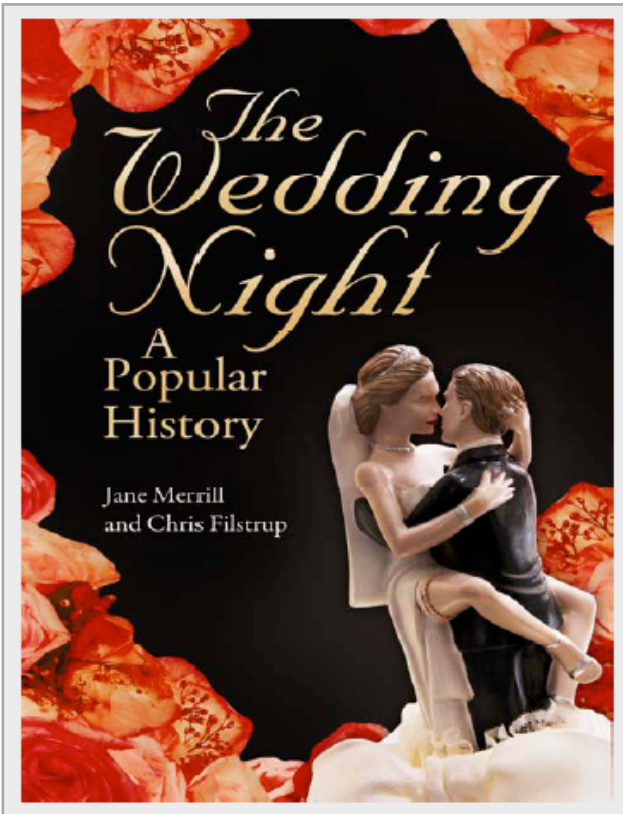


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The Wedding Night

A Popular History

Jane Merrill and Chris Filstrup

Though just outside of public view, the wedding night is loaded with expectation and consequence. *The Wedding Night: A Popular History* is an entertaining, accessible, touching, and humorous volume that looks at the previously unexplored topic of wedding history “between the sheets.” Covering a kaleidoscopic array of cultural expressions, this unique study zooms in on what’s quintessential and shares insights into the history of intimacy through the ages. The book traces the formalization of the wedding night in the ancient Near East and classical world, provides many examples of historically significant unions in European and American history, and describes the lively variety of traditions leading up to the present. Spicing their narrative with many piquant quotes from contemporary sources, the authors explore the rich cultural context for the wedding night—processions, royal rituals, apparel, food-related traditions, and pranks—throughout Europe and America in the 19th and 20th centuries. Separate chapters examine sex guides, jokes, and the bed as a special conjugal space.