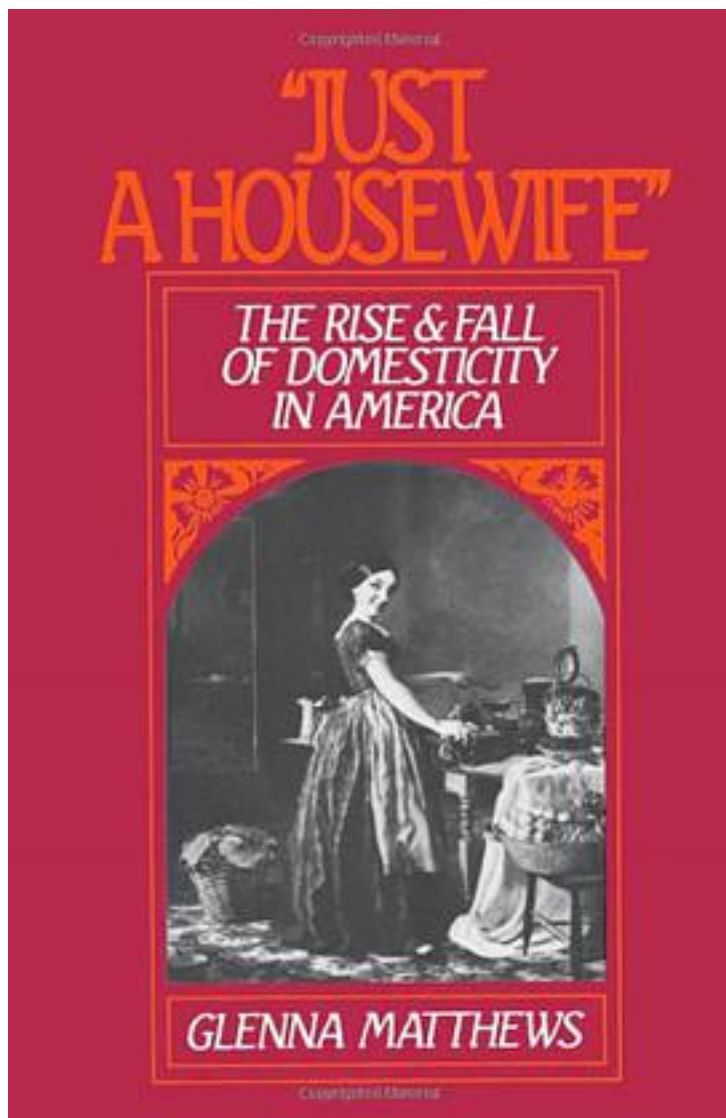


"Just a Housewife"



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The author shows how the nineteenth century's 'cult of domesticity' had invested the home with great importance - as the centre of republican virtue, as the source of religious values and as an area of heady female responsibilities. But this emphasis meant that women were relegated to the domestic sphere, especially when Darwin's 'survival of the fittest' doctrine seemed to indicate that women were physically inferior to men. Ironically, the industrialization of the home in the early twentieth century failed to improve women's lot; on the contrary, it helped lose the home its place of centrality in American culture and produced a terrible dilemma for women by urging them to go into the work place but offering them very little social support for doing so.

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评论

与forced to care可以互补着读，能看到好多历史的缝隙。家庭主妇如何从革命者塑造的光辉形象（notable housewife）逐渐衰落（just a housewife），以至于美国限制基本不用housewife，而以更加中性或职业化地homemaker指代。这其中有技术的力量（如家电的发明）、宗教的力量（基督教教义）、政治的力量（就业机会给谁？）。家务曾是女性赋权的手段和彰显自主性的场域，但也毫无疑问地禁锢着、限制着其公共参与。

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