



# The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America

*Ian Dowbiggin*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America

*Ian Dowbiggin*

**The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America** Ian Dowbiggin

Why are Americans so bad at marriage? It's certainly not for lack of trying. By the early 21st century Americans were spending billions on marriage and family counseling, seeking advice and guidance from some 50,000 experts. And yet, the divorce rate suggests that all of this therapeutic intervention isn't making couples happier or marriages more durable. Quite the contrary, Ian Dowbiggin tells us in this thought-provoking book: the "caring industry" is part of the problem.

Under the influence of therapeutic reformers, marital and familial dynamics in this country have shifted from mores and commitment to love and companionship. This movement toward a "me marriage," as the *New York Times* has termed it, with its attendant soaring expectations and acute dissatisfactions, is rooted as much in the twists and turns of 20th-century history as it is in the realities in the hearts and minds of modern Americans, Dowbiggin argues; and his book reveals how effectively those changes have been encouraged and orchestrated by a small but resourceful group of social reformers with ties to eugenics, birth control, population control, and sex education.

In *The Search for Domestic Bliss*, Dowbiggin delves into the stories of the usual suspects in the founding of the therapeutic gospel, exposing little known aspects of their influence and misunderstood features of their work. Here we learn, for instance, that Betty Friedan did not after all discover "the problem that knows no name"—the widespread unhappiness of women in mid-century America; and that, like Friedan, one of the pioneers of marriage counseling was an open admirer of Stalin's Russia. The book also explores the long overlooked impact of sex researchers Alfred Kinsey and Masters and Johnson on the development of marriage and family counseling; and considers the under-appreciated contributions to the marriage counseling movement of social reformer and activist Emily Mudd.

Through these and other reform-minded Americans, Dowbiggin traces the concerted and deliberate way in which the old order of looking to family and community for guidance gave way to seeking guidance from marriage and family counseling professionals. Such a transformation, as this book makes clear, has been a key part of a major revolution in the way Americans think about their inner selves and their relations with friends, family, and community members—a revolution in which once deeply private concerns have been redefined as grave matters of public mental health.

 [Download The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Fami ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America Ian Dowbiggin**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Jennifer Barton:**

The book *The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America* can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why must we leave a very important thing like a book *The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America*? Several of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim this book can give many details for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer together with your book. Knowledge or facts that you take for that, you could give for each other; you can share all of these. Book *The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America* has simple shape however, you know: it has great and big function for you. You can search the enormous world by available and read a reserve. So it is very wonderful.

#### **Edward Stevenson:**

The event that you get from *The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America* could be the more deep you searching the information that hide inside the words the more you get serious about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to know but *The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America* giving you excitement feeling of reading. The author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the idea because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having that *The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America* instantly.

#### **Wade Diaz:**

The book *The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America* will bring someone to the new experience of reading any book. The author style to elucidate the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to see, this book very acceptable to you. The book *The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America* is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can quickly to read the book.

#### **Barbara Rubio:**

As a college student exactly feel bored to be able to reading. If their teacher expected them to go to the library as well as to make summary for some guide, they are complained. Just minor students that has reading's heart or real their pastime. They just do what the instructor want, like asked to the library. They go to at this time there but nothing reading seriously. Any students feel that reading is not important, boring as well as can't see colorful photographs on there. Yeah, it is to be complicated. Book is very important for yourself. As we know that on this period, many ways to get whatever we wish. Likewise word says, ways to

reach Chinese's country. So , this The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America can make you experience more interested to read.

**Download and Read Online The Search for Domestic Bliss:  
Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America Ian  
Dowbiggin #QJ3F4NV6KBW**

## **Read The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America by Ian Dowbiggin for online ebook**

The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America by Ian Dowbiggin Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America by Ian Dowbiggin books to read online.

### **Online The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America by Ian Dowbiggin ebook PDF download**

**The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America by Ian Dowbiggin Doc**

**The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America by Ian Dowbiggin Mobipocket**

**The Search for Domestic Bliss: Marriage and Family Counseling in 20th-Century America by Ian Dowbiggin EPub**