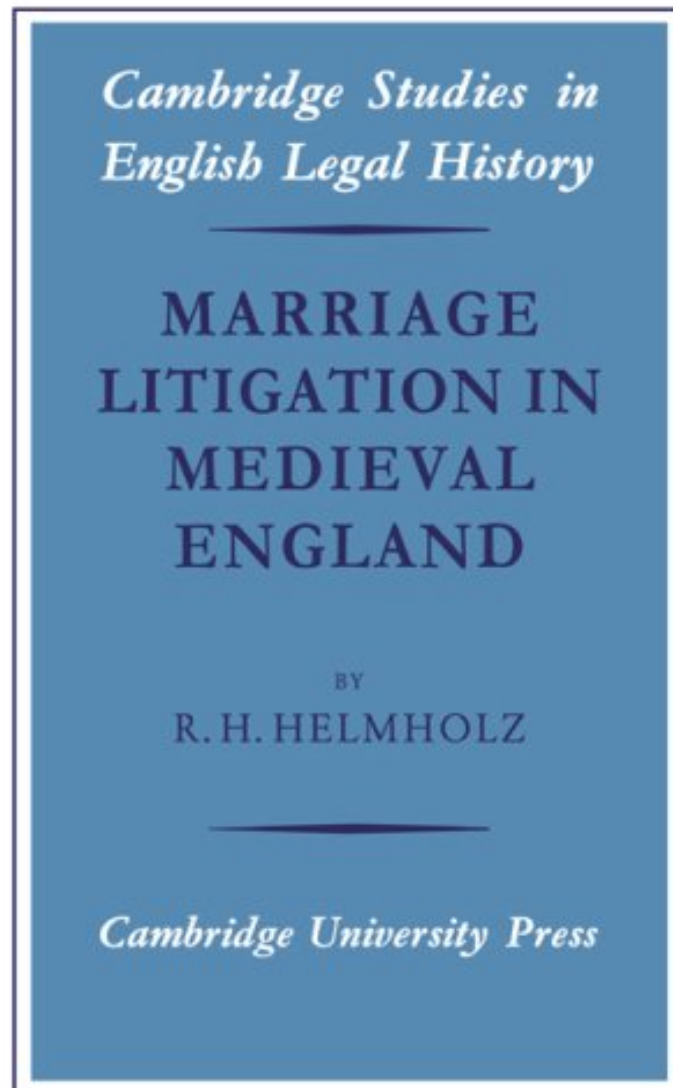


(Download) Marriage Litigation in Medieval England (Cambridge Studies in English Legal History)

## Marriage Litigation in Medieval England (Cambridge Studies in English Legal History)

*R. H. Helmholz*

*ebooks / Download PDF / \*ePub / DOC / audiobook*



DOWNLOAD



READ ONLINE

#2429818 in Books 2007-03-26Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .59 x 5.43l, .73 #File Name: 0521035627260 pages | File size: 49.Mb

**R. H. Helmholz : Marriage Litigation in Medieval England (Cambridge Studies in English Legal History)**

before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Marriage Litigation in Medieval England (Cambridge Studies in English Legal History):

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Best nonfiction book EVER!By Charise WhiteVery few lawsuits in

Medieval England, concerning marriage, were for divorce; in fact, most lawsuits were actually demanding that the two people in question were married and not single. Weird, huh....This book confronts many commonly held views on medieval marriage. It was originally a Ph.D. dissertation by Helmholz, but it reads more smoothly and is more engaging than most fiction books. Part of what makes it so interesting is that the book primarily deals with people who are not from the nobility. Other books, such as *Medieval Marriage: Two Models from Twelfth-Century France* (The Johns Hopkins Symposia in Comparative History) or *The Knight, the Lady and the Priest: The Making of Modern Marriage in Medieval France*, both by Georges Duby, or *The Medieval Idea of Marriage*, by Christopher Brooke, only focus on the nobility, leaving the reader to wonder what the other 90% of the population did about marriage. Granted, the sources used by Helmholz are limited in scope (as any primary source), and they have the disadvantage of being recollections from courtroom proceedings, having been translated by the clergy recording the transactions from the native tongue to Latin. Nevertheless, these court records reveal astonishing characteristics of medieval marriage. Marriages were often contracted on the fly: grab a couple witnesses, declare marriage (this got sticky with present and future intentions and corresponding consummation), and \*pow\* you're married. Easy as 1, 2, 3, and yet so complicated as to leave an abundance (relatively speaking) of records. You don't have to hold a Ph.D. in History or be obsessed with medieval history to appreciate this book. It's not a cheap book, but this is a great book and time well spent reading it.

This book tells one part of the long history of the institution of marriage. Questions concerning the formation and annulment of marriage came under the exclusive jurisdiction of the church courts during the Middle Ages. Drawing on unpublished records of these courts, Professor Helmholz describes the practical side of matrimonial jurisdiction and relates it to his outline of the formal law of marriage. He investigates the nature of the cases heard, the procedure used, the people involved and changes over the period covered, all of which add to what is known about marriage and legal practice in medieval England. The concluding assessment of canonical jurisdiction over marriage suggests that the application of the law was more successful than is usually thought.