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Contemporary Representations of Marriage in Literature and Pop Culture

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CONTEMPORARY REPRESENTATIONS OF MARRIAGE
IN LITERATURE AND POP CULTURE

by Taylor Muller

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for Departmental Honors in
the Department of English
Texas Christian University
Fort Worth, Texas

Title	Contemporary Representations of Marriage in Literature and Pop Culture
Author	Muller, Taylor
Abstract	<p>&nbsp; This research examines the representations of marriage in the novels <i>The Marriage Plot</i> and <i>Gone Girl</i>, reality television shows including <i>Say Yes to the Dress</i>, <i>Four Weddings</i>, and <i>The Bachelor</i>, and social media websites such as Pinterest. The analysis focuses on how these contemporary representations demonstrate normative gender roles, and what claims they make about marriage today. Several patterns emerged when using in particular the theories of Judith Butler and Frances Dolan as a framework for understanding the portrayals of marriage. The depictions of marriage included individuals adopting some sort of role-performance, often gender specific, and reiterated the conflict for power in marriage between the two parties. These were magnified in the dramatization of real life, such as reality television shows, and frequently reiterated traditional understandings of marriage within a modern context.&nbsp;</p>
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Subject	literature marriage gender roles The Marriage Plot Gone Girl

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4. Marriage in literature. 5. Family life—China. I. Title. In multiple ways, literary and cultural representations of divorce interact and cooperate with, and, at times, contest, legal, eugenic, scientific, and, sociopolitical discourses to inform and articulate new ideas, values, and beliefs about family, marriage, and divorce. Beyond the modern liberal conception of divorce as a private practice that terminates a heterosexual conjugal relationship, divorce also represents a central trope of national crisis, social change, gender transformation, and individual revitalization at transitional moments in modern Chinese history.