



## A History of the Wife

By Marilyn Yalom

HARPER PERENNIAL, United States, 2002. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Reprint. 202 x 134 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. How did marriage, considered a religious duty in medieval Europe, become a venue for personal fulfillment in contemporary America? How did the notion of romantic love, a novelty in the Middle Ages, become a prerequisite for marriage today? And, if the original purpose of marriage was procreation, what exactly is the purpose of marriage for women now? Combining a scholar's rigor and a storyteller's craft (San Jose Mercury News), distinguished cultural historian Marilyn Yalom charts the evolution of marriage in the Judeo-Christian world through the centuries and shows how radically our ideas about marriage have changed. For any woman who is, has been, or ever will be married, this intellectually vigorous and gripping historical analysis of marriage sheds new light on an institution most people take for granted, and that may, in fact, be experiencing its most convulsive upheaval since the Reformation.

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### Reviews

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In a People cover story, wife Virginia fired back at her husband's accusers. Not only did she believe her husband, her soul mate, but the accusations were clearly a political hatchet job. Luckily, the couple had faith, and began hosting prayer groups in their home and playing Christian music round the clock. She kept her beautician's license current during her career as one of the most famous country singers in history, because she knew better, even then, than to put her eggs in one husband basket. Fifty years since the song's release, Dacey Orr Sivewright revisited the tune for Garden and Gun, calling it probably one of the most misunderstood songs in history. Wynette never meant for it to be some sort of clapback to women's lib, or a pass to men who behave terribly.

Related to A History Of The Wife. Read More From Marilyn Yalom. Skip carousel. Carousel Previous. Carousel Next. Birth of the Chess Queen: A History by Marilyn Yalom. Once upon a time, women wore the title wife like a badge of honor. To be a parson's wife, a baker's wife, a doctor's wife told the world loudly and clearly that one had fulfilled one's natural destiny. It spoke for legitimacy and protection in a world that was proverbially unkind to spinsters. Whether one was happily married or not, the wedding ring, in and of itself, was a measure of female worth. Includes bibliographical references and index. Is the wife an endangered species? - Wives in the ancient world: Biblical, Greek, and Roman models -- Wives in Medieval Europe, 1100-1500 -- Protestant wives in Germany, England, and America, 1500-1700 -- Republican wives in America and France -- Victorian wives on both sides of the Atlantic -- Victorian wives on the American frontier -- The woman question and the new. Woman -- Sex, contraception, and abortion in the United States, 1840-1940 -- Wives, war, and work, 1940-1950 -- Toward the new wife, 1950-2000. "A History of the Wife," by noted Stanford scholar Marilyn Yalom, is a delightful trip across many centuries. As the mother of three twenty-something unmarried daughters, I'm thankful for the perspective it offers. Yalom writes with balance and humor, and her work will enable the reader to learn in-depth about the varied attitudes toward courtship, marriage, and the role of the wife, in other times and places. As a Lay Carmelite, I was especially intrigued by the Puritans, who placed a high value on mutual love, but emphasized that love should not be confused with romantic passion, and was never meant to rival the love of God. to explore how the contemporary wife came into being. From the perspective of modern marriage, the distinguished cultural historian Marilyn Yalom charts the evolution of marriage in the judeo christian world through the centuries and shows how radical that collective change has been. Drawing extensively from diaries, memoirs, and letters, A History of the Wife also pays tribute to the ordinary wives who over the centuries changed with and against the currents they encountered, quietly affecting the legal, personal, and social meaning of marriage. For any woman who is, has been, or ever will be married, this intellectually vigorous and gripping historical analysis of marriage sheds.