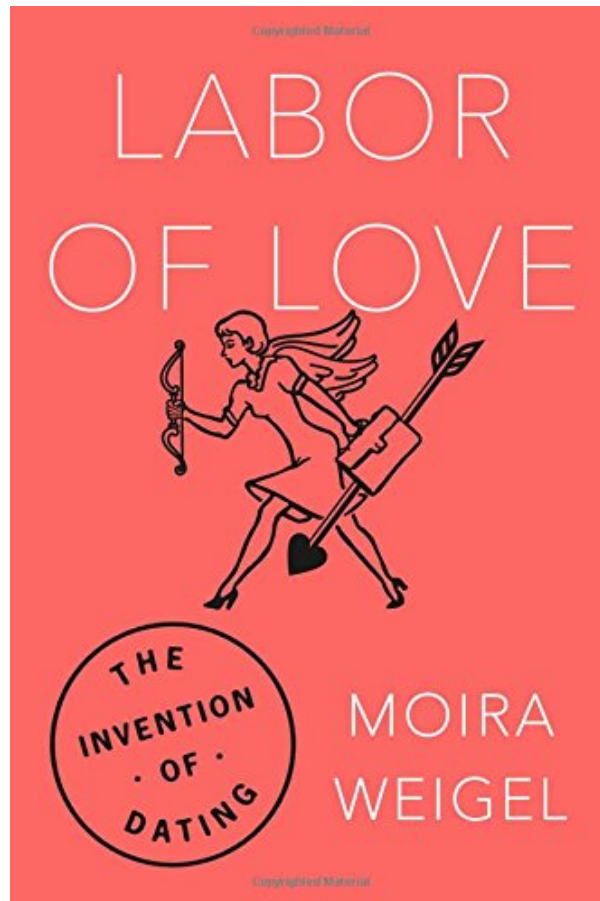
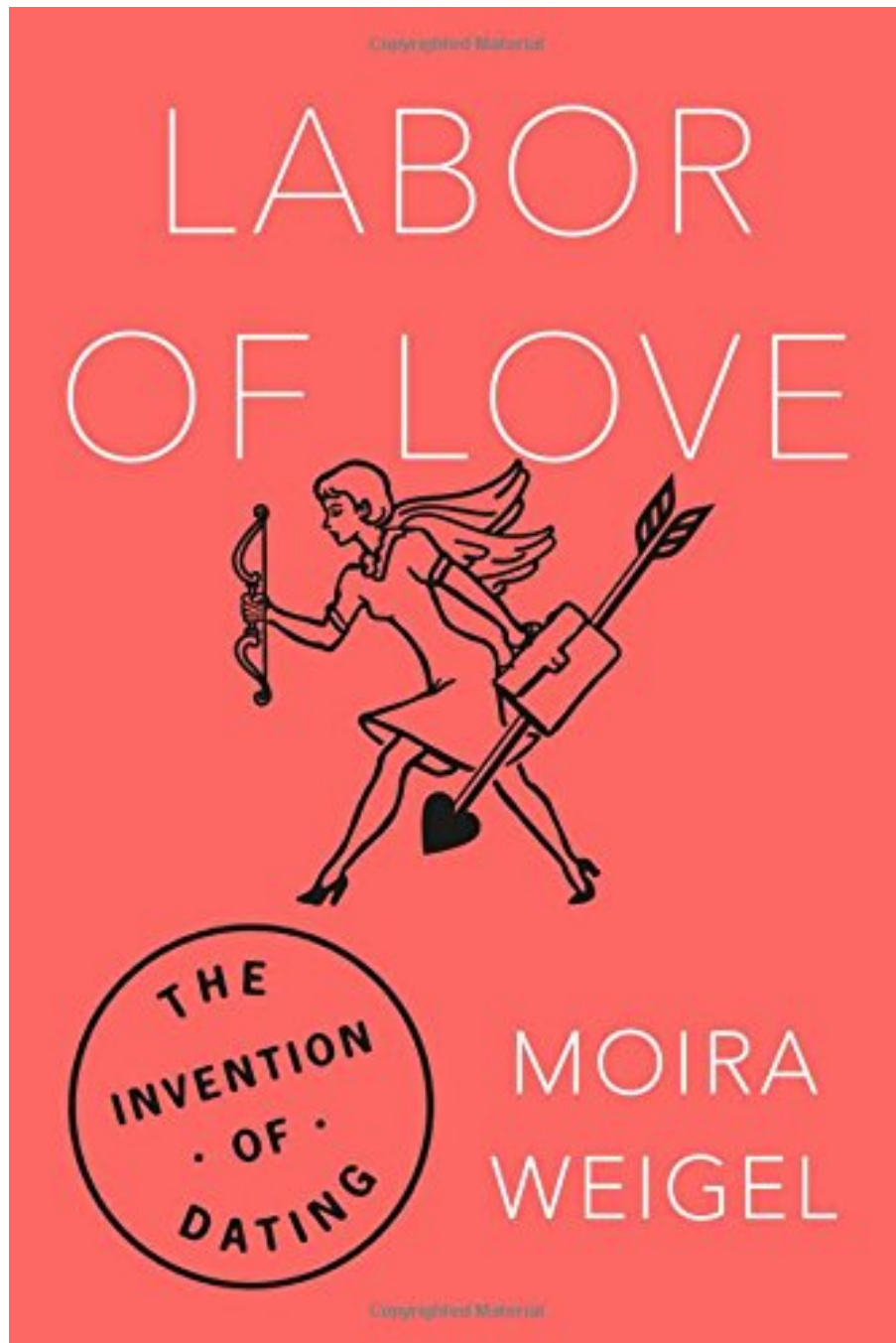


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“Does anyone date anymore?” Today, the authorities tell us that courtship is in crisis. But when Moira Weigel dives into the history of sex and romance in modern America, she discovers that authorities have always said this. Ever since young men and women started to go out together, older generations have scolded them: That’s not the way to find true love. The first women who made dates with strangers were often arrested for prostitution; long before “hookup culture,” there were “petting parties”; before parents worried about cell phone apps, they fretted about joyrides and “parking.” Dating is always dying. But this does not mean that love is dead. It simply changes with the economy. Dating is, and always has been, tied to work.

Lines like “I’ll pick you up at six” made sense at a time when people had jobs that started and ended at fixed hours. But in an age of contract work and flextime, many of us have become sexual freelancers, more likely to text a partner “u still up?” Weaving together over one hundred years of history with scenes from the contemporary landscape, *Labor of Love* offers a fresh feminist perspective on how we came to date the ways we do. This isn't a guide to “getting the guy.” There are no ridiculous “rules” to follow. Instead, Weigel helps us understand how looking for love shapes who we are?and hopefully leads us closer to the happy ending that dating promises.

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Features

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What a wonderful read! *Labor of Love* is a fanscinating exploration ...

By Kate Siegel

What a wonderful read! *Labor of Love* is a fanscinating exploration of how dating has evolved in response to economic, social, and cultural shifts over the last 100 years. While the book is well researched and certainly a serious intellectual exploration of the subject matter, drawing on over 100 years of material, it's hilarious and entirely accessible. I honestly couldn't put it down. Would give it 100 stars if I could!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Blown away

By snowflake

This book is absolutely incredible and you must read it. I've been binge-reading it for the past 24 hours, almost done at this point, and have already emailed or texted 5 people that they must get it ASAP. It has upended some of my long-held convictions of what's "traditional". It has touched upon and tied together all the recent trends - from "Marry Him" to "Rules" to online dating and many others. It added fascinating, often funny and sometimes painful (e.g. AIDS epidemic) historical narratives. It has put words to feelings I've long tried to express myself - the despair of having to play a certain role in dating and suppressing my desires in every step. Most importantly, it has framed what I have long thought of as my personal issues as societal changes or problems at large. I know I will keep thinking about this book for a while, will keep recommending it to others, and will undoubtedly reread it. Many thanks to the author for all the work (and heart) that has gone into researching and writing this book.

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A good overview of the modern invention of dating and how the institution escaped the early charges of prostitution. In this current time where people are voting because one man-one woman is their belief of history it should be more popular.

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