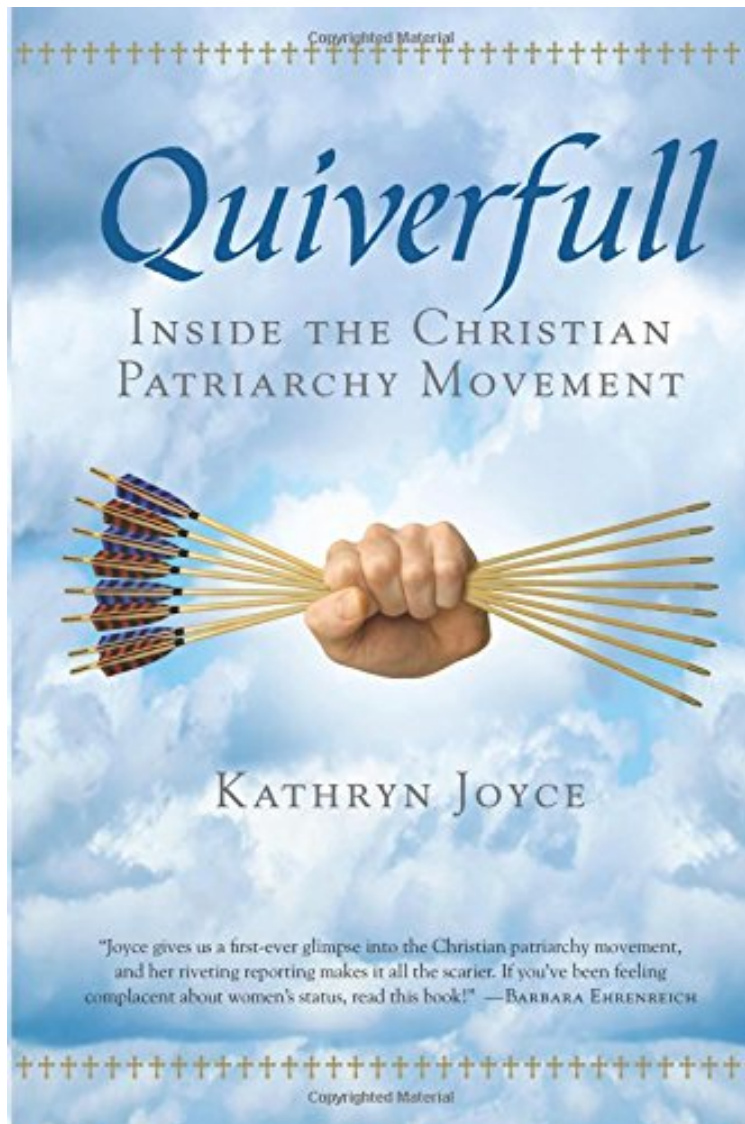


Quiverfull: Inside the Christian Patriarchy Movement

Kathryn Joyce

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Kathryn Joyce : Quiverfull: Inside the Christian Patriarchy Movement before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Quiverfull: Inside the Christian Patriarchy Movement:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. an accurate look at a frightening movement By Anna K.Homeschooled in a family theologically on the fence between normal evangelical and patriarchal fundamentalist, I was steeped in Quiverfull ideas -- even the ones my parents themselves didn't claim. I cannot emphasize enough how concisely Kathryn Joyce has captured this frightening movement. She smoothly switches from specific anecdotes and

interviews to broad philosophy and theology, raising pertinent questions. I had forgotten some of the names and institutes Joyce encounters in this book, and am grateful for the reminder of where much of my childhood theology originated. I'd recommend this for anyone in mainstream evangelicalism or mainline Protestantism, as this fringe (or not so fringe, depending on how you view it) group continues to spread its influence in conservative Christianity and American politics. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A chance to learn about an American sub-culture that might be coming soon to a neighborhood near you! By CecI found this book to provide fascinating insight about a sub-culture of America that is growing and now becoming very influential in politics. I recommend it to anyone who is interested in learning more this faith-based movement. It's more like an expose - don't read it expecting to be find information about how to join it (I'm sure there are other books for that, if that's your thing). Women might find it particularly worrying, as the Quiverfull movement reduces us, more or less, to subservient wombs. Why 4 star review instead of 5? This book is packed with information - a nice mix of facts and personal stories from people within the movement and people (particularly women) who have left the movement - and at some point after the half-way mark it started to feel like it was making the same points a second and even third time. So at some point I put the book down and haven't felt compelled to pick it back up to finish it. But it's so rich with detail and information that I feel I definitely got my money's worth. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Thoughtful and Sensitive, But A Bit Lean By Asher Taylor I was pleasantly surprised by this book -- it seems that, so often, folks on each side of this debate just want to lambaste those on the other without really bothering to try to really understand what they're about. Joyce presents a sensitive portrait of a number of individual people within the Christian Patriarchy Movement while also discussing some of the difficulties it presents. That said, Joyce's book seems to circle back to the same small selection of anecdotes a number of times, as if it's assembled from a bunch of articles that were intended for publication in different journals, anthologies, or something along those lines. That's unfortunate, because I get the impression that Joyce has more to say than she actually manages to get into this book. That said, I would not hesitate to recommend it as a text for university-level sociology classes largely thanks to Joyce's attempts to paint three-dimensional, human portraits of her subjects. It might also be a suitable choice for a journalism class, as much of the time Joyce reports, rather than opining -- a skill that seems to largely be lost these days. When Joyce does employ her editorial voice in critical commentary, we don't get much of it, which is unfortunate, since she appears to know how to critically analyze the information at hand in order to draw reasoned inferences.

Kathryn Joyce's fascinating introduction to the world of the patriarchy movement and Quiverfull families examines the twenty-first-century women and men who proclaim self-sacrifice and submission as model virtues of womanhood and as modes of warfare on behalf of Christ. Here, women live within stringently enforced doctrines of wifely submission and male headship, and live by the Quiverfull philosophy of letting God give them as many children as possible so as to win the religion and culture wars through demographic means.

From Publishers Weekly Journalist Joyce has conducted a groundbreaking investigation of a little-known movement among Christian evangelicals that rejects birth control and encourages couples to have as many children as possible. The movement, which takes its name from a verse in Psalm 127, advocates a retreat from society and a rejection of government policies that encourage equal rights for women, pregnancy prevention and an individualistic ethic. Quiverfull families share with more mainline Protestant groups, such as the Southern Baptist Convention, a belief that wives should submit to their husbands. But the group goes further by insisting that children be homeschooled and daughters forgo a college education in favor of early marriage and childbearing. The book probes a San Antonio-based ministry called Vision Forum, which began as a Christian homeschooling resource and now promotes "biblical patriarchy" through seminars and retreats. Members of the movement use militaristic metaphors and see themselves waging a war to win back the culture and rescue American society. The book lacks an in-depth historical account of the movement's connections to 19th- and 20th-century American fundamentalism or its accommodation with modernity, especially its heavy use of Internet blogs. Yet future historians and journalists will owe Joyce a debt of gratitude for her foray into this still nascent religious group. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. Engrossing . . . Skillfully reported by journalist Kathryn Joyce, Quiverfull has echoes of *The Handmaid's Tale*. Unfortunately, it's not fiction. Rebecca Braverman, *Bust* "An invaluable contribution to understanding how religious fundamentalism still stands in the way of sexual justice . . . An urgent call to dismantle fundamentalism's hold on our politics, and our policy-making." Sarah Posner, *American Prospect* online "Insightful . . . A call to reexamine our own beliefs . . . The issues Joyce's book raises are fundamental to our identity as human beings, and as Christians. Perhaps they could stand some reexamination." Elrena Evans, *Christianity Today* "[An] excellent, frightening new book . . . Quiverfull merits wide readership." Edd Doerr, *The Voice of Reason: Journal of Americans for Religious Liberty* "Riveting and deeply disturbing. This important book shines a light on a corner of the Christian right that has taken misogyny to sadomasochistic extremes, and reveals the sexual anxieties so often underlying modern fundamentalism." Michelle Goldberg, author of *Kingdom Coming* "Joyce gives us a first-ever glimpse into the Christian patriarchy movement, and her riveting reporting makes it all the scarier. If you've been

feeling complacent about women's status, read this book! Barbara Ehrenreich "A groundbreaking investigation . . . Future historians and journalists will owe Joyce a debt of gratitude for her foray into this still nascent religious group." Publishers Weekly About the Author Kathryn Joyce is a freelance journalist whose writing has appeared on Salon and in the Nation, Mother Jones, Newsweek, Double X, and other publications. She lives in New York City.