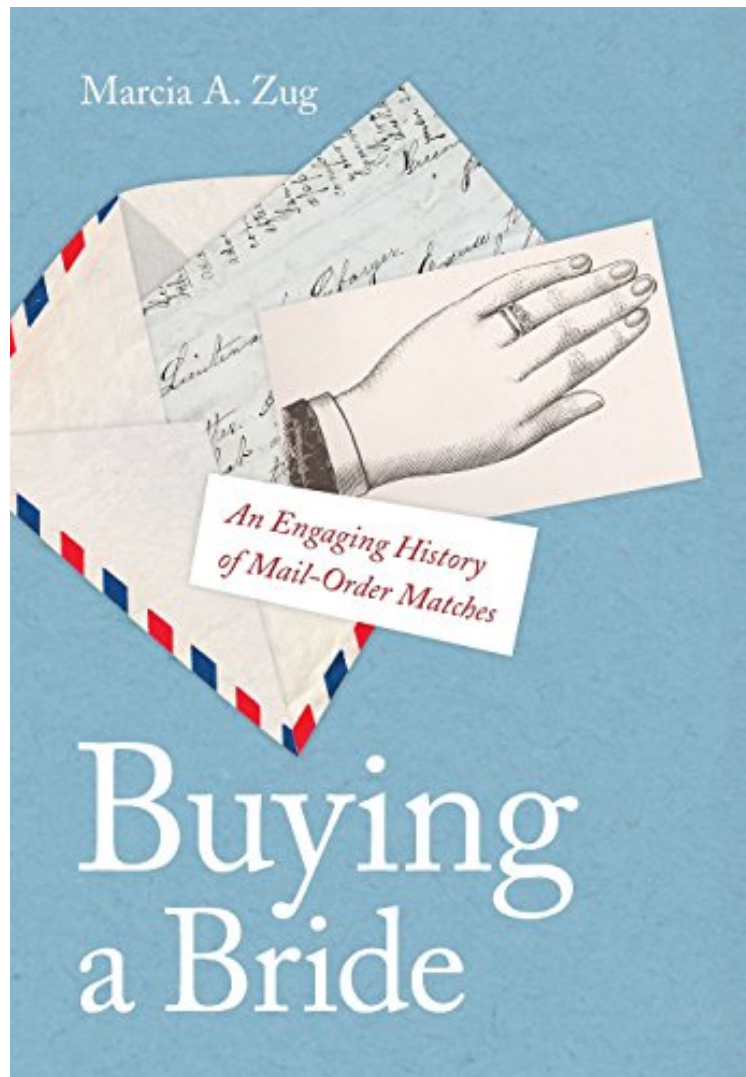


[FREE] Buying a Bride: An Engaging History of Mail-Order Matches

Buying a Bride: An Engaging History of Mail-Order Matches

Marcia A. Zug

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Marcia A. Zug : Buying a Bride: An Engaging History of Mail-Order Matches before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buying a Bride: An Engaging History of Mail-Order Matches:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This was an excellent, well-researchedBy Jacqueline FoxThis was an excellent, well-researched, and informative book that was also really easy to read. I ended up knowing far more about the complexity of this than I knew before, and like how it unpacks the complexities of money, power, and gender in this situation. From reading this, I better realized we all make choices in the face of our specific

circumstances, and sometimes those circumstances aren't readily apparent to those on the outside.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. EnjoyableBy DarrenIngram_dot_comHands up if you thought that mail-order brides were a relatively new phenomena, restricted perhaps to some Asian and eastern European countries. You would be wrongThe author of this wonderfully engaging book looks at mail-order brides from an American perspective and it has its roots deep in history, importing ladies from many countries. In earlier times it was viewed as a form of future breeding stock and necessary to bring balance to the predominantly male pioneers. When there was difficulty attracting females to be exported, it could be time to dragoon in some convicts, trick a few people or make a very, very compelling offer and promise (that may be latterly broken).Abuse, deception, trickery and failure has accompanied each successive wave of mail-order brides over time, although through adversity and trouble has also come empowerment and opportunity for some women. The author has dug into a rich seam of long-forgotten legal cases to bring this fascinating book to life. It does not hector or judge, but highlights a broad range of problems ranging from breach of contract to human trafficking and prostitution and these issues are not things consigned solely to the history books.This is a meticulously researched book that could give much to the academic researcher whilst remaining open and accessible to the casual, interested reader. It was one of those great little finds that was hard to put down, despite it being a subject that might not have ordinarily been in the middle of this reviewers reading focus.Theres not a lot more to add. If you hadnt considered this book but are open to reading something different, take a chance on it and prepare to be lost in the book for a fair few evenings!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A spectacular history....By Please Pass the Books.What a fantastic, fantastic chronicle! Detailing the various experiences and accounts of mail order brides, *Buying a Bride: An Engaging History of Mail-Order Matches* digs deep and delivers a no-holds-barred narrative on a subject that has been left (until now) to modern documentaries and fan-fiction that barely scratches the surface. Going into this, I suppose I expected something a little more like "Birthday Girl", but was instead engrossed in a fascinating history dating back to the founding of the US. Despite sometimes reading like a textbook, *Buying a Bride* is a captivating study. Zug forces a conversation about the good, the bad, and the ugly, but does so with a weapon that few will be able to argue with: The truth.I'd like to thank Net Galley and the publisher, NYU Press, who furnished an ARC of this book.

There have always been mail-order brides in Americabut we havent always thought about them in the same ways. In *Buying a Bride*, Marcia A. Zug starts with the so-called Tobacco Wives of the Jamestown colony and moves all the way forward to todays modern same-sex mail-order grooms to explore the advantages and disadvantages of mail-order marriage. Its a history of deception, physical abuse, and failed unions. Its also the story of how mail-order marriage can offer women surprising and empowering opportunities.

"This provocative history of mail-order marriages challenges stereotypes about women who leave home to wed strangers. Arguing that our view of the practice is overly influenced by cases of trafficking, Zug shows us women who have seen it as an opportunity."-The New Yorker"[S]cholars have tended to view the mail-order marriages of the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries through the lens of todays politics is a persuasive one. It is ironic perhaps, that it has taken a lawyer to remind historians about the dangers of viewing the past as if it were the present, simply dressed in funny clothes.-Times Literary Supplement"A lively and meticulously researched review mail-order bridess varied experiences at different times and places. Zugs compelling case for mail-order feminism shows the need for a more nuanced view of these women as agents rather than the two-dimensional view of them as helpless victims. Students will greatly enrich their understandings of marriage, these women, and the colonization of North America by reading *Buying a Bride*."-Martha Ertman,Carole Hanan Sibel Research Professor of Law, University of Maryland"*Buying a Bride* is a history book like few others, a carefully-documented critical analysis of mail-order marriages from the days of the Jamestown colony to modern times. . . . Zug persuasively and carefully demonstrates how throughout American history, conceptions of larger national imperatives, namely settlement of the frontier, marriage, and race deeply influenced American society's views of mail order brides. The changes have resulted in the radical transformation of the generally positive public opinion of such marital arrangements before the Civil War and increasingly negative views of the practice through to today. . . . From a feminist perspective, Zug concludes that, despite significant risks, mail-order marriages are typically beneficial and even liberating for women. *Buying a Bride* offers fresh new insights to anyone interested in love and marriage, race and immigration, and the fundamental transformation of American social life over the last 300 years."-Kevin R. Johnson,UC Davis School of Law"[*Buying a Bride*] focuses on an area that most of us do not stop to explore in greater depth, and that exploration leads one to see the more nuanced faces of the issues."-Manhattan Book Summing Up: Recommended. All levels/libraries.-Choice ConnectMail-order brides have been welcomed, celebrated, stigmatized, and feared. With its long-term historical perspective, this important book uncovers the origins of changing public opinion while bringing into focus the autonomy that many women have sought and some women have achieved through migration and marriage. -Donna R. Gabaccia,University of Toronto Scarborough"Eye-opening and entertaining."-Foreword sAbout the AuthorMarcia A. Zug is Associate Professor of

