



Until They Are Seven: The Origins of Women's Legal Rights

John Wroath

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An absorbing account of the origins of women's rights to property and children in the UK. A true story which reads like a Victorian novel. 'In law a husband and wife are one: and that one is the husband': Blackstone This was the law until well into the nineteenth century. *Until They Are Seven* is based on research into the historical background to the modern problems of child custody and access. The result is an absorbing tale of the origins of women's rights to their children and their property in which John Wroath recounts the brave moves by Henrietta Greenhill and Caroline Norton which led to the Infant Custody Act 1839 and Matrimonial Causes Act 1857-the rest being history. The story is also fascinating for the insights it gives into the private lives of several famous people of the time who were involved in or around these events-included among them the prime minister Lord Melbourne, the poet and playwright Richard Brinsley Sheridan and Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*.

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