



The Humble Little Condom: A History

Aine Collier

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This unique history provides an intriguing glimpse into human sexual habits, customs, beliefs, and attitudes surrounding a prophylactic device that goes back to at least the ancient Egyptians. The author includes many fascinating historical details, such as:

- Clergymen of the Middle Ages left records of birth control methods that "worked."
- When women had few choices in the world of commerce, a significant number found a legitimate and profitable business niche producing and selling sheaths.
- During the Great Depression, while other businesses went bankrupt, condom manufacturers found themselves doing a booming trade throughout the 1930s, one of Wall Street's few successes.
- AIDS has brought the condom full circle. Not for the first time in history has the little device been vilified as a promoter of dirty, illicit sex and lauded as a life-saving device.

Thoroughly researched yet presented in a witty, enjoyable style, *The Humble Little Condom* is both an entertaining read and an educational, impeccably researched popular history.

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