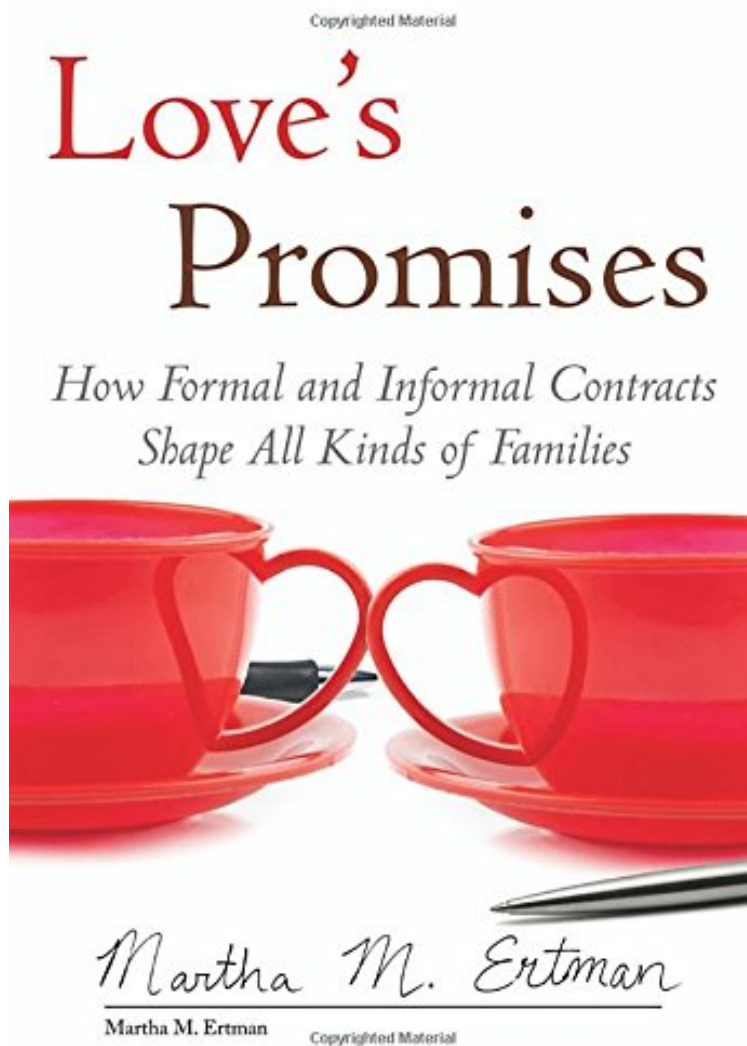


(Download) Love's Promises: How Formal and Informal Contracts Shape All Kinds of Families (Queer Ideas/Queer Action)

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Martha M. Ertman

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Martha M. Ertman : Love's Promises: How Formal and Informal Contracts Shape All Kinds of Families (Queer Ideas/Queer Action) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Love's Promises: How Formal and Informal Contracts Shape All Kinds of Families (Queer Ideas/Queer Action):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I'm Glad I Read This BookBy Mary MartinoI could have

disregarded the cliché and judged this book by its cover. The crisp white dust jacket with its heart-like, cheerful cups and saucers did indeed accurately represent the upbeat and clearly-written tone of the book. A good mix of autobiography and nonfiction snippets of law, *Loves Promises* held my interest and kept me turning the pages. I felt the book provided the right amount of legal information: enough to convey the importance of careful planning of one's personal legal needs, and not so much that the reader is left with a reckless feeling of do-it-yourself overconfidence. Special attention is often given in this book to LGBT relationships. As a heterosexual person I found this interesting, but I did not feel as if the book had nothing to offer me or was only for LGBT persons. Referencing another cliché, measure twice, cut once, this book may be of particular interest to (perhaps younger) adults who have yet to venture into chosen relationships because much of the wisdom it imparts is along the lines of carefully plan now so you don't end up hurt later. Still, adults of any age who are interested in protecting themselves and the ones they love via the legal tools available would find *Loves Promises* an interesting and informative book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not What I Expected By WiiWiiSomething the author fails to mention is all of the ways that contracts destroy families. The perspective in this book is very one-sided. This book is a personal narrative and does not present an objective viewpoint.

Blends memoir and legal cases to show how contracts can create family relationships Most people think of love and contracts as strange bedfellows, or even opposites. In *Loves Promises*, however, law professor Martha Ertman shows that far from cold and calculating, contracts shape and sustain families. Blending memoir and law, Ertman delves into the legal cases, anecdotes, and history of family law to show that love comes in different packages, each shaped by different contracts and mini-contracts she calls deals. Family law should and often does recognize that variety because legal rules, like relationships, aren't one size fits all. The most common form of family which Ertman calls Plan A come into being through different kinds of agreements than the more uncommon families that she dubs Plan B. Recognizing the contractual core of all families shows that Plan B is neither unnatural nor unworthy of legal recognition, just different. After telling her own moving and often irreverent story about becoming part of a Plan B family of two moms and a dad raising a child, Ertman shows that all kinds of people straight and gay, married and single, related by adoption or by genetics use contracts to shape their relationships. As couples navigate marriage, reproductive technologies, adoption, and cohabitation, they encounter contracts. Sometimes hidden and other times openly acknowledged, these contracts ensure that the people they think of as family are legally recognized as family in the eyes of the law. Family exchanges can be substantial, like vows of fidelity, or small, like I cook and you clean. But regardless of scope, the agreements shape the emotional, social, and financial terrain of family relationships. Seeing the instrumental role contracts will help readers better understand how contracts and deals work in their own families as well as those around them. Both insightful and paradigm-shifting, *Loves Promises* lets readers in on the power of contracts and deals to support love in its many forms and to honor the different ways that our nearest and dearest contribute to our daily lives.

Ertman's book will help lawyers, policymakers, and families better navigate the current landscape and offers a vital reminder that we're all on the same map. Dana Rudolph, *Womens of Books* At a time of dramatic transformations in Americans' family lives, *Love's Promises* offers unique insights into how to manage diverse intimate arrangements. Blending vivid personal memoir with legal analysis, Ertman makes a compelling case for why, when, and how contracts can enhance loving relationships. A pioneering book that should be read by all those concerned with current and future families. Viviana A. Zelizer, Lloyd Cotsen '50 Professor of Sociology at Princeton University, and author of *The Purchase of Intimacy and Economic Lives* *Love's Promises* is a skillful melding of law and intimate relationships. Increasingly these interrelationships exist outside of marriage, in part because of the reluctance of our state governments to extend the legal protections of marriage to the unconventional relationships that have become so common. Ertman shows that private contracts can go far to substitute for formal marriage, because judges are far more willing, in the name of free choice, to give private contractual arrangements the stamp of legality than legislatures are to update their marriage codes. Judge Richard A. Posner, U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit and author of *Sex and Reason* *Loves Promises* is the North Star for Plan B parenting. In sharing her experiences as a mother, and expertise as a lawyer, Ertman charts a course to parenthood protected by the letter and the loving care of the law. The Reverend Dr. Susan Newman Moore, pastor, counselor, and author Readers will delight in basking in the company of Ertman's utterly original, provocative mind, work, and self. Judith Stacey, Professor Emerita of Social and Cultural Analysis and Sociology at New York University, author of *Unhitched* and *In the Name of the Family* A unique and refreshing take on age-old topics of law, love, and intimacy. Nobody with a family will want to miss this. Jennifer Levi, Transgender Rights Project Director, GLAD Anybody practicing or teaching in the fields of family law and contracts could benefit greatly by reading and thinking about *Loves Promises*. Art Leonard, New York Law School Makes families challenging circumstances much easier by giving us language and a way to organize our complex lives. *Loves Promises* fuses the personal and political to protect ourselves and those we love. Kate Kendell, Executive Director, National Center for Lesbian Rights About the Author Martha Ertman is a law professor at the

University of Maryland Carey Law School and has taught, written, and spoken about contracts and family law for two decades. She edited *Rethinking Commodification: Cases and Readings in Law and Culture* and lives in Washington, DC, with her family.