



# Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us

By Susan T. Fiske

Download now

Read Online ➔

**Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us** By Susan T. Fiske

*An insightful examination of why we compare ourselves to those above and below us.*

The United States was founded on the principle of equal opportunity for all, and this ethos continues to inform the nation's collective identity. In reality, however, absolute equality is elusive. The gap between rich and poor has widened in recent decades, and the United States has the highest level of economic inequality of any developed country. Social class and other differences in status reverberate throughout American life, and prejudice based on another's perceived status persists among individuals and groups. In *Envy Up, Scorn Down*, noted social psychologist Susan Fiske examines the psychological underpinnings of interpersonal and intergroup comparisons, exploring why we compare ourselves to those both above and below us and analyzing the social consequences of such comparisons in day-to-day life.

What motivates individuals, groups, and cultures to envy the status of some and scorn the status of others? Who experiences envy and scorn most? *Envy Up, Scorn Down* marshals a wealth of recent psychological studies as well as findings based on years of Fiske's own research to address such questions. She shows that both envy and scorn have distinctive biological, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral characteristics. And though we are all "wired" for comparison, some individuals are more vulnerable to these motives than others. Dominant personalities, for example, express envy toward high-status groups such as the wealthy and well-educated, and insecurity can lead others to scorn those perceived to have lower status, such as women, minorities, or the disabled. Fiske shows that one's race or ethnicity, gender, and education all correlate with perceived status. Regardless of whether one is accorded higher or lower status, however, all groups rank their members, and all societies rank the various groups within them. We rate each group as either friend or foe, able or unable, and accordingly assign them the traits of warmth or competence. The majority of groups in the United States are ranked either warm or competent but not both, with extreme exceptions: the homeless or the very poor are considered neither warm nor competent. Societies across the globe view older people as warm but

incompetent. Conversely, the very rich are generally considered cold but highly competent. *Envy Up, Scorn Down* explores the nuances of status hierarchies and their consequences and shows that such prejudice in its most virulent form dehumanizes and can lead to devastating outcomes—from the scornful neglect of the homeless to the envious anger historically directed at Tutsis in Rwanda or Jews in Europe.

Individuals, groups, and even cultures will always make comparisons between and among themselves. *Envy Up, Scorn Down* is an accessible and insightful examination of drives we all share and the prejudice that can accompany comparison. The book deftly shows that understanding envy and scorn—and seeking to mitigate their effects—can prove invaluable to our lives, our relationships, and our society.

 [Download Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us ...pdf](#)

# Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us

By Susan T. Fiske

## Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske

*An insightful examination of why we compare ourselves to those above and below us.*

The United States was founded on the principle of equal opportunity for all, and this ethos continues to inform the nation's collective identity. In reality, however, absolute equality is elusive. The gap between rich and poor has widened in recent decades, and the United States has the highest level of economic inequality of any developed country. Social class and other differences in status reverberate throughout American life, and prejudice based on another's perceived status persists among individuals and groups. In *Envy Up, Scorn Down*, noted social psychologist Susan Fiske examines the psychological underpinnings of interpersonal and intergroup comparisons, exploring why we compare ourselves to those both above and below us and analyzing the social consequences of such comparisons in day-to-day life.

What motivates individuals, groups, and cultures to envy the status of some and scorn the status of others? Who experiences envy and scorn most? *Envy Up, Scorn Down* marshals a wealth of recent psychological studies as well as findings based on years of Fiske's own research to address such questions. She shows that both envy and scorn have distinctive biological, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral characteristics. And though we are all "wired" for comparison, some individuals are more vulnerable to these motives than others. Dominant personalities, for example, express envy toward high-status groups such as the wealthy and well-educated, and insecurity can lead others to scorn those perceived to have lower status, such as women, minorities, or the disabled. Fiske shows that one's race or ethnicity, gender, and education all correlate with perceived status. Regardless of whether one is accorded higher or lower status, however, all groups rank their members, and all societies rank the various groups within them. We rate each group as either friend or foe, able or unable, and accordingly assign them the traits of warmth or competence. The majority of groups in the United States are ranked either warm or competent but not both, with extreme exceptions: the homeless or the very poor are considered neither warm nor competent. Societies across the globe view older people as warm but incompetent. Conversely, the very rich are generally considered cold but highly competent. *Envy Up, Scorn Down* explores the nuances of status hierarchies and their consequences and shows that such prejudice in its most virulent form dehumanizes and can lead to devastating outcomes—from the scornful neglect of the homeless to the envious anger historically directed at Tutsis in Rwanda or Jews in Europe.

Individuals, groups, and even cultures will always make comparisons between and among themselves. *Envy Up, Scorn Down* is an accessible and insightful examination of drives we all share and the prejudice that can accompany comparison. The book deftly shows that understanding envy and scorn—and seeking to mitigate their effects—can prove invaluable to our lives, our relationships, and our society.

## Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #885373 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Russell Sage Foundation Publications

- Published on: 2012-10-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.00" h x .80" w x 6.00" l, .80 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 256 pages



**[Download](#)** [Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us ...pdf](#)



**[Read Online](#)** [Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us ...pdf](#)

## **Editorial Review**

About the Author

**SUSAN T. FISKE** is Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology at Princeton University.

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**Timothy Parker:**

What do you in relation to book? It is not important to you? Or just adding material when you really need something to explain what your own problem? How about your extra time? Or are you busy particular person? If you don't have spare time to do others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have spare time? What did you do? All people has many questions above. They need to answer that question because just their can do that. It said that about book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is suitable. Because start from on guardería until university need that Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us to read.

**John Reed:**

This Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us are usually reliable for you who want to become a successful person, why. The main reason of this Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us can be one of several great books you must have is giving you more than just simple reading food but feed anyone with information that possibly will shock your prior knowledge. This book will be handy, you can bring it everywhere and whenever your conditions in the e-book and printed versions. Beside that this Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us forcing you to have an enormous of experience for example rich vocabulary, giving you tryout of critical thinking that we know it useful in your day pastime. So , let's have it and luxuriate in reading.

**Inez Tuller:**

The particular book Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us has a lot info on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of profit. The book was written by the very famous author. Mcdougal makes some research before write this book. That book very easy to read you will get the point easily after reading this book.

**William Kelley:**

Reading a publication make you to get more knowledge as a result. You can take knowledge and information

originating from a book. Book is published or printed or illustrated from each source that will filled update of news. Within this modern era like today, many ways to get information are available for a person. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science reserve, encyclopedia, reference book, novel and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Isn't it time to spend your spare time to open your book? Or just seeking the Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us when you essential it?

**Download and Read Online Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske #65KSAMO7Z2N**

## **Read Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske for online ebook**

Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske books to read online.

### **Online Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske ebook PDF download**

**Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske Doc**

**Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske Mobipocket**

**Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske EPub**

**65KSAMO7Z2N: Envy Up, Scorn Down: How Status Divides Us By Susan T. Fiske**