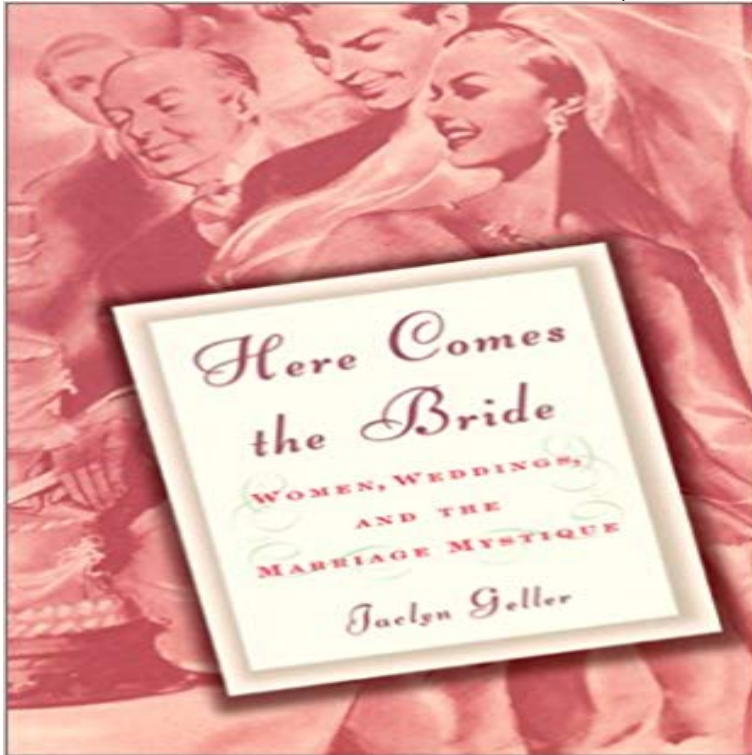


Here Comes the Bride: Women, Weddings, and the Marriage Mystique



In *Here Comes the Bride*, Jaclyn Geller exposes the social forces that shape how people feel about weddings, calling into question some of the deepest-held beliefs about this tradition. Divided into three sections, the book begins with how-to-get-your-man manuals and ends with the newlywed year. First there's Courtship and the Marriage Quest. Geller looks at the absurd nature of proposals, the inane practice of engagement and gift-giving, and the bizarre rules governing the wedding dress. In part two, *The Big Day*, she deals with the specifics of the wedding itself. There are place cards and table settings, rigid photo ops, vows, toasts, garter belts, and daddy dances. What do these highly scripted procedures say about this most treasured ritual? Finally, the author explores some of marriage's deeper implications in *Living in the Plural*: the strangely isolating honeymoon and the establishment of marital identity that begins with a simple thank-you note.

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