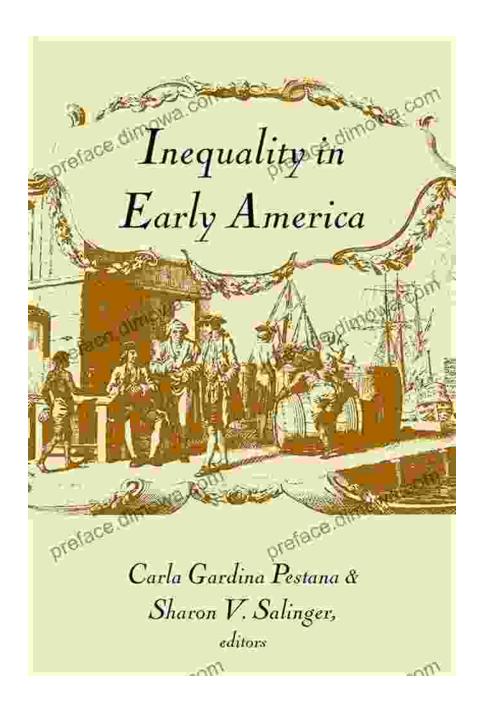
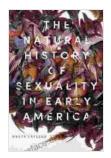
The Natural History of Sexuality in Early America: A Window into the Intimate Past



The Natural History of Sexuality in Early America

by Greta LaFleur

★★★★ 5 out of 5
Language : English



Hardcover : 286 pages

Item Weight : 1 pounds

Dimensions : 7 x 10 inches

File size : 3774 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length



: 426 pages

In the tapestry of American history, the subject of sexuality has often been shrouded in secrecy and shame. But a groundbreaking work by historian Carla Gardina Pestana sheds new light on this fascinating and often taboo aspect of our past.

Unveiling Hidden Worlds

The Natural History of Sexuality in Early America is a comprehensive examination of sexual behavior, practices, and beliefs from the colonial era through the early 19th century. Drawing on a wealth of primary sources, including diaries, court records, medical texts, and personal letters, Pestana paints a vivid picture of the diverse and complex ways that early Americans experienced and understood sexuality.

The book explores the roles of gender, race, and class in shaping sexual norms and experiences. It examines the evolution of marriage and family structures, the prevalence of premarital sex and extramarital affairs, and the social and legal consequences of same-sex relationships.

Medical Perspectives and Practices

Pestana also delves into the medical beliefs and practices that influenced early Americans' understanding of sexuality. She traces the shifting attitudes towards reproduction, contraception, and sexual diseases, and highlights the role of medical professionals in shaping sexual behavior.

The book sheds light on the use of folk remedies and herbal treatments for sexual problems, as well as the rise of scientific approaches to understanding human sexuality in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Challenging Assumptions

The Natural History of Sexuality in Early America challenges long-held assumptions about sexual behavior in the past. Pestana reveals that premarital sex was more common and accepted than previously believed, and that extramarital affairs were not always met with condemnation.

The book also provides a nuanced understanding of same-sex relationships, showing that while they were often marginalized and punished, they were also present in early American society in various forms.

A Timely Contribution

Published in 2018, *The Natural History of Sexuality in Early America* has garnered widespread acclaim for its groundbreaking research and insightful analysis. It has been praised for its ability to shed light on a previously unexplored aspect of American history and to promote a more inclusive and nuanced understanding of our shared past.

In the current climate of social and political polarization, this book serves as a timely reminder of the diversity and complexity of human sexuality. It encourages us to challenge our own assumptions and to embrace a more open and inclusive society.

The Natural History of Sexuality in Early America is a must-read for anyone interested in understanding the intimate lives of our ancestors. It is a groundbreaking work that illuminates the hidden worlds of sexual expression, medical practices, and social norms in early America.

Carla Gardina Pestana's meticulous research and engaging writing style make this book both informative and accessible. It is a valuable contribution to the field of social history and a fascinating exploration of a subject that has long been shrouded in secrecy and shame.



The Natural History of Sexuality in Early America

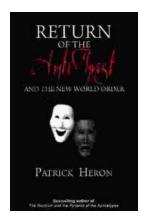
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