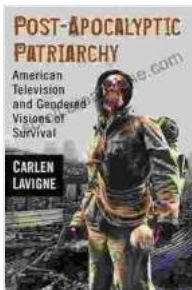


# American Television and Gendered Visions of Survival

In the face of adversity, human beings have developed a wide range of survival strategies. These strategies are often shaped by our gender, as well as by other factors such as our race, class, and sexual orientation. In American television, gendered visions of survival are often portrayed in a way that reinforces traditional gender roles. However, there are also a growing number of shows that challenge these stereotypes and offer more nuanced and complex portrayals of gender and survival.



## Post-Apocalyptic Patriarchy: American Television and Gendered Visions of Survival by Carlen Lavigne

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3828 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 194 pages



## Traditional Gender Roles and Survival

In traditional American television, women are often portrayed as the nurturers and caregivers, while men are portrayed as the protectors and providers. This division of labor is often reflected in the way that characters survive in the face of danger. For example, in the popular zombie drama *The Walking Dead*, the female characters are often shown cooking,

cleaning, and taking care of the children, while the male characters are shown fighting off zombies and protecting the group.

This traditional division of labor can be limiting for both men and women. Women may feel pressure to conform to the role of the nurturer, even if they are not naturally inclined to do so. Men may feel pressure to be the protector, even if they are not comfortable with violence. This can lead to feelings of inadequacy and stress for both men and women.

### **Challenging Gender Stereotypes**

In recent years, there has been a growing number of American television shows that challenge traditional gender roles. These shows offer more nuanced and complex portrayals of gender and survival. For example, in the dystopian drama *The Handmaid's Tale*, the female characters are shown fighting back against their oppressors and finding ways to survive in a world that is hostile to women.

These shows are important because they help to break down stereotypes about gender and survival. They show that women are just as capable as men of surviving in the face of adversity. They also show that there is no one right way to be a man or a woman. Men and women can be nurturers, protectors, providers, and survivors.

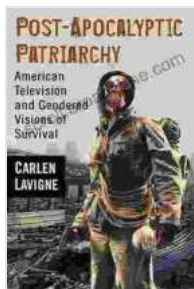
### **The Impact of Gender on Survival Strategies**

The gender of a character can have a significant impact on their survival strategies. For example, in the post-apocalyptic drama *Jericho*, the female characters are often shown using their skills of negotiation and diplomacy to resolve conflicts, while the male characters are often shown using

violence. This reflects the fact that women are often socialized to be more cooperative and nurturing than men.

However, it is important to remember that gender is not the only factor that shapes survival strategies. Other factors, such as race, class, and sexual orientation, can also play a role. For example, in the prison drama *Orange is the New Black*, the female characters of color are often shown using their survival instincts to protect themselves from violence and abuse.

American television is a powerful medium that can shape our perceptions of gender and survival. By portraying a wide range of gendered visions of survival, American television can help to break down stereotypes and promote a more inclusive and equitable world.



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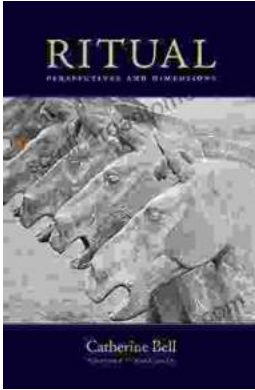
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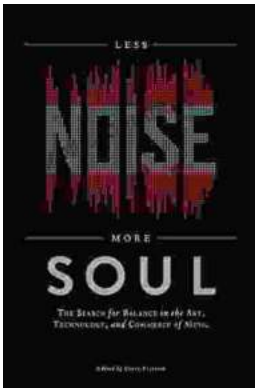
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