



Eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven: Women, Sexuality & the Catholic Church,

Uta Ranke-Heinemann

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This is a book which criticises the oppression of women in the Catholic Church and in Western society. It begins with ancient, pre-Christian taboos and the relatively healthy attitudes of the ancient Jews towards sexual matters, and presents evidence that the early Christians chose pagan models of sexual conduct, and not the Jewish perspective. The book argues that from the apostle Paul to Pope John Paul II, the Church has denigrated sex, degraded women, and championed a perverse ideal of celibacy which, according to the author, stems from a misinterpretation of Christ's words in Matthew 19:11. The book suggests that the Church has glorified Mary's virginity, implying that all normal conception and childbearing are somehow polluted, and has denied the fact that Jesus had siblings. The book shows that the Church has damned birth control, campaigned fiercely against masturbation, which is never mentioned much less forbidden, in the Bible, and has even banned the use of condoms by AIDS patients.

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See 2 questions about Eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven; Lists with This Book. Heaven and Hell. Overall this was a good book that complains about how the Catholic Church has portrayed sexuality and treated people with regard to their sexual being, especially women, and makes a convincing feminist case for a different theology. The book doesn't give airtime to the dominant Catholic view-- which I can understand, since that viewpoint has been privileged enough to be heard already, and the author needs time to make her own argument--but, as someone who's not very familiar with traditional Catho Overall this was a good book that complains about how the Catholic. Translation of: Eunuchen für das Himmelreich. Includes bibliographical references and indexes. Introduction: The district court's Jesus -- Non-Christian roots of Christian sexual pessimism -- The ancient taboo against menstrual blood and its Christian consequences -- The New Testament, and how it was misunderstood : the virgin birth, celibacy, and the remarriage of divorced persons -- The church fathers til Augustine -- Family planning in antiquity : infanticide, abortion, contraception. -- Augustine -- The evolution of celibacy -- Celibates' fear of women -- The suppression of wome... Eunuchs for the Kingdom of Heaven: Women, Sexuality and the Catholic Church. Creator. Ranke-Heinemann, Uta.

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