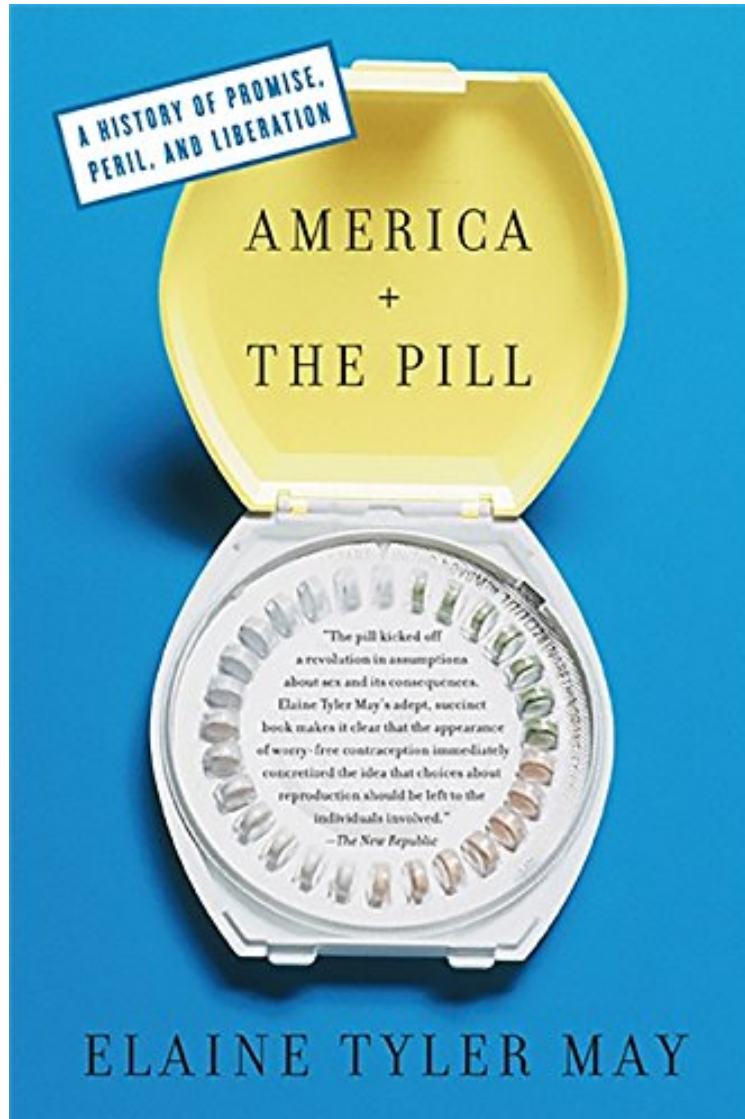


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America and the Pill: A History of Promise, Peril, and Liberation

Elaine Tyler May

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#90569 in Books Elaine Tyler May 2011-09-06 2011-09-06 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.25 x .63 x 5.50l, .50 #File Name: 0465024599232 pages America and the Pill A History of Promise Peril and Liberation | File size: 31.Mb

Elaine Tyler May : America and the Pill: A History of Promise, Peril, and Liberation before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised America and the Pill: A History of Promise, Peril, and Liberation:

4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The Pill That Changed The World Or Did It? By Frederick S. Goethel This book provides a short, but interesting history of the birth control pill in America and discusses some of the positives and some of the negatives that have come to be associated with the pill. I doubt many younger people are

aware that birth control was illegal in many states until about 1960. In fact, it remained illegal in Connecticut and Massachusetts until the Griswold case in 1965. Doctors who prescribed any sort of birth control were in danger of going to jail, and the primary method of birth control was rhythm roulette or the withdrawal method. The doctors who undertook the work of developing the pill did so under the cloak of controlling "women's issues" rather than as birth control. It was believed that when the pill came out, the level of promiscuity among women would rise. In fact, no such thing happened, although women in marriage had a bump in their libidos, as they no longer had to worry about getting pregnant at every turn. The release of the pill really didn't unleash the wave of sexual freedom that was feared and sometimes credited to the pill. The book discusses issues for women such as side effects of the pill and the gradual movement toward a low dose pill that was much safer than the original pill. Some women had real issues with the pill while others had no problems at all. It was interesting to see the mix. The book also described the effort to invent a birth control pill for males, although so far, all efforts of that front have been unsuccessful. Indeed, many women pointed out that if men had to take the pill, they would be a whole lot less interested in sex, as it is documented that men's libidos are tied directly to their fertility. The book was a very interesting read on the history of the pill, as well as some of the societal and physical side effects. I would recommend this book to anyone who doesn't know the history of the pill as it is quite enlightening!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. While an interesting and easy read, May lacks a critical eye on many ...
By Nicole Ranae
While an interesting and easy read, May lacks a critical eye on many issues she encounters in this book. Her dismissal of the problematic way the pill was tested on women in Puerto Rico is just one example.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent pricing. Good reference material
By Michael Tachet
Used this ebook in my doctoral dissertation. Excellent pricing. Good reference material.

In 1960, the FDA approved the contraceptive commonly known as the pill. Advocates, developers, and manufacturers believed that the convenient new drug would put an end to unwanted pregnancy, ensure happy marriages, and even eradicate poverty. But as renowned historian Elaine Tyler May reveals in *America and the Pill*, it was women who embraced it and created change. They used the pill to challenge the authority of doctors, pharmaceutical companies, and lawmakers. They demonstrated that the pill was about much more than family planning; it offered women control over their bodies and their lives. From little-known accounts of the early years to personal testimonies from young women today, May illuminates what the pill did and did not achieve during its half century on the market.

From Publishers Weekly
University of Minnesota historian May hits pay dirt with this brief but lively history of oral contraceptives on the 50th anniversary of the pill. She places the pill in its historical context: coming in the middle of the baby boom, it helped fuel a nascent sexual revolution, a growing youth culture that challenged authority, and feminism. Drawing on an Internet survey she conducted, May offers a treasure trove of stories about a medical and cultural movement that convinced a whole generation of women they were free to take sex, education, work and even marriage when and how they like. Nearly 12 million women in the U.S. today take the pill and take it for granted. I just couldn't picture a fully functioning society without it! one pill user proclaims. Still, May (*Homeward Bound: American Families in the Cold War Era*) tosses away a unique chance to bring history to life by revealing in only a brief aside that her parents were involved in the early development and distribution of the pill. (May 3) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist
To mark the fiftieth anniversary of FDA approval of an oral contraceptive for women the pill historian May, whose professional focus has been on marriage, divorce, and the family in America, offers a notably uncontentious précis of the pill's half-century in American life. She sticks to the evidence to recall the now extravagant-seeming hopes and fears the pill first elicited, how the pill became a symbol of the 1960s sexual revolution without demonstrably affecting it, how feminists used the pill to push for an analogue for men as part of their gender-egalitarian agenda, and how reaction to the pill's ill effects on many women contributed to the late-twentieth-century dissipation of respect for professional and institutional authority. She concludes with a review of modern young women's feelings about the pill and a summary to the effect that the pill has fulfilled some but hardly all of the hopes and fears amid which it debuted. Understanding that the book is fundamentally, nonargumentatively pro-pill, one couldn't ask for a better short history of its subject. --Ray Olson
Booklist [A] noteworthy uncontentious précis of the pill's half-century in American life. Understanding that the book is fundamentally, nonargumentatively pro-pill, one couldn't ask for a better short history of its subject. The American Prospect
May's material is fascinating. Although *America and the Pill* is sometimes celebratory, it is actually most useful in illuminating some of the darker corners of the pill's history, a history that women's health activists ought to know. Newsweek.com