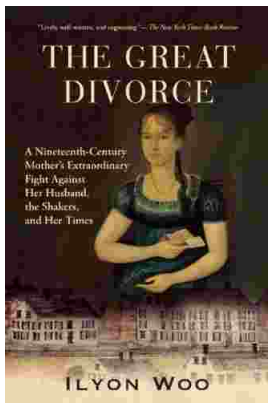


The Great Divorce: A Nineteenth-Century Mother's Extraordinary Fight against Her Husband, the Shakers, and Her Times



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4/5 From 650 Reviews

Ilyon Woo

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*9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic read!*By CustomerI am a history junkie. I especially enjoy works that give a rich, full flavor of a time as well as presenting different views of the same event. This book delivers nicely on both counts, relating the atmosphere in New York State and the country in the early 1800's, especially in regards to religion, the condition of women, and women's rights. The centerpiece is one woman's battle to regain her children, who had been spirited away by her husband. At a time when a woman had little recourse against those that harmed or mistreated her, Eunice Chapman's battle was an amazing one. What could have been a small family drama escalated into a war that caught up politicians, lawyers, the Shaker religion and such luminaries as Martin Van Buren and Thomas Jefferson. All that aside, the author makes the book highly accessible to the reader, writing in an engaging style that makes this a page-turning historical mystery. It is just plain great storytelling!
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*Historical masterpiece*By Long term customerA deceptively easy read, but thought provoking. One almost immediately sympathizes with both Eunice and her husband James, if for different reasons. Opens a window on early 19th century life in America. Unlike similar works that strive to be scholarly and pretentious, this is a good old fashioned story that happens to be true.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Reads like a novelBy SuekyReads like a novel...very well written and researched...lots of history of the times as well as the Shaker sects. EXCELLENT.

Ilyon Woo's The Great Divorce is a dramatic, richly textured narrative history of early America's most infamous divorce case. A young mother singlehandedly challenged her country's notions of women's rights, family, and marriage itself in a bid to win back her kidnapped children from the celibate, religious sect known as the Shakers. Pulling together the pieces of this saga from crumbled newspapers, Shaker diaries, and long-forgotten letters, Woo delivers the first full account of Eunice Chapman ...