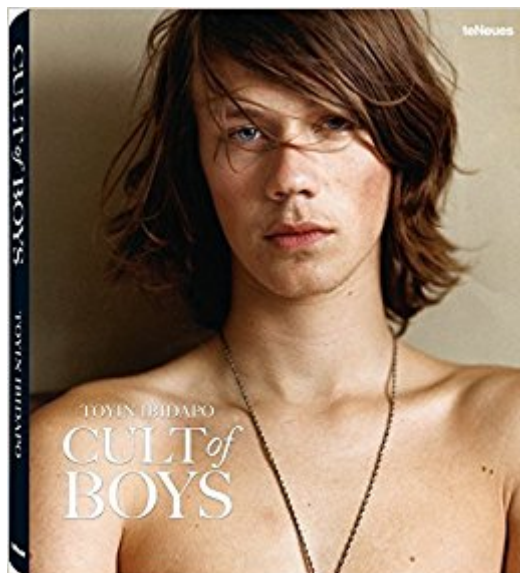


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# Cult Of Boys



## Synopsis

This spellbinding scrapbook is one artist's tribute to androgynous waifs and tomboy dreamers. A fashion photographer for clients like Dazed & Confused and Alexander McQueen, Toyin Ibidapo records her subjects over time in her own home. Each subject is a friend; model and artist collaborate in the creative process. The results are intimate and real. We watch these naive protagonists explore who they are--and who they might become. Although each picture is carefully composed, the mood is far from contrived. The results: delicate portraits that exude a sincerity often missing from images of the young and beautiful. Coltish and charming, these mesmerizing photographs capture the raw vulnerability of adolescence.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #421,801 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #246 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers > Monographs](#) #489 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Portraits](#) #587 in [Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Erotic Photography](#)

## Customer Reviews

"A sexy illustrated book" ~Cosmopolitan"[Cult of Boys] poetically captures the fragility of the youth."  
~kinki Magazine

I love how it was put together, scrapbook style. And I just overall really enjoy this book. As a 23 year old fan of swooshy haired boys, I'm a huge fan. And Toyin is so honest and it is so evident that she poured her heart and soul into this. The photography is wonderful. The photos are vibrant and her commentary is so honest. For the price, the quality is amazing. The pages are so thick, I'm always checking twice to see if there are two stuck together. And it's a lengthy one too.

Lots of shirtless teen boys and some boys in their underwear. All different types of bodies, all young, all exploring.

Toyin Ibidapo is a much better photographer than this book suggests. In her mid-thirties, of Nigerian descent and living in London she is a well respected fashion photographer and has made many music videos. This book is obviously a labour of love for her and some 250 photos are presented in scrapbook style, heavily annotated with her personal recollections. But for me the vast majority of the photos are too rough, too primitive to be truly memorable. And yet I do find this collection more interesting and far more challenging than the sanitised and deodorised shots emanating from Howard Roffman and the Bel Ami fun crowd. In stark contrast to the rough and ready snapshots in the main body of the book, some of which go back 15 years or more, is the "Ode to ..." section at the back of the book, in which Ms Ibidapo has chosen a portrait of each of eight models for whom she has the most affection, and provided a background to her relationship with the model. Here we find an Ode to Dominic Bridger, a remarkably attractive model who features on the cover of the book. It is clear that Ms Ibidapo regards many of the young men featured in this book as family and is anxious to keep in touch with them. This book is devoted to all the young men and women who feature in it, and their names are all listed in an appendix. The book is remarkably chaste and none of the boys are photographed nude, presumably because many of them were under 18 years of age at the time. There is a photo of a young man touching himself, but his hand has been taped over and the photo is annotated "too sexy for this book." So I think this book is a labour of love for the photographer, but the photos are in the main too scrappy and unsophisticated to hold the interest of the reader for very long.

I should have read the description better. Or perhaps it should be titled "Cult of Young Men." I was hoping for younger boys playing soccer, little league baseball, fishing, just boys being boys. The type of photography was not at all pleasant. Almost blurry or faded. And they were definitely NOT boys! I was very disappointed, and to make matters worse, I was sent two of them, and charged for two. I have not yet been able to print my return shipping label, as it is grayed out. A very expensive mistake!!

I started to buy this book, then I read some reviews. The reviews had this book with photos of young people. No Nudity. Well, I was not interested in a book with young people and no nudity. I decided not to buy the book, then I read something somewhere that the book was done in very good taste.

After going back and forth with the reviews I decide to buy and I am glad I did. There is really no nudity in the book, There may be one or two pictures that may be down right nude. At this point I am glad I did buy this book. Some of the kids are really good looking (Cute - for a guy who likes young guys). I would look at this book time and again. If anyone is interested and has the money. I would say look into looking into finding a physical copy and look at and decide. I sure would buy this book.

CULT OF BOYS is an art book. Though the title may suggest to some that this is a book of nude young boys meant to titillate, nothing could be further from the truth. Toyin Ibidapo is a young British photographer and film maker who is London based and has gained acclaim for her work with celebrities: some of her 'models' include Ben Wishaw (Brideshead Revisited, The Hour TV series, Julie Taymor's The Tempest, Bright Star, I'm Not There, etc), Jamie Campbell Bower (Camelot for TV, Sweeney Todd, Harry Potter, Anonymous, etc), Dominic Cooper (Captain America, The History Boys, An Education, The Duchess, etc), Michael Pitt (Boardwalk Empire for TV, The Dreamers, Funny Games, The Heart is Deceitful above all Things, etc), and Tom Hughes (Silk, Cemetery Junction, Sex, Drugs, & Rock and Roll, etc) as well as capturing the work of Alexander McQueen's now infamous fashions. But this book is not limited to her penchant for capturing celebrities in non-traditional imagery. According to the artist, what appeals to her artistic sense is 'What lies beneath - not just a pretty face. Raw, honest to a point, and maybe a slight hint of voyeurism and untapped sexuality, it's all in the eyes.' For the past 10 years she has invited young boys into her home and has taken hundreds of images, all gentle, unposed, not desanitized, and treated these lads as her friends. The result is a book containing many photographs of very thin, long haired, rather unkempt lads - with an occasional similar looking female of the same age group here and there - many without shirts but otherwise dressed, in photos that are pasted or sewn together on some pages, morphed into lace surrounded hand colored artsy images on other pages, and some solo and others with groups - the final appearance is that of a scrapbook of friends that happens to include comments from the artists and from the models on certain pages. According to an interview with the artist, the following is pertinent information: 'Toyin's ability to capture raw emotion and the beauty of youth in her photos enable the viewer to read a story without words, almost as if you are reading the diary entries of her subjects. She one day hopes to publish a book of her life's work entitled 'The Cult of Boys'. Toyin has enough material to make 10 books. Her bedroom where she always shoots, in the family home she grew up in, is filled with photos from the past 10 years and beyond, and the overflow is housed in crates in the garage. Toyin's work captures another aspect of the male form, a graceful softer image that plays with androgyny, redefining what male beauty is.

Toyin has shot campaigns for McQ and Edwin, is a long-time contributor to Dazed & Confused and has also contributed to Show Studio, Dazed Japan, The Telegraph, Jalouse, Crash and 10.' And now with the publication of this impressive book we can readily see that her hope came to fruition! To appreciate this 'museum quality exhibition' of Toyin Ibidapo the reader needs to hold this large volume in the lap and simply page through slowly and then again and again. Her imagery is natural - and unnatural - traditional and avant-garde. The book is itself an art piece and deserves careful attention from all those interested in photography as art and social statement as to the youth of today. The reader is treated to several homages to various boys art the book's end and from that we learn a lot about this young British/Nigerian photographer who is headed toward a permanent place in the world of art. Grady Harp, October 11

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