Table of Contents

Introduction —— 1		
Map 5		
1	Her outward appearance 7	
1.1	Phases of life — 7	
1.2	The girl —— 10	
1.3	The virgin —— 13	
1.4	Women's clothing —— 17	
1.5	Cosmetics and beauty —— 47	
1.6	The language of women 56	
1.7	Women's names —— 58	
2	Marriage —— 60	
2.1	Preparations —— 62	
2.2	Age for marrying —— 66	
2.3	Regulations —— 67	
2.4	The betrothal —— 72	
2.5	The wedding —— 93	
2.6	Marriage and magic —— 110	
3	The marriage gifts —— 112	
3.1	General remarks —— 112	
3.2	The bride-price —— 117	
3.3	The dowry —— 134	
3.4	Gifts from the man —— 145	
4	The family —— 147	
4.1	Impotence —— 148	
4.2	Children —— 152	
4.3	The mother —— 155	
4.4	Bereavement —— 159	
4.5	Childlessness —— 160	
4.6	Repudiation of a childless wife —— 163	
5	A second wife —— 165	
5.1	A slave-girl —— 168	
5.2	Initiating the transaction —— 170	

VI — Table of Contents The second wife in the Old Assyrian period —— 182 5.3 The second wife in later periods —— 188 5.4 The position of the second wife when the first wife is ill —— 191 5.5 6 Concubines ---- 193 7 Marriage between equals ---- 200 8 Marriage to a slave --- 205 Divorce —— 209 9 In Babylonia — 210 9.1 In Assvria —— 216 9.2 9.3 In the Neo-Babylonian period --- 220 9.4 In Syria —— 223 Motives for divorce --- 223 9.5 Predictions — 230 9.6 Reconciliation —— 232 9.7 10

Women who initiate adultery —— 235

Caught in the act —— 243

The Mother of Sin —— 250

Accusations of adultery — 245

An adulterous princess? —— 250

The right of the first night —— 265

Punishment --- 244

Slave-girl — 255

In myths --- 264

Unmarried girl — 258

Married woman - 261

The locations — 263

Promiscuity — 268

Incest --- 270

Were both lovers treated equally? —— 239

Adultery —— 234

Rape --- 254

Incest --- 268

10.1

10.2

10.3

10.4

10.5

10.6

10.7

11

11.1

11.2

11.3

11.4

11.5

11.6

12 12.1

12.2

13	The widow —— 275
13.1	Poor widows —— 278
13.2	Arrangements made for widows in wills —— 282
13.3	Powerful widows —— 284
13.4	Remarrying —— 288
13.5	Cohabiting —— 290
13.6	Widows with children —— 292
14	Levirate marriage —— 296
15	Women's rights of inheritance —— 300
16	Women-trafficking under the guise of adoption —— 304
16.1	The Old Babylonian period —— 304
16.2	Nuzi 306
17	Women robbed of their freedom 311
17.1	Security for a man's debts —— 311
17.2	The woman as guarantor —— 319
17.3	Imprisoned for murder —— 323
17.4	The sale of children in time of need —— 324
17.5	Dedicated to a temple —— 326
17.6	Prisoners of war 331
18	Women and work —— 339
18.1	Working outside the home —— 341
18.2	Weavers —— 344
18.3	Grinding flour —— 350
18.4	Women as musicians and singers —— 353
18.5	The female innkeeper —— 363
18.6	Scribes —— 367
18.7	The female doctor —— 371
18.8	Wailing women —— 372
18.9	Women involved in childbirth —— 375
18.10	Business women —— 381
18.11	Women's seals —— 387
18.12	Women as witnesses —— 389
19	The witch —— 391

20	Prostitution —— 399
20.1	Where she worked —— 399
20.2	Dressed for work —— 405
20.3	Slave-girls —— 409
20.4	The risk of pregnancy —— 410
20.5	Forced into prostitution —— 413
20.6	Marriage —— 414
20.7	Social esteem —— 416
21	Temple prostitution —— 419
21.1	Internal evidence —— 419
21.2	The kezertu —— 422
21.3	Devaluing old titles —— 426
21.4	Income —— 426
21.5	Goddess and whore —— 427
21.6	A wild celebration —— 435
22	Her physical life —— 436
22.1	Physiology —— 436
22.2	Menstruation —— 438
22.3	Diseases —— 441
22.4	The old woman 451
22.5	Dead and buried —— 456
23	The court and the harem before 1500 BC —— 459
23.1	The Sumerians —— 461
23.2	Ebla 464
23.3	Funerals —— 471
23.4	The Old Akkadian period —— 475
23.5	The kingdom of Ur III —— 476
23.6	The Old Babylonian period —— 487
24	The court and the harem after 1500 BC —— 512
24.1	Babylonia 512
24.2	Assyria 514
24.3	Nuzi 518
24.4	The Hittites and Egypt —— 519
24.5	Ugarit 526
24.6	The Neo-Assyrian period 529
24.7	The Neo-Rabylonian period 548

24.8	The Persian period and later 552
24.9	Arab queens —— 554
25	Priestesses 555
25.1	The high priestesses —— 555
25.2	Priestesses in Mari —— 578
25.3	Priestesses in the Old Assyrian period —— 580
25.4	Priestesses after the Old Babylonian
	period —— 581
26	Old Babylonian convents —— 584
26.1	Words for a 'nun' —— 586
26.2	The <i>nadîtu</i> —— 587
26.3	Inauguration —— 590
26.4	High status —— 594
26.5	Duties 597
26.6	Care in old age —— 600
26.7	The demise of the convent —— 601
27	Married holy women 605
27.1	The nadîtu of Marduk the god of Babylon — 605
27.2	The holy woman, the qadištu —— 608
27.3	The kulmašītu —— 615
28	Soothsaying —— 617
28.1	Dreams, prophecy and ecstasy in Mari —— 620
28.2	Prophecy in Assyria —— 623
29	Women and worship 627
29.1	Offerings for the dead —— 628
29.2	Making intercession —— 631
29.3	The woman and her goddess —— 638
29.4	The mourning for Tammuz —— 640
30	The Sacred Marriage —— 645
30.1	Poetry —— 647
30.2	The reality of the situation —— 650
30.3	The function of the ritual —— 652
30.4	The Assyrian period and later —— 655
30.5	The demise of goddesses —— 657

31	The Middle Assyrian law-book about women —— 662
32	The value placed on women —— 683
32.1	Positive views —— 683
32.2	Negative views —— 685
32.3	Women compared with men —— 690
Biblio	graphy 692
Index	es 693

X — Table of Contents