regardless of how much they work/fight)
- Lots of men live in precarity, feel depressed because they don’t fulfil their role as *providers/protectors*
 - ➔ but as they have no emotional tools to deal with this grief
 - ➔ they use violence and/or seek refuge in addictions

**Patriarchal terrorism or
structural violence**

Men, capitalism and power

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- The world that Patriarchy sells to them does not exist: their chances to “succeed” are minimal (regardless of how much they work/fight)
- Lots of men live in precarity, feel depressed because they don’t fulfil their role as *providers/protectors*
- Right and far-right discourse uses this feeling of *broken promises* on white male to convince them that the cause are the feminist trying to gain power

Traditional feminist discourses are feeding this arguments



Crime and Tragedy

A **crime** can be avoided as it has no other motivation than the personal interest of the perpetrator

A **tragedy** is written by the destiny, cannot be avoided (even when the perpetrator tries it → Oedipus)



Oedipus Tragedy

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hooks presents male violence towards women, children and other male, as a tragedy resulting of the emotional amputation.



Oedipus Tragedy

Serra makes an important addition here to explain that accepting hook's hypothesis must not take any responsibility out from the perpetrator → SUBJECT and SUBJECTED

Main criticisms of the book

- All violence comes from Patriarchy
- New masculinity == Jesus (strong religious context)
- Binary vision, no mention to trans/queer or any non-binary vision of feminism
- The new men can heal itself only with *a will to change*

Serra comment on this point!

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