

DOWNLOAD PDF THE MARRIAGE PACT QUESTIONNAIRE PLAYBOOK (MASTERING MARRIAGE)

Chapter 1 : [PDF] The Marriage Pact Questionnaire Playbook By Charlie Michaels - calendrierdelascience.

The Marriage Pact, Questionnaire Playbook Every sports team has a "playbook" which lays out what each member of the team is to do in a given situation. Our Playbook helps your team know what you can expect from each other in a wide variety of real life circumstances and was developed in response to readers' requests.

Until the s in the U. Marking a shift towards greater alignment of marriage with contractual principles of individualization, marriage law no longer imposes gender-specific obligations, it allows pre-nuptial property agreements, and it permits easier exit through no-fault divorce. But marriage remains at least in U. Proponents of the contractualization, or privatization, of marriage have argued that marriage should be brought further into line with the contractual paradigm. A default assumption for some liberals, as for libertarians, is that competent adults should be legally permitted to choose the terms of their interaction. In a society characterized by freedom of contract, restrictions on entry to or exit from marriage, or the content of its legal obligations, appear to be an illiberal anomaly. Full contractualization would imply that there should be no law of marriage at all—marriage officiation would be left to religions or private organizations, with the state enforcing whatever private contracts individuals make and otherwise not interfering Vanderheiden , Sunstein and Thaler , Chartier ; for a critique of contractualization, see Chambers The many legal implications of marriage for benefit entitlements, inheritance, taxation, and so on, can also be seen as a form of state interference in private choice. By conferring these benefits, as well as merely recognizing marriage as a legal status, the state encourages the relationships thereby formalized Waldron 89, In the absence of such justification, providing benefits through marriage may treat the unmarried unjustly, as their exclusion from such benefits would then be arbitrary Card Thus, there is an onus to provide a rationale justifying such resource allocations and legal discrimination on the basis of marriage, as well as for restricting marriage in ways that other contracts are not restricted. Before exploring some common rationales, it is worth noting that critics of the social contract model of the state and of freedom of contract have used the example of marriage against contractual principles. First, Marxists have argued that freedom of contract is compatible with exploitation and oppression—and Marxist feminists have taken marriage as a special example, arguing against contractualizing it on these grounds Pateman , Such points, as we will see, suggest the need for rules governing property division on divorce. Second, communitarians have argued that contractual relations are inferior to those characterized by trust and affection—again, using marriage as a special example Sandel , 3135, cf. This objection applies not only to contractualizing marriage, but more generally, to treating it as a case for application of principles of justice: The next section will examine gender restrictions on entry; this section will examine reasons for recognizing marriage in law at all, allocating resources to it, and constraining property division on divorce. A first reason for recognizing marriage should be set aside. This is that the monogamous heterosexual family unit is a natural, pre-political structure which the state must respect in the form in which it finds it Morse ; cf. But, whatever the natural reproductive unit may be, marriage law, as legislation, is constrained by principles of justice constraining legislation. Within most contemporary political philosophy, the naturalness of a given practice is irrelevant; indeed, in no area other than the family is it proposed that law should follow nature with the possible exception of laws regarding suicide. Finally, such objections must answer to feminist concerns that excluding the family unit from principles of justice, allowing natural affection to regulate it, has facilitated inequality and abuse within it see section 5. Let us then begin with the question of why marriage should be recognized in law at all. A second is that legal recognition is necessary to maintain and protect social support for the institution, a valuable form of life which would otherwise erode Raz , , 3; Scruton , ; see discussion in Waldron But this prompts the question as to why this form of life is valuable. It is sometimes argued that traditions, having stood the test of time, have proved their value. Not only is marriage itself such a tradition, but through its child-rearing role it can pass on other traditions Sommers , Scruton , , cf. Devlin , Chapter 4. But many marital traditions—coverture,

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gender-structured legal duties, marital rape exemptions, inter-racial marriage bans¹ have been unjust. Tradition provides at best a prima facie reason for legislation which may be overridden by considerations of justice. Further, in a diverse society, there are many competing traditions, amongst which this rationale fails to choose. Garrett² An account of the value of a particular form of marriage itself and not just qua tradition is needed. One thought is that monogamous marriage encourages the sexual self-control needed for health and happiness; another is that it encourages the goods of love and intimacy found in committed relationships. State support for monogamous marriage, by providing incentives to enter marital commitments, thus helps people lead better lives. However, this approach faces objections. First, the explanation in terms of emotional goods underdetermines the institution to be supported: Second, claims about the value of sexual self-control are controversial; objectors might argue that polygamy, polyamory, or promiscuity are equally good options see 5. There is a further problem with this justification, which speaks to a division within liberal thought. Some liberals embrace neutrality, the view that the state should not base law on controversial judgments about what constitutes valuable living. To such neutral liberals, this class of rationales, which appeal to controversial value judgments about sex and love, must be excluded Rawls³ . Some theorists have sought to develop rationales consistent with political liberalism, arguing, for instance, that the intimate dyadic marital relationship protects autonomy Bennett⁴ , or that marriage could be justified by its role in protecting caring relationships Brake⁵ , caregivers and children Hartley and Watson⁶ ; see also May⁷ , Wedgwood⁸ . It is widely accepted that the state should protect children. One benefit of two-parent families is economic: The second benefit is emotional: Moreover, some argue that gender complementarity in parenting benefits children; but empirical evidence does not seem to support this [Lee⁹ , Nussbaum¹⁰ ,]. One objection is that marriage is an ineffective child anti-poverty plan. For one thing, this account assumes that incentives to marry will lead a significant number of parents who would not otherwise have married to marry. But marriage and child-rearing have increasingly diverged despite incentives to marry. Second, this approach does not address the many children outside marriages and in poor two-parent families. Child poverty could be addressed more efficiently through direct anti-child-poverty programs rather than the indirect strategy of marriage Cave¹¹ ; Vanderheiden¹² ; Young¹³ . Moreover, there is controversy over the psychological effects of single parenthood, particularly over the causality underlying certain correlations: Young¹⁴ . Indeed, some authors have recently argued that children might be better protected by legally separating marriage from parenting: A related, but distinct, line of thought invokes the alleged psychological effects of two-parent families to argue that marriage benefits society by promoting good citizenship and state stability Galston¹⁵ , ¹⁶ This depends on the empirical case as we have seen, a contested one that children of single parents face psychological and economic hurdles which threaten their capacity to acquire the virtues of citizenship. Finally, a rationale for restricting the terms of exit from marriage but not for supporting it as a form of life is the protection of women and children following divorce. Women in gender-structured marriages, particularly if they have children, tend to become economically vulnerable. Statistically, married women are more likely than their husbands to work in less well-paid part-time work, or to give up paid work entirely, especially to meet the demands of child-rearing. Thus, following divorce, women are likely to have a reduced standard of living, even to enter poverty. Because these patterns of choice within marriages lead to inequalities between men and women, property division on divorce is a matter of equality or equal opportunity, and so a just law of divorce is essential to gender justice Okin¹⁷ , Chapters 7 and 8; Rawls¹⁸ , ¹⁹; Shanley²⁰ , ²¹30; Waldron²² , and see 5. However, it can still be asked why a law recognizing marriage as such should be necessary, as opposed to default rules governing property distribution when such gender-structured relationships end Sunstein and Thaler²³ . Indeed, placing these restrictions only on marriage, as opposed to enacting general default rules, may make marriage less attractive, especially to men, and hence be counter-productive, leaving women more vulnerable. The preceding two rationales are both weakened by the diminished social role of marriage; changing legal and social norms undermine its effectiveness as a policy tool. Moreover, cohabitation and child-rearing increasingly take place outside marriage. Given such significant changes, marriage is at best an indirect strategy for achieving goals

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such as protecting women or children Cave , Sunstein and Thaler , Vanderheiden Some theorists have argued, in the absence of a compelling rationale for marriage law, for abolishing marriage altogether, replacing it with civil unions or domestic partnerships. This line of thought will be taken up in 4. The compromise proposal grants some of the benefits of marriage without ceding the title or indeed, as usually proposed, all the benefits of marriage to same-sex couples. This position does not fully answer arguments for same-sex marriage. Many arguments for same-sex marriage invoke liberal principles of justice such as equal treatment, equal opportunity, and neutrality. Same-sex relationships are relevantly similar to heterosexual relationships recognized as marriages, yet the state denies gays and lesbians access to the benefits of marriage, hence treating them unequally Mohr , Rajczi , Williams Further, arguments in support of such discrimination seem to depend on controversial moral claims regarding homosexuality of the sort excluded by neutrality Wellington , Schaff , Wedgwood To see why a two-tier solution fails to address these arguments, we must consider what benefits marriage provides. There are tangible benefits such as eligibility for health insurance and pensions, privacy rights, immigration eligibility, and hospital visiting rights see Mohr , Chapter 3. Crucially, however, there is also an important benefit of legal, and indirectly social, recognition of a relationship as marriage. The status of marriage itself confers legitimacy and invokes social support. The two-tier system does not provide equal treatment because it does not confer on same-sex relationships the status associated with marriage. Marriage is central to concepts of good citizenship, and so exclusion from it displaces gays and lesbians from full and equal citizenship: Stivers and Valls ; for a comprehensive survey of these issues, see Macedo However, if marriage is essentially heterosexual, excluding same-sex couples is not unequal treatment; same-sex relationships simply do not qualify as marriages. One case for the essential heterosexuality of marriage invokes linguistic definition: But this confuses meaning and reference. Past applications of a term need not yield necessary and sufficient criteria for applying it: As noted above, appeal to past definition begs the question of what the legal definition should be Stivers and Valls A normative argument for the essential heterosexuality of marriage appeals to its purpose: But marriage does not require that spouses be able to procreate naturally, or that they intend to do so at all. Nor do proponents of this objection to same-sex marriage generally suggest that entry to marriage should be restricted by excluding those unable to procreate without third-party assistance, or not intending to do so. Indeed, as the existence of intentionally childless married couples suggests, marriage has purposes other than child-rearing—“notably, fostering a committed relationship Mohr , Wellington , Wedgwood This point suggests a second defense of same-sex marriage: As noted above, such rationales come into tension with liberal neutrality; further controversy regarding them will be discussed below 5. Some arguments against same-sex marriage invoke a precautionary principle urging that changes which might affect child welfare be made with extreme caution. But in light of the data available, Murphy argues that the precautionary principle has been met with regard to harm to children. On his view, parenting is a basic civil right, the restriction of which requires the threat of a certain amount of harm. But social science literature shows that children are neither typically nor catastrophically harmed by same-sex parenting. Even if two biological parents statistically provide the optimal parenting situation, optimality is too high a standard for permitting parenting. This can be seen if an optimality condition is imagined for other factors, such as education or wealth Murphy A third objection made to same-sex marriage is that its proponents have no principled reason to oppose legally recognizing polygamy e. Finnis ; see Corvino One response differentiates the two by citing harmful effects and unequal status for women found in male-headed polygyny, but not in same-sex marriage e. Wedgwood , Crookston , de Marneffe , Macedo

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Chapter 2 : Mastering Marriage

The Marriage Pact, Questionnaire Playbook and its companion text, Mastering Marriage, give you a fun, easy way to identify what a successful marriage means to you and create a plan that will help you realize it.

July 28, Interview: How far would you go to protect your marriage? In this interview, conducted by Bookreporter. She also talks about the important role that Leonard Cohen and his music played in the novel, how her books including this one cross genres, her decision to explore the world of writing at such a young age, and the single best action she took on her road to success. When I sat down to write the questions for this interview about your new novel, I initially did some quick research on guides to marriage. There are many of them, as one might guess, and they are aimed at everyone from newlyweds to those who have been partnered for the long term, those whose relationship is faith-based, and those who are getting ready to enter into that second marriage. And how did it take root and become a novel? Three major things came together to form the seed of the novel. One was my desire to write a novel about two people who are deeply in love and trying to make it work. The second was my longstanding fascination with cult-like organizations that lure people in with the promise of helping them to live fuller, happier lives and be better versions of themselves. Some fashion themselves as religious organizations, while some portray themselves as revolutionary self-help movements. I have often sought to understand why educated, reasonable individuals get drawn into these organizations and become so enmeshed that they leave behind family members, spend massive amounts of money to take seminars or courses, and even sign extreme contracts committing themselves to the organization for life and beyond. The third piece of the puzzle was The Federal Criminal Code, a massive tome, comprised of over a thousand pages of tiny print. What would happen if there were strict rules for marriage, and penalties for those who broke the rules? I wanted to put that concept under the microscope, take it as far as I could, and see what happened. Alice and Jake are both highly educated individuals, yet they sign an agreement one that at the least imposes some restrictions on them without carefully considering it. As the story progressed, however, it became somewhat more plausible, given the force of personality of the people involved and what was promised, namely that their marriage would be successful. At that point, the couple decides if they wish to join. Did you model it after an experience of your own? Or did it come to you while you were writing the novel? The locked box itself occurred to me as I was writing the first chapter of the book. I wanted the wedding gift from Finnegan the locked box containing elegant pens nestled in blue velvet, The Pact Manual, and a contract to appear as mysterious and exclusive as the organization itself. We tend to be more intrigued by gifts that come in beautiful, expensive wrapping, and The Pact is no exception. Some make a point of cutting their members off from the internet and any other form of information that might cast the organization in a bad light. Successful cults, not to mention successful propaganda machines in any sphere including political attempt to control the flow of information. I read a fascinating book years ago about Burma, explaining the lengths to which the government went to prevent offending news or information from the outside world from reaching the citizens. Imagine vast rooms of government workers armed with scissors, busily clipping anything unapproved out of every single magazine that flows into the country. At the other end of the spectrum, I think of the normal, everyday groups that most of us become involved in, whether at the school, the office, the church, or just in our everyday circle of friends. These groups can be wonderful and certainly provide human connection and other benefits, but they also all require something in return. When the balance becomes off kilter, the groups that should support us end up just stressing us out and making our lives more complicated and less happy. I wanted readers to think about the decisions they make every day not just in their marriage but also in other social aspects of their lives and how often they subvert their true feelings and instincts in order to go along with something that purports to be good for them, their families or their communities. The first three make sense. They are all things that a couple probably started doing for each other while they were dating and should continue doing to show that they care. The fourth seems at least

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somewhat diabolical. How did you decide on these four rules? Were there other rules you considered and ultimately discarded? If so and you are willing to share, what were they? But if outsiders know about The Pact, it is no longer The Pact. It thrives on exclusivity and secrecy. Answering the phone when your spouse calls is fairly easy and costs nothing. They write about how giving gifts at unexpected times, rather than only on birthdays and special occasions, provides more pleasure for the recipient and fosters greater feelings of connection between giver and recipient. Planning a trip once a quarter, unlike answering the phone when your spouse calls, is something my husband and I have never practiced. So that rule is taken more from the marriage therapy playbook, an amplified version of weekly or even monthly date nights which my husband and I have also never practiced. Part of what draws Jake and Alice into The Pact is just how reasonable it all seems. Of course they want to go away together! The seeming practicality and good intentions of The Pact, not to mention the fact that they are invited by a prominent musician and businessman whom Alice greatly admires, helps to draw them in. These four rules are the ones I decided to focus on explicitly in the novel, but the implication is that The Manual contains many more rules, and those rules are so labyrinthine that everyone is bound to break some of them at some point. Jake comments that the rules are wrapped in layers of verbiage and legalese, so that understanding the true nature of the rules is nearly impossible. The easier it is to trip up, the more control The Pact has over its members. Uncertainty about what rules one is supposed to play by causes enormous stress and insecurity; you see this in children who have inconsistent parents as well as employees with mercurial bosses. I was quite intrigued by the concept of The Pact from a collective standpoint. How did the concept begin and evolve? I love the reference to *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*! We all have a little bit of paranoia that comes and goes. One of the central characteristics of paranoia is that, when you become afraid of something, you begin to see it everywhere. But, of course, is it paranoia if someone is really watching you? Given that he counsels couples and families in crisis, his approach to helping those whose lives were in turmoil was directly the opposite of what was carried out under the rules of The Pact. How did you sharpen and evolve this element while you were writing? Yes, as Jake slowly delves into the world of marriage counseling, he comes to an understanding that every relationship is different and there are not clear answers to every problem. As a marriage therapist, however, he respects some of the philosophies and purported goals that underpin The Pact. Jake understands that relationships are difficult. He believes there are one or two ways for a relationship to get right, and infinite ways for a relationship to go wrong. Alice is a practicing attorney throughout, and her past life, so to speak, consisted of fronting a fairly successful rock band. As the novel proceeds, she feels the tug of her past career, and for more than one reason. I kept seeing her as Robin Lane who led a band called The Chartbusters in the early s and also recorded with Neil Young with the charisma but without the self-destructive persona of Janis Joplin. Who, if anyone, did you model Alice after? What a wonderful observation! When I think of Alice, I think of that house. There are other places that remind me of Alice, too: I often think of that great line from the brilliant film *Almost Famous*: Any discussion of musicians and wives and love and all the rest of it probably has to begin and end with Patti Smith. I found this interesting since, by coincidence, I listened to Leonard Cohen the entire time I was reading the story. What song of his is your favorite, if you had to pick just one? My favorite Leonard Cohen song? That is an impossible question, but still an interesting question to ponder. It changes all the time. Usually I prefer silence or as much silence as I can get between family, the sounds of the home and the neighborhood, and the very affectionate and persistent Phoebe the cat, who is offended by the notion that I might ever want to work alone. There were times when I strayed from that album *Songs from the Road and Live in Dublin* are both great too, *Popular Problems* as well but I always circled back to it. As for favorite songs, there are a few that I keep coming back to: The controlling and threatening aspect of The Pact clearly landed it in the thriller genre for me, and there are elements of romance and even some science fiction to it. Are you drawn toward or away from any particular genre? If so, how did you do it? I think instead about a specific person in a particular place and time, facing a specific and significant problem. Before I turn it in, I begin to think about how it will be received in terms of genre and where it will fit. That said, genre can actually be very helpful in leading

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readers to books they will enjoy. There are many different ways to do suspense, though, and not all require the kind of pacing that is expected in a thriller. Every one of my novels has a romantic relationship front and center, because I am a practical romantic, and I like to think about and write about the way two people stay together or break apart. What causes the ruptures? What helps them to repair those ruptures? I also believe that humans need intimacy. We look for it in our literature and films just as we look for it in our lives. Emotional intimacy between two characters helps us feel connected to a story and its characters, and it also inspires us to think about our own relationships. Also, in romantic relationships, we are often the truest version of ourselves, because our private moments with people we love tend to be when our defenses and masks fall away. Put your character in a room alone with his or her spouse, and you begin to see who that character really is. I often have a tendency to hold back in my writing, to have protagonists proceed with caution the way I do in my everyday life. I had so much fun, I just might do it again! I never plan or outline. I never know the ending when I begin. However, I usually know before I begin where the entire novel will take place and how much time it will encompass.

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Chapter 3 : Marriage and Domestic Partnership (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy)

The Marriage Pact Questionnaire Playbook and its companion text, Mastering Marriage, give you a fun easy way to identify what a successful marriage means to you and create a plan that will help you realize it.

It should appeal to all couples and professionals. The book accomplishes the mission by setting forth insightful, inspirational quotes coupled with clues. Although not intended as a research-based book, the clues are clearly consistent with research evidence of the characteristics of strong marriages. Cartoons are effective in getting key messages across to the reader. Adding a touch of humor is valuable for couples seeking to build stronger marriages. The dedication of the book instills confidence in the reader as well as authenticity in content. The authors express gratitude to those who have contributed to the book as well as to their marriage. A tribute to a former spouse and their mate adds credibility to their passion to improve relationships and to accept responsibility for mistakes of the past. It sets a tone that is positive and upbeat. The book is very easy to read and understand. The clues and concepts provide direction for couples who are clearly seeking to improve their relationship. Appropriate examples are given that guide the application process. Any couple seeking a stronger marriage that is more loving can use the book without the need for interaction with others. However, the book will accomplish its purpose only if both parties in the marriage or prospective marriage are committed to the process. Although the book is an excellent guide, it can not replace the fundamental dedication and hard work required to make it happen. The book will not bring instant happiness or success without daily practice—the authors make this clear but it is up to the readers to make it happen. Family life educators as well as other marriage professionals will find this book very useful. It could be a very good foundation for pre-marital education or the early stages of marriage. For use with pre-marital education or engaged couples, I believe it would be better to give more emphasis to sexual abstinence until marriage as well as not cohabiting. The Marriage Pact Questionnaire is an exceptional tool to help couples who are seriously dating, engaged, or married to get to know each other better including assumptions, myths, needs and desires. Although lengthy, I agree with the authors—it is worthwhile in setting the relationship on a firm foundation for success. I highly recommend the book to both professional and consumer audiences. I will personally add it to my list of recommended books for my college students. As a parish pastor I always give gift books on marriage to my wedding couples. I also gift couples who are at various stages of married life and who are being challenged with certain issues in their marriages. Thus, I keep my eyes open to new books which are up to date, practical and easy to read. Mastering Marriage will now be on my resource and gift list. The read truly is easy, understandable and practical. I also enjoyed the cartoons with a message that began each chapter. They are a "soft start up" that entices the reader to continue reading. And, I enjoyed the personal quotes from others who have insights about marriage. The famous and not-so-famous all have something in common within our marriages. As a therapist and psychologist in training who emphasizes couples work, I have read many excellent books about marriage, and I tend to personally value those focused on sound research. Also, with so many books out there, I wondered what new insights these authors could bring to the field. As I continued to read, I gained greater respect for the wisdom contained in this book. True, some of the advice continued to strike me as overly simplistic, and my biggest ongoing critique was that many of the tips and tools seemed tailored to the personalities of the authors and the way they had structured their marriage. Nevertheless, there were many ideas presented in the book that are more readily generalizable and, if applied, would provide a solid foundation for marital happiness. A few of these are ideas that I have never seen directly discussed in any book on marriage. The best example of this was the chapter "Trading Faces", which advocates continuing to be, when married, the person you presented yourself as while dating. How many marriages could be improved if people would follow this advice? Too often couples put on a show throughout courtship, only to be hurt or surprised when their partners do not wholly embrace the "real" them once they have reverted back to their true selves. Michaels and Brown discuss throughout the book the importance of

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genuineness and really getting to know one another before marriage, which is, I agree, essential to a happy union. As I read, I also gained appreciation for the accessible style in which *Mastering Marriage* is written. Whereas clients might be disinclined to wade through the verbose, research-oriented tomes that I enjoy as a therapist, anyone could grasp the concepts presented by Michaels and Brown. Chapters were extremely short, often no more than a couple of pages, and the counsel presented was straight-forward and well-illustrated with powerful personal examples. Using the first part of the book, a couple could easily work on changing one small thing at a time. This would help them circumvent the discouragement that people often feel when they learn all they are doing wrong and believe they must overhaul their entire relationship to be happy. Many of these small changes could have significant positive effects on marital quality. The last section of the book is devoted to creating a marriage pact, and this would certainly be much more time consuming and difficult to apply. For a couple willing to put in the work, however, it would no doubt be useful. I found that section particularly beneficial for couples contemplating marriage. They seem genuinely interested in helping couples, which no doubt accounts for their dogmatism in wanting people to apply what has worked for them. They offer the complete text of the book free of charge on their website, and offer many other resources for couples as well. It was obvious while reading the book that it was a labor of love, not motivated by profit, which helped the reader feel more deeply connected with the ideas of the book. It often felt as I was reading that Michaels and Brown were interested in me personally. In contrast with the unstable and tumultuous state of many modern marriages, it was refreshing to read the stories of a couple who are truly happy together, and just want everyone else to have what they have. I hope that, after reading and applying *Mastering Marriage*, a few more will.

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Chapter 4 : The Brides of Bliss County Series | Book Reviews & More by Kathy

The Marriage Pact Questionnaire Playbook (Mastering Marriage) by , Mastering LifeSkills Inc edition, Paperback in English - 1st edition.

No one does the holidays like Linda Lael Miller, whose Christmas novels have warmed the hearts of millions of readers the world over! So, just before Christmas, Charlotte moves back home. Christmas in Mustang Creek is a magical time in a magical place, not least because of a mysterious visitor named Mrs. This sweet romance takes place a few days before Christmas and it is a light-hearted and easy to read novel that old and new fans of the series are going to love. Charlotte Morgan grew up in Mustang Creek but after college, her career in advertising led her to a dream job in New York. As soon she arrives in town, Charlotte immediately crosses paths with Jaxon Locke, the veterinarian she dated while living in New York. She and Jaxon split up a year earlier when he returned to Idaho to take care of his father after he had a heart attack. Is it just a coincidence that Jaxon is moving to Mustang Creek just as Charlotte returns to town? Or is a little holiday magic responsible for their unexpected reunion? Charlotte and Jaxon cared deeply for one another, but while Charlotte loved living in the big city, Jaxon longed to return to the wide open spaces back West. He never stopped caring for Charlotte so after his father returned to work, Jaxon eagerly accepted a job offer to join a vet practice in Mustang Creek. He was even more thrilled to discover that Charlotte was returning home and he is cautiously optimistic they can resume their relationship. Charlotte returns to Mustang Creek with no clear plan for her future. She loves her career but she is torn between staying close to her beloved Aunt Geneva and moving to another large city where she can put her skills to use. She is stunned to discover that Jaxon is planning to settle in her hometown, but she still sees no way around their conflicting dreams. With a little help from the mysterious Mrs. Klozz, Aunt Geneva and a surprising business idea, Jaxon eagerly begins trying to convince Charlotte to give their relationship a second chance. Christmas in Mustang Creek is another low key, blissfully angst-free romance from fan favorite Linda Lael Miller. As always, the characters are quite appealing, delightfully engaging and beautifully developed. The holiday season is the perfect backdrop for the renewed relationship between Jaxon and Charlotte and their romance is quite heartwarming. Mustang Creek is still the same warm and inviting town and the addition of Mrs. Klozz to the cast of well-meaning and caring townspeople adds a bit of whimsy to the storyline. Although it is the fourth installment in The Brides of Bliss County series, it can be read as a standalone.

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Chapter 5 : The Marriage Pact Questionnaire Playbook by Charlie Michaels

Combines the text of Mastering Marriage with the write-in convenience of The Marriage Pact Questionnaire Playbook. Upbeat and charming, this book shares tips and techniques you can use to grow happier and more in love every year.

This blog is for reader comments about our products. Each product has a separate section. Comments emailed to us and then posted are always on view. To read the comments posted directly on this site, click on "Comments" at the end of the appropriate section. To post your own comment, scroll to the end of the comments for that product and click on "Post A Comment. Please email them to Mike MasteringLifeSkills.

Sepp - What great insight from such an easy read. This book offers practical, simple suggestions to allow for amazing communication and interaction with your husband or wife, girlfriend or boyfriend. The authors open their own lives and share their experiences to help others have an incredible relationship. The clues are not magic pills, and the advice not difficult. All you, as the reader, need is an open mind and a willing spirit. Your partner will be thrilled with the changes in your marriage, and you BOTH will reap the benefits! July 16, Brian Naranjo - I admit to being a natural-born skeptic who had never subscribed to making life improvements through the guidance of a book. But then Mastering Marriage came along. She speaks to the reader, not at the reader. Mastering Marriage is a great book, and I highly recommend it. You only live once, and Mastering Marriage can help make your married life a long, blissful one. July 13, E. Mastering Marriage will help you take your marriage to another level. It will help engaged couples start their married life off on the right foot! It will help you turn "good" into "great! June 21, Gina - Mastering Marriage has so many simple tips and clues to help improve a relationship. I have enjoyed reading the book and implementing many of the ideas. I am not married, but in a long term relationship and this book has changed my outlook! I recommend this book for any couple who wants to make their relationship even better. I was interested to see what the excitement was about and dove right in. This is a great book that serves so many more than may initially investigate it I was excited to find that the aim of this book was not to try and "Fix" my marriage, but enhance it. My husband was so intrigued with the recommendations I was quoting to my friends from the book, that he too read it! Any time he saw it put down, he would pick it up. I recommend it to all those who consider themselves "Happily Married" as I do, and then also to those who may one day marry, and to those who have the maturity to realize that they can be happy in their marriage, but may have missed out on some great info! You will enjoy the reading and be satisfied with how it plays in your life! Thanks for writing this book!!! March 2, R. Kistler Ayase, Japan I was recommended this book, but chose to not read it until after I had read all my other more "important" books I had waiting for me. What was I thinking???! My marriage IS the most important thing in my life -- other than our child, of course! There is no magic to this Who would have known? February 21, C. Miller Mastering Marriage has helped make my good marriage great. It is a must-have for any couple or any person interesting in getting what they want from a serious relationship. The book is incredibly easy to read. I love the quotes and ideas the pictures communicate. They really add to making points and getting you to think about your priorities. I have recommended this book to lots of friends and most have purchased and appreciated the advice and opportunity to improve their marital relationships. I told a single male friend that reading this book would change his life and after reading it he agreed. One of my friends used it for a book club and it generated great conversation. Another friend bought eight copies to give as gifts for friends and family! It is such an important subject and Charlie and Mike the authors make it easy to tackle. I wish everyone would read it. Miller - Mastering Marriage has helped make my good marriage great.

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Chapter 8 : Mastering Marriage: The Marriage Pactâ„¢ Questionnaire Playbook

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