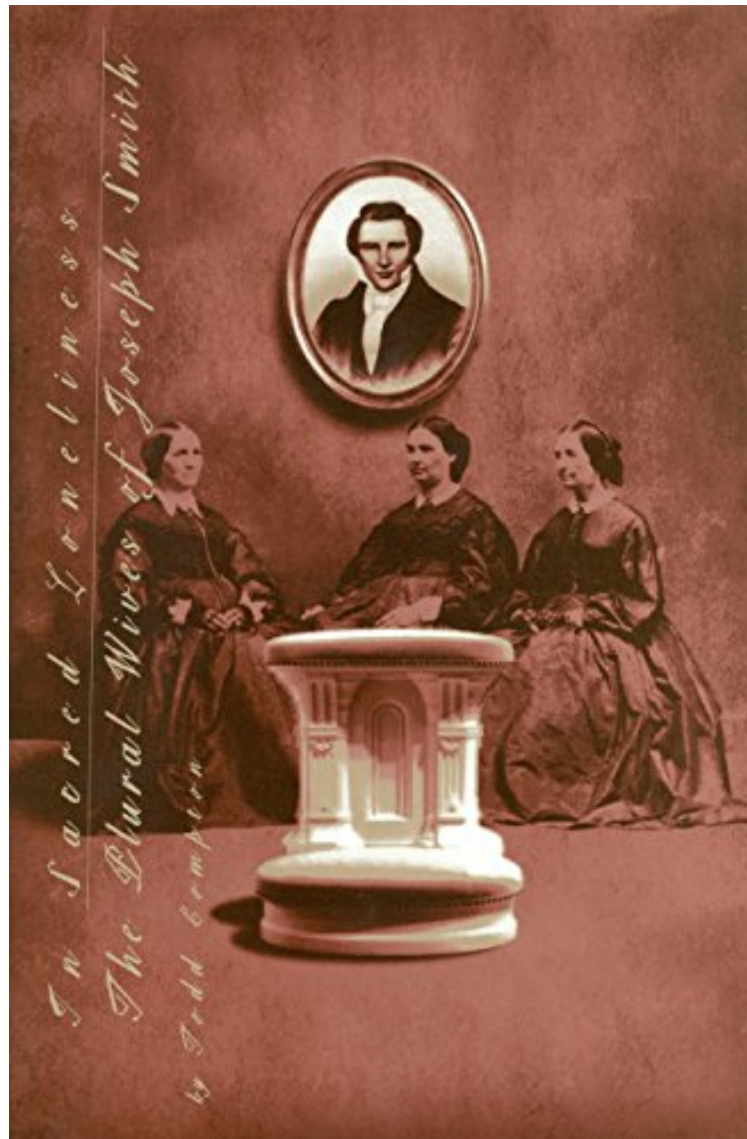


(Free) In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith (English Edition)

In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith (English Edition)

Von Todd M. Compton

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Von Todd M. Compton : In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Aptly titled, this book shatters modern perceptionsVon Ein KundeIf you are looking for another anti-Mormon tome to

discourage and embarrass the church, this book is not for you. I was struck over and over again as I read how completely forgotten the lives of these incredible women are. Because the modern church has distanced itself in every way possible from the practice of plural marriage, the legacy of faith, sacrifice and spiritual majesty of these early Mormon women is all but lost beyond their obvious utility as examples of their contributions to the Relief Society, Primary and Young Women organizations. Compton, however, has preserved for all who care to examine it this priceless legacy of the spiritual gifts and power of these women as exemplified through his well-documented research. His work on the lives of these incredible women exceeds anything we have may have imagined about them -- good or ill. In its practical application the plurality of marriage doctrine seemed to fail miserably and seemingly makes no sense on the surface. But the reader must search beyond the obvious to find incontrovertible evidence of the divinity of the calling of the Prophet Joseph Smith. This book can do nothing but add to the lustre and majesty of his place at the head of this last dispensation of the gospel. Rather than distance ourselves from the lives of these valiant women as they lived through a period of confusing contradictions swirling around what appears to be a reprehensible practice in the Victorian days of the nineteenth century, I was constrained to embrace these women, Joseph Smith, and the restoration of all things through Compton's contribution to my library. My faith increased through the faith I saw radiating in their lives. I thank Compton for his invaluable contribution to the fleshing out of this shrouded chapter of Mormon history.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. An excellent book
Von Duwayne Anderson
It is hard to find a book about early Mormonism that does not focus almost exclusively on Joseph Smith. As founder of the Mormon religion, this may not seem surprising, but it's refreshing just the same to read Todd Compton's book with its almost exclusive focus on Joseph's wives, and comparatively little focus on the Mormon prophet. Compton's book consists of 30 chapters; each written as a biography of the various women Joseph Smith married, with the conspicuous absence of Emma Smith. This highlights and emphasizes the fact that, though Joseph had many wives, they were all rejected by Emma who vigorously opposed polygamy and the intrusions it brought into her home. Studying Mormon history has become a mixed blessing. On one hand, historical scholarship of the subject has advanced greatly since Bodie's landmark "No man knows my History." On the other hand, excommunication of prominent historians (such as Quinn and Brodie) by the Mormon Church has resulted in much fear and distrust. For most Mormons, Todd Compton's book probably falls outside the designation of "faith promoting," and may be uncomfortable for many active members of the church. Growing up in the Mormon Church, I learned several myths about early Mormon polygamy such as: 1. A man's wife had to approve the marriage to plural wives. 2. Most plural wives were older women whose husbands had died, and for whom polygamy represented safe heaven from a brutal world. 3. Most of Joseph's plural wives were sealed to him, but had no sexual relationship with him. 4. Joseph's plural wives never became pregnant from him. 5. There was never any admission or even mention of polyandry. Through the biographies he has constructed, Compton exposes each of these myths. Chapter 1 discusses Fanny Alger, who married Joseph when she was only sixteen and he was twenty-seven. Emma didn't know about the marriage, and when she learned of it (by seeing Fanny and Joseph together, by one account, and noticing Fanny's pregnancy by another account - see pages 34-35) drove Fanny from their house. Oliver Cowdery (one of the Book-of-Mormon witnesses) described Joseph's relationship with Fanny as a sexual affair, and accused Joseph of adultery - resulting in Oliver's excommunication in 1838 (see pages 38-39). Compton spends considerable effort reconciling Cowdery's description of Fanny Alger as an affair, and others who clearly describe a marriage relationship (though without the approval or knowledge of Emma). As I read the book I kept expecting Compton to draw the obvious conclusion, that Joseph had an affair with Fanny and then invented polygamy (which he may have been contemplating anyway) to save his presidency and justify his actions. Compton, however, never draws this conclusion, and ends still contemplating the two possible scenarios as mutually exclusive. I found particular interest in this book because one of Joseph Smith's plural wives, Melissa Lott, was my great, great, great grandmother (see chapter 28). Like many of his other plural wives, Melissa was young (only 19) when she married Joseph Smith. Growing up Mormon, my parents taught me that Melissa had been a "spiritual" wife of Joseph Smith, having been sealed to Joseph only after his death (a common occurrence). During an interview with Joseph Smith's son, and President of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, however, Melissa stated that she had been a wife indeed, with full benefit of a sexual relationship with the prophet. Melissa married Joseph less than a year before he was murdered and later married my great, great, great grandfather. Both lived hard lives, and her second husband died (along with their young son) when the wagon he was driving turned over with its load of firewood and drowned them in a creek. It was a touching chapter for me, the more so because Melissa is my ancestor, and illustrates the central theme of all Joseph's plural wives: sacred loneliness and lives of hard work and toil. Passionately written through the eyes of those who knew him, loved him, followed him, and counted on him for salvation, Compton's book is a must for anyone interested in Mormon history and the personal lives that launched this twentieth-century American religion. Meticulously researched and well written, I highly recommend it.

Duwayne Anderson
1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Myth Buster
Von Missing in Action
On the first level, this book is about the women who married Joseph Smith. Beyond that, though, this is a book about the early psychology of the Mormon Church, and the power of the prophetic and apostolic paradigm that the Mormon people lived under during those early, charismatic years. At first blush, the reader is amazed

at the number of women Joseph Smith married. Traditional Mormon mythology teaches that J.S., Brigham Young, Heber Kimball, et al, mostly married elderly women and widows who needed to be taken care of in "the kingdom," or that most were sealed to them posthumously. Many Mormons will be surprised to find out that Joseph was polygamous at all, since Emma is the only wife we ever hear about in "authorized" church history. But to learn of the nature of those relationships, including the fact that most were wives in consummated relationships with the prophet while many had "first husbands" is truly a myth buster. These women, however, were not just starry-eyed groupies of the charismatic prophet. These were remarkable women of great charisma, leadership and personal power that they possessed of their own, not merely borrowed from their husbands. Their lives are tributes to the spirit of early Mormon faith and endurance. The second layer of this book is a psycho-social study of the early mormon community, particularly from the perspective of the female leadership. These were women who participated in priesthood administrations, healings, speaking in tongues, visions and the administration of temple ordinances. These were women who found a way to create a sisterhood of wives when their husbands were so largely removed from the day-to-day affairs of their enormous families. These were often self-sustaining frontierswomen who played a courageous and unsung role in settling the Great Basin region of the intermountain west. Lastly, I believe this book provides the necessary insight to understand why polygamy failed: it was too psychologically and physically taxing on its participants. Todd Compton does not make any judgement along these lines...the reader is free to come to this conclusion on their own. But to read of the sadness, the loneliness, and the heartache, such a conclusion is inevitable. Compton does the world of history a great favor by bringing together this collection of stories and insights about the leading ladies of early Mormondom. It is an essential counter-balance to the traditional patriarchal authorized history, and is often the history that later Church leaders must have deemed "unwelcome" or at least "unimportant," because you won't find this history in "church approved" manuscripts. It will, however, assist the seeker in determining for themselves the spirit, and culture, out of which sprung the church we know today.

Kurzbeschreibung Beginning in the 1830s, at least thirty-three women married Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism. These were passionate relationships which also had some longevity, except in cases such as that of two young sisters, one of whom was discovered by Joseph's first wife, Emma, in a locked bedroom with the prophet. Emma remained a steadfast opponent of polygamy throughout her life. The majority of Smith's wives were younger than he, and one-third were between fourteen and twenty years of age. Another third were already married, and some of the husbands served as witnesses at their own wives' polyandrous wedding. In addition, some of the wives hinted that they bore Smith children, most notably Sylvia Sessions's daughter Josephine, although the children carried their stepfathers' surname. For all of Smith's wives, the experience of being secretly married was socially isolating, emotionally draining, and sexually frustrating. Despite the spiritual and temporal benefits, which they acknowledged, they found their faith tested to the limit of its endurance. After Smith's death in 1844, their lives became even more lonely and desolate. One even joined a convent. The majority were appropriated by Smith's successors, based on the Old Testament law of the Levirate, and had children by them, though they considered these guardianships unsatisfying. Others stayed in the Midwest and remarried, while one moved to California. But all considered their lives unhappy, except for the joy they found in their children and grandchildren.

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den Autor und weitere Mitwirkende Todd M. Compton, Ph.D., classics, UCLA, is the author of "In Sacred Loneliness: The Plural Wives of Joseph Smith," editor of "Mormonism and Early Christianity," a contributor to "The Encyclopedia of Mormonism" and "Women and Authority: Re-emerging Mormon Feminism," and has been published in the "American Journal of Philology," "Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought," "Classical Quarterly," and the "Journal of Popular Culture," among others. He currently plays electric violin in the Mark Davis Group, which performs at coffee houses and music clubs in the Los Angeles area, and is the assistant systems manager for Paul,

Hastings, Jaofski, and Walker. He lives in Santa Monica, California."