

# Men and Masculinities

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**Book Review: Kaplan, Danny. (2006). *The Men We Loved: Male Friendships and Nationalism in Israeli Culture*. New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books**

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for students in film and gender studies. It is the most rigorous book in English on Marcello Mastroianni. Her timely research will be useful for students investigating cultural studies, film studies, and representation of gender.

interesting narratives and interpretations. However, it is too detailed and slow paced, and the reader might find it difficult to recognize the move toward the crux of the argument. It is only in its third and closing part that the book really takes off, when Kaplan reaches the revealing analysis of friendship in a set of “sacred” national spaces (the military, commemoration rituals). It is this part that actually produces most of the support for the main argument.

Although it takes some time to warm up, the book offers a clear and well written account of present-day Israeli male friendships. Kaplan uses a cultural narrative approach, seeking to go beyond the obvious and sometimes banal accounts of his informants. Following Derrida, he tries to deconstru

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