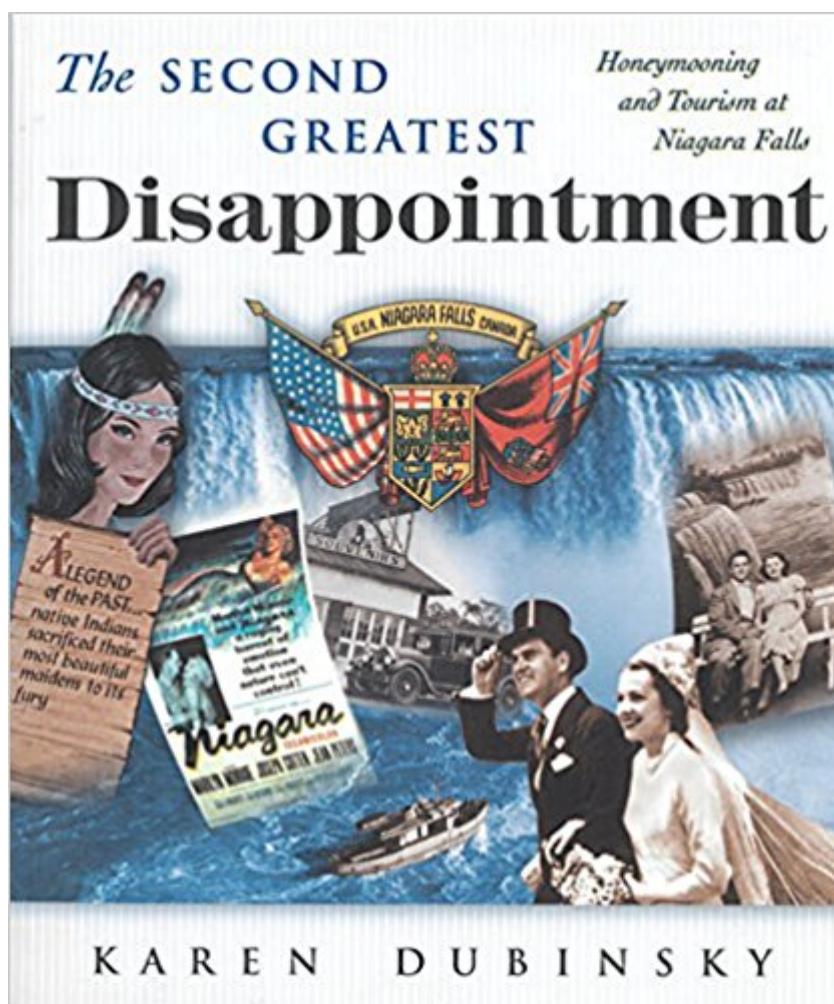


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# The Second Greatest Disappointment: Honeymooners, Heterosexuality, And The Tourist Industry At Niagara Falls



## Synopsis

When Oscar Wilde visited Niagara Falls in 1882, he declared that the Falls must be the *â œearliest if not the keenest disappointment in American married life.*â •â Wilde was neither the first nor the last to notice the peculiar relationship between heterosexuality, the honeymoon, and Niagara Falls. The Second Greatest Disappointment charts the growth of Niagara as a tourist destination from the 1850s to the present, and shows how it acquired its reputation as the *â œHoneymoon Capital of the World.*â • Tourist industry records, as well as interviews with people employed Niagaraâ ™s hotels and attractions, provide an insiderâ ™s perspective on the marketing of this cultural landmark.â • Karen Dubinsky also traces the history of the honeymoon, placing in context of changes in the public culture of heterosexuality in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. So when Cary Grant declared to Grace Kelly in the 1955 film *To Catch a Thief*, *â œWhat you need is ten minutes with a good man at Niagara Falls,*â • everyone knew he was not referring to sight-seeing. The Second Greatest Disappointment uses travelersâ ™ drawings, advertisements, and guidebook photographs to tell an engaging story about an old North American landmark.â •

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"From grand wedding tours to heart-shaped beds, Dubinsky insightfully traces the role of the honeymoon in the history of heterosexuality. In the process she reveals how 'natural' attractions-whether waterfalls or love-are indeed produced in social, cultural, and historical contexts. An informative and entertaining tour." -- Kathy Peiss, University of Massachusetts, author of *Hope in a Jar: the Making of America's Beauty Culture*"Karen Dubinsky traces the history of Niagara Falls as

a rendezvous for the most 'heterosocial' vacations of all-the honeymoon..." -- The Women's Review of Books "The Falls at Niagara presents a timeless picture: water meets gravity. Karen Dubinsky has made a fascinating study of the constantly changing frame that surrounds this immutable scene. Dubinsky illuminates the rhetoric of the Falls as a classic boast of the white man's superiority over nature, non-Anglo Saxons, and the little missus. Believe it or not, I read the whole book!(Call Ripley's!)" - -- Sheila Gostick, stand-up comedian "Thoughtful, illuminating, and witty... By showing how the honeymoon, like tourism, became an item of mass consumption, this fascinating book offers striking new perspectives on the history of marriage, heterosexuality, and consumption in the twentieth century." -- George Chauncey, University of Chicago, author of *Gay New York*

In this provocative history, Karen Dubinsky addresses a deceptively simple question: of all the ways to promote a waterfall as a tourist destination, why honeymoons? For two centuries Niagara Falls has attracted tourists from around the World. After a visit in 1882 Oscar Wilde sardonically declared that the Falls must be the second greatest disappointment in American married life. Wilde was responding to the peculiar relationship, already well established in his day, between heterosexuality, the honeymoon, and the Falls. Dubinsky explores what it was like not just to visit the Falls but to live and work behind the mists of such celebrity. From Victorian marriage manuals to Marilyn Monroe (and the movie *Niagara*) she treats the Falls not only as a metaphor and icon, but also as a real place, populated by real people who helped to shape its cultural meaning.

Hello, if anybody knows how I can contact Karen Dubinsky please Email me at Dubenskij@hotmail.com Her surname is a derivation of my own, I am desperately looking for members of my wider family to help me find out more about the family before they were expelled from Russia in the early part of this century. I am deeply interested as my Great Grandparents died when my grandfather was young and he lost contact with the other family members.

This book is a waste of money. Very disappointing!

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