Love & War is excellent at pulling apart masculinity and its implications for the lives of men and women within militaristic cultures.

for those of us who haven't yet interrogated our shaving, plucking, threading, and lasering habits.
—CRYSTAL ERICKSON

FURTHER READING: *The Last Taboo: Women and Body Hair* by Karín Lesnik-Oberstein (Manchester University Press).

LOVE & WAR: HOW MILITARISM SHAPES SEXUALITY AND ROMANCE

Tom Digby
{COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY PRESS}

Driven by my experience in the Air Force in the late '90s, my undergraduate thesis explored the impact of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell, Don't Pursue" on heterosexual women in the U.S. military. Focused on the intersection of informal gender policing (lesbian-baiting, sexual coercion, jokes, assault) and institutional power (rumors could turn into an investigation of the victim), it was

a call for everyone—gay, straight, women, men—to dismantle the weapon of homophobia. I wish I had Tom Digby's *Love & War* to read back then, because while I understood what was at stake for women, I had only a vague sense of the implications for men.

Love & War is philosopher Tom Digby's second book in the field of gender studies. Based on a series of talks and lectures he's given at colleges and conferences, it is written for a broad audience, which is refreshing. He notes, "The informality...reflects an understanding that the world urgently needs philosophers (and other scholars) to write, speak, and teach in ways that can make a difference in people's lives." Digby asserts that in war-reliant societies, militarism is the basis for our constructs around gender, establishing an adversarial relationship between men and women on multiple fronts. What I found particularly striking in *Love & War* is the dissection of masculinity—why and how it comes about, how it is held in place by false romantic notions, misogyny, and how this "programming" begins in childhood.

The book's one clear weakness is that it doesn't address the intersectionality of gender and race. While Digby identifies the racial

How Militarism Shapes Sexuality and Romance
TOM DIGBY