

The Single Woman and the Fairytale Prince



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The number of one-person households is rising steeply all over the world and a growing proportion of these 'new singles' are women. It is estimated that one woman in three lives on her own. This development reflects general social trends, ranging from rising divorce rates to the growing professionalization of women and their dissatisfaction with a traditional model that offers them a future organized solely around 'husband-baby-home'. At the same time, the attractions of that model still linger and the fairytale prince is by no means a figure from a story or a remote past. Even in an age in which the internet promises that love is 'just a click away', many women still wait for their prince to come. Jean-Claude Kaufmann's sympathetic study of the lives, aspirations and sometimes despair of the 'new single women' is based mainly on an analysis of a sample of the hundreds of letters sent to Marie-Claire magazine after it published a first-hand account of the single life. Funny, touching and at times profoundly sad, the letters paint a collective portrait of the single woman and her life that is both intimate and socially significant. Kaufmann concludes by situating their stories in a broad comparative context and considering the possible impact of novel phenomena such as the recent vogue for 'mail-order brides'.

作者介绍:

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标签

社会学

生活

女性

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评论

先读方法论再读全书，否则要被这种“亲民”的描述式写作和糟糕的(心理学)理论水平给吓坏。毕竟是对信件的分析，又选取了分主题零散写作，难以综合是很正常的。想了想貌似很难回避二分法的写作，即结婚或是不结，两种轨迹、两种身份、两种生活。换

做我，估计会想研究群体而非个人?总之单身人的自省完全可以Mead的理论进行切入，况且对单身轨迹的比喻和Mead的Career以及民主化路径依赖有异曲同工之处。我这人先入为主的反感女性等待Mr.Right肯定是研究不好了，倒是研究一下loved couple这个概念如何重构两个自由个体的“情感纽带”以稳定社会结构更有意思。反之把孤独和内心空虚结合在一起是万万不行的，社会越发展人们越自由是什么鬼。感谢作者指出女性单身比男性单身对社会更具颠覆性，看来欧洲和中国没啥不一样M

可读

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书评

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