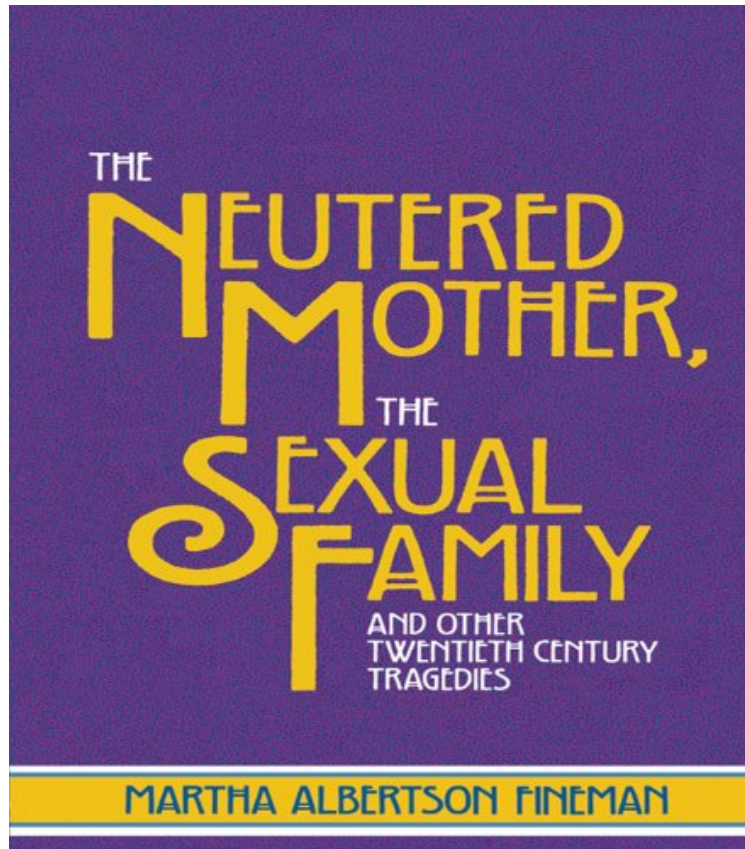


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# The Neutered Mother, The Sexual Family and Other Twentieth Century Tragedies

Von Martha Albertson Fineman

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**Von Martha Albertson Fineman : The Neutered Mother, The Sexual Family and Other Twentieth Century Tragedies** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Neutered Mother, The Sexual Family and Other Twentieth Century Tragedies:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Despite the alarming titleVon Laura LaVelleDespite the rather alarming-sounding title, this is actually a rather innovative and interesting theoretical work about the meaning of family. The author proposes that a new definition of family be legally adopted to reflect practice and need, rather than traditional notions. She uses the mother and child model (this a metaphor for the nurturer and dependant individuals, whatever their age or gender) rather than our idea now that the sexual tie between husband and wife is the tie that binds. So, rather than giving tax breaks and inheritance rights and the myriad of legal advantages to protect a family on the basis of marriage, Martha Fineman proposes that the same advantages be provided by our society to a single mother with a child, or a man in his 30s taking care of his elderly parents, or a woman who lives with and supports her developmentally disabled brother, etc. It is really a completely radical idea, but it is argued persuasively. If she can't convince you, she will at least make you reconsider the

assumptions one makes about families and their legal rights and responsibilities.

Kurzbeschreibung Calling for nothing less than a radical reform of family law and a reconception of intimacy, *The Neutered Mother, The Sexual Family, and Other Twentieth Century Tragedies* argues strongly against current legal and social policy discussions about the family because they do not have at their core the crucial concepts of caregiving and dependency, as well as the best interests of women and children. *The Neutered Mother* scrutinizes the definitions of family and mother throughout the volume while paying close attention to issues of race, class and sexuality. In addition, Fienman convincingly contests society's refusal to dignify, support and respond to the needs of caregivers and illustrates the burden they must bear due to this treatment. This book is a crucial step toward defining America's most pressing social policy problems having to do with women, motherhood and the family. Pressestimmen ""The Neutered Mother is...an extended essay that elegantly and persuasively argues that caretaking relationships are systematically devalued in American law and culture and traces the ideological underpinnings of that disregard." -"Las and Social Inquiry "This book undertakes an ambitious--even revolutionary--rethinking of law's approach to the family. Martha Fineman seeks to recenter legal and social concepts of family around caregiving and dependency, rather than around the sexual tie between men and women. She offers a positive vision in which the inevitable dependency of some members ("children") is recognized as creating derivative dependency in caregivers ("mothers"). The problem lies not in dependency itself but in society's refusal to dignify, support, and protect it. "The Neutered Mother is original and important, a significant step forward in solving questions within feminist theory and in several areas of contemporary legal and political struggles involving women and motherhood." -Martha Mahoney, University of Miami School of Law Kurzbeschreibung Calling for nothing less than a radical reform of family law and a reconception of intimacy, *The Neutered Mother, The Sexual Family, and Other Twentieth Century Tragedies* argues strongly against current legal and social policy discussions about the family because they do not have at their core the crucial concepts of caregiving and dependency, as well as the best interests of women and children. *The Neutered Mother* scrutinizes the definitions of family and mother throughout the volume while paying close attention to issues of race, class and sexuality. In addition, Fienman convincingly contests society's refusal to dignify, support and respond to the needs of caregivers and illustrates the burden they must bear due to this treatment. This book is a crucial step toward defining America's most pressing social policy problems having to do with women, motherhood and the family.