
Contents

Preface xi

Acknowledgments xiii

1	Cool Pose: Expression and Survival	1
	<i>The Dilemmas of Black Masculinity</i>	2
	<i>What Is Cool Behavior?</i>	3
	<i>The Survival Value of Being Cool</i>	5
	<i>Anomie and Individual Choices for Achieving Success</i>	5
	<i>Focus on Cool Pose As a Coping Strategy</i>	7
2	Social Stress and Social Symptoms	11
	<i>Social Pathology: A Symptom of Oppression</i>	11
	<i>Mental Disorders</i>	12
	<i>The Disaster of Education</i>	13
	<i>Unemployment</i>	15
	<i>The Sting of Poverty</i>	15
	<i>Children Too Soon, Too Fast</i>	16
	<i>Blacks, Masculinity, and the Military</i>	18
	<i>Babies and Men Who Die Too Soon</i>	18
	<i>Accidents and Self-Destructive Behaviors</i>	21
	<i>Escaping with Alcohol and Drugs</i>	22
	<i>Criminality and Incarceration</i>	22
	<i>The Interplay of Destructive Forces</i>	24
	<i>Cuts in Government Programs</i>	25
3	Cool Pose and Masculinity	27
	<i>Playing It Cool</i>	27
	<i>A One-Dimensional Image of Maleness</i>	28
	<i>Cool As the Ultimate Control</i>	29

	<i>The Tough Side of Cool</i>	29
	<i>Masculine Attainment</i>	30
	<i>Violence and Masculinity</i>	33
	<i>Coolness and Compulsive Masculinity</i>	34
4	In Search of Pride and Manhood	37
	<i>The Positive Side of Being Cool</i>	37
	<i>The Negative Side of Being Cool</i>	40
	<i>Suicide and the Search for Adolescent Identity</i>	45
	<i>School Is Not Cool</i>	46
	<i>Being Cool and Being Tough</i>	48
	<i>Delinquency and Gangs</i>	50
	<i>Compromised Race Relations</i>	52
5	The Genesis of Black Masking	55
	<i>West African Culture: A Different Metaphor</i>	55
	<i>The Roots of Cool in African Culture</i>	57
	<i>The Legacy of Slavery: An Exquisite Sensibility</i>	58
	<i>The Black Mask</i>	59
	<i>Black Acting</i>	61
	<i>Shucking</i>	63
	<i>Black Humor: "I'm Still Here, Daddy-O, I'm Still Here"</i>	63
	<i>Inversion</i>	65
6	The Expressive Life-Style	69
	<i>The Spontaneous Self</i>	69
	<i>Being Alive</i>	70
	<i>The Style Factor</i>	71
	<i>Nonverbal Styling</i>	72
	<i>Dancing</i>	75
	<i>Sports As a Vehicle for Expressiveness</i>	76
7	The Cool Cat Life-Style	79
	<i>Portrait of the Cool Cat</i>	79
	<i>Clothes and the Cool Cat</i>	80
	<i>Cool Wheels</i>	82
	<i>Lame to the Bone</i>	83
	<i>Why Is Style So Important?</i>	83
	<i>Life on the Streets</i>	85
	<i>Hustling to Fill the Void</i>	87

8	Playing the Dozens	91
	<i>The Insult War</i>	92
	<i>Ritualized Sexuality</i>	93
	<i>Rhyming and Expressiveness</i>	95
	<i>Ambivalence toward Women</i>	95
	<i>Ribbing: Zeroing In on Personal Defects</i>	96
	<i>The Crowd As Catalyst</i>	96
	<i>A Cruel but Skillful Game</i>	97
	<i>Origins of the Dozens</i>	97
	<i>Filling the Void: Play and Entertainment</i>	100
	<i>Establishing a Rep</i>	100
	<i>Keeping Cool with the Dozens</i>	101
9	Summary and Implications	105
	<i>Toward a Positive Model of Black Masculinity</i>	106
	<i>Suggestions for Social Programs, Intervention, and Policy Changes</i>	110
	<i>In Closing: A Man's Mind Is His Castle</i>	116
	<i>Notes</i>	121
	<i>Bibliography</i>	127
	<i>Index</i>	137
	<i>About the Authors</i>	143