



Ethnographic Reflections on Marriage in Dhofar, Oman

By Marielle Risse

Pub Date: 16 June 2026

Binding: Hardback

Price: £80.00 / \$110.00

ISBN: 9781839999550

BISAC CATEGORY: SOCIAL SCIENCE /

Anthropology / Cultural & Social SOCIAL

SCIENCE / Cultural & Ethnic Studies / Middle

Eastern Studies, SOCIAL SCIENCE / Sociology /

Marriage & Family, SOCIAL SCIENCE / Women's

Studies, SOCIAL SCIENCE / Men's Studies,

SOCIAL SCIENCE / Gender Studies

BISAC CODE: SOC002010

BIC CODE:

Extent: 100 pages

Size: 153 x 229 mm /

6 x 9 inches

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Exclusive: WORLD

Examines how middle-class Muslim men and women in Dhofar, Oman, make and negotiate marital choices, tracing every stage of marriage through their own personal accounts.

Studying Marriage in Dhofar, Oman explains the choices middle-class, Muslim, tribal Dhofari men and women make when creating a life together. Based on 19 years observations of and discussions about Omani marriages, the book shows all the steps of marriage, including how people decide to get married, the wedding invitations and parties are arranged, the newlyweds' home is organised, the work within a marriage is delineated and a marriage succeeds or falls apart. Unlike many texts about family life on the Arabian Peninsula, the author spoke extensively to both Dhofari men and women, so that the book is rich with examples of Omanis explaining their personal decisions.

Key selling points

- Discusses how both men and women go through all the life-stages of partnership from choosing to marry to creating a fulfilling marriage or divorce.
- Looks at the entire life-span of a marriage from the point of view of both women and men, while almost all writing about personal relationships in the Middle East focuses either on men or women, or on one particular facet such as polygamy.
- One of the few books about the Arabian Peninsula in which the author has talked extensively to both men and women.
- Includes descriptions and examples of the small events that make up a marriage such as writing a wedding announcement, deciding on the décor of the couple's apartment, preparing meals and naming a child

About the Author(s) / Editor(s)

Dr. Marielle Risse taught cultural studies, literature and pedagogy for 21 years on the Arabian Peninsula at the American University of Sharjah (UAE), the University of Sharjah–Woman's (UAE) and Dhofar University (Oman).

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