



Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America

Karen Lystra

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America

Karen Lystra

Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America Karen Lystra

In January 1862, Charles Godwin courted Harriet Russell, ultimately unsuccessfully, with the following lines: "Like cadences of inexpressibly sweet music, your kind words came to me: causing every nerve to vibrate as though electrified by some far off strain of heavenly harmony." Almost ten years later, Albert Janin, upon receiving a letter from his beloved Violet Blair, responded with, "I kissed your letter over and over again, regardless of the small-pox epidemic at New York, and gave myself up to a carnival of bliss before breaking the envelope." And in October 1883, Dorothea Lummis wrote candidly to her husband Charles, "I like you to want me, dear, and if I were only with you, I would embrace more than the back of your neck, be sure."

In Karen Lystra's richly provocative book, *Searching the Heart*, we hear the voices of Charles, Albert, Dorothea, and nearly one hundred other nineteenth-century Americans emerge from their surprisingly open, intimate, and emotional love letters. While historians of nineteenth-century America have explored a host of private topics, including courtship, marriage, birth control, sexuality, and sex roles, they have consistently neglected the study of romantic love. Lystra fills this gap by describing in vivid detail what it meant to fall in love in Victorian America.

Based on a vast array of love letters, the book reveals the existence of a real openness--even playfulness--between male and female lovers which challenges and expands more traditional views of middle-class private life in Victorian America. Lystra refutes the common belief that Victorian men and women held passionlessness as an ideal in their romantic relationships. Enabling us to enter the hidden world of Victorian lovers, the letters they left behind offer genuine proof of the intensity of their most private interactions, feelings, behaviors, and judgments. Lystra discusses how Victorians anthropomorphized love letters, treating them as actual visits from their lovers, insisting on reading them in seclusion, sometimes kissing them (as Albert does with Violet's), and even taking them to bed. She also explores how courtship rituals--which included the setting and passing of tests of love--succeeded in building unique, emotional bonds between lovers, and how middle-class views of romantic love, which encouraged sharing knowledge and intimacy, gave women more power in the home.

Through the medium of love letters, *Searching the Heart* allows us to enter, unnoticed, the Victorian bedroom and parlor. We will leave with a different view of middle-class Victorian America.

 [Download Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in N ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America Karen Lystra

Download and Read Free Online Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America Karen Lystra

From reader reviews:

Lewis Lin:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to know everything in the world. Each guide has different aim or maybe goal; it means that guide has different type. Some people experience enjoy to spend their time and energy to read a book. They may be reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is usually reading a book. Why not the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book once they found difficult problem or exercise. Well, probably you'll have this Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America.

Virginia Villalon:

Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America can be one of your beginning books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this e-book has good vocabulary that can increase your knowledge in words, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to set every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America but doesn't forget the main stage, giving the reader the hottest as well as based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information may drawn you into brand new stage of crucial imagining.

Jasmine Myers:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or perhaps 15 minute in your time to upgrading your mind talent or thinking skill perhaps analytical thinking? Then you have problem with the book as compared to can satisfy your short period of time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find e-book that need more time to be learn. Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America can be your answer as it can be read by a person who have those short extra time problems.

Trisha McClain:

Reading a guide make you to get more knowledge from the jawhorse. You can take knowledge and information originating from a book. Book is written or printed or created from each source that filled update of news. On this modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for you actually. From media social like newspaper, magazines, science guide, encyclopedia, reference book, novel and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Isn't it time to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just in search of the Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America when you necessary it?

Download and Read Online Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America Karen Lystra #MER8IZBY13P

Read Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America by Karen Lystra for online ebook

Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America by Karen Lystra
Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America by Karen Lystra books to read online.

Online Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America by Karen Lystra ebook PDF download

Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America by Karen Lystra Doc

Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America by Karen Lystra Mobipocket

Searching the Heart: Women, Men, and Romantic Love in Nineteenth-Century America by Karen Lystra EPub