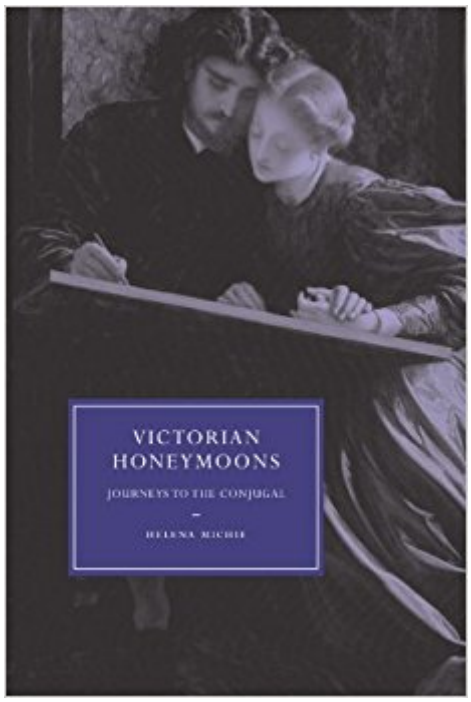
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Victorian Honeymoons: Journeys To The Conjugal (Cambridge Studies In Nineteenth-Century Literature And Culture)



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Synopsis

While Victorian tourism and Victorian sexuality have been the subject of much critical interest, there has been little research on a characteristically nineteenth-century phenomenon relating to both sex and travel: the honeymoon, or wedding journey. Although the term 'honeymoon' was coined in the eighteenth century, the ritual increased in popularity throughout the Victorian period, until by the end of the century it became a familiar accompaniment to the wedding for all but the poorest classes. Using letters and diaries of 61 real-life honeymooning couples, as well as novels from Frankenstein to Middlemarch that feature honeymoon scenarios, Michie explores the cultural meanings of the honeymoon, arguing that, with its emphasis on privacy and displacement, the honeymoon was central to emerging ideals of conjugality and to ideas of the couple as a primary social unit.

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This cultural history of the honeymoon explores accounts in novels such as Middlemarch, conduct material, and a case study of 61 real-life honeymooning couples through private letters and diaries.

Helena Michie uncovers the meaning of the honeymoon for Victorian expectations of marriage.

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