

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910822874503321
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Titolo	Faeries, bears, and leathermen : men in community queering the masculine // Peter Hennen
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Chicago, : University of Chicago Press, 2008
ISBN	1-281-95713-5 9786611957131 0-226-32729-9
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (254 p.)
Disciplina	306.76/62
Soggetti	Gay men - Psychology Male homosexuality
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 219-233) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- Contents -- Acknowledgments -- 1. In Their Natures: Gay Men, Queer Men, and Gendered Strategies of Resistance -- 2. Girlymen: Cultural and Historical Perspectives on Effeminacy -- 3. Fae Spirits and Gender Trouble: Resistance and Compliance among the Radical Faeries -- 4. Bear Bodies, Bear Masculinity: Recuperation, Resistance, or Retreat? -- 5. Feeling a Bit under the Leather: Hypermasculinity, Performativity, and the Specter of Starched Chiffon -- 6. Fielding Questions, Fielding Possibilities -- Notes -- References -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Over time, male homosexuality and effeminacy have become indelibly associated, sometimes even synonymous. In <i>Faeries, Bears, and Leathermen</i> , Peter Hennen contends that this stigma of effeminacy exerts a powerful influence on gay subcultures. Through a comparative ethnographic analysis of three communities, Hennen explores the surprising ways that conventional masculinity is being collectively challenged, subverted, or perpetuated in contemporary gay male culture. Hennen's colorful study focuses on a trio of groups: the Radical Faeries, who parody effeminacy by playfully embracing it, donning prom dresses and glitter; the Bears, who strive to appear like "regular guys" and celebrate their larger, hairier bodies; and the Leathermen,

who emulate hypermasculine biker culture, simultaneously paying homage to and undermining notions of manliness. Along with a historical analysis of the association between effeminacy and homosexuality, Hennen examines how this connection affects the groups' sexual practices. Ultimately, he argues, while all three groups adopt innovative approaches to gender issues and sexual pleasure, masculine norms continue to constrain members of each community.

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