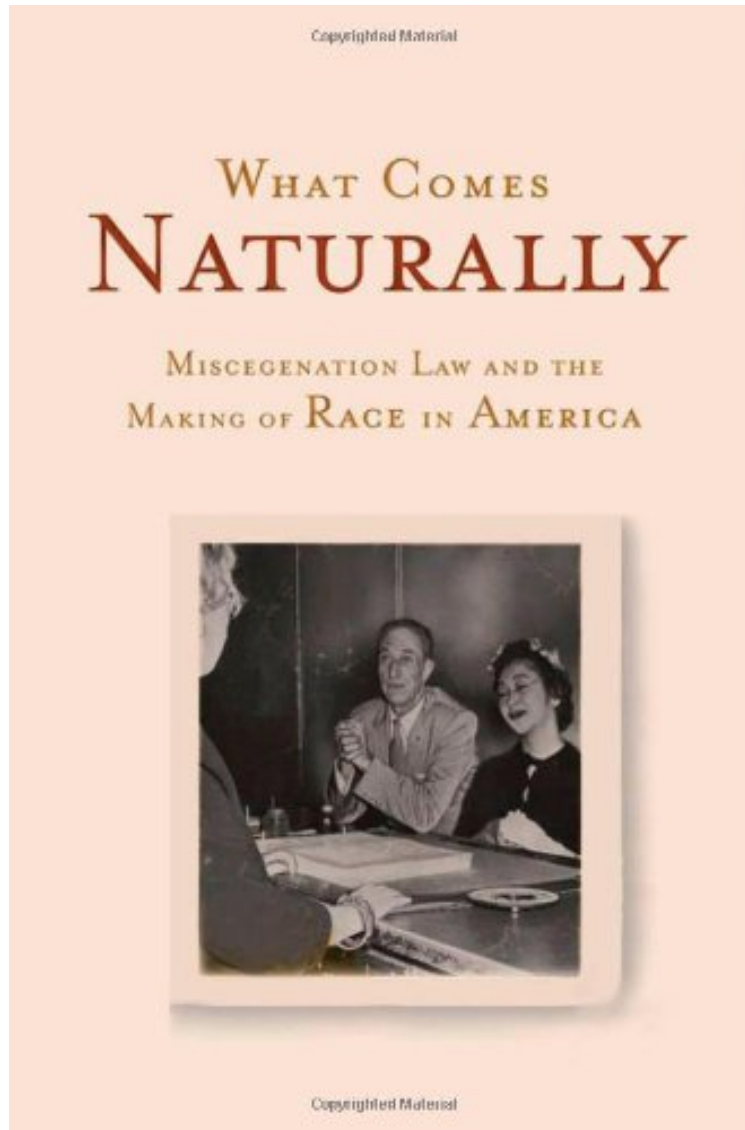


(Ebook free) What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America

What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America

Peggy Pascoe

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Peggy Pascoe : What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Comes Naturally: Miscegenation Law and the Making of Race in America:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Part of America's Sad PastBy Billy LindrosI had the opportunity to get to know Peggy Pascoe before her unfortunate death. This is a very well written and researched book. I had

previously read a library copy but wanted one for myself. It is hard to believe that as late as the 1960's - not the 1860's - that interracial marriages were still banned in some states and that interracial couples had to live in D.C., could not live in Virginia. At the time I read it originally we were getting ready for my daughter's wedding. I was half way through this excellent book before I realized that since her husband's parents were from Taiwan, her marriage would have been banned in the not so distant past. The justifications of laws against interracial marriage that were given at the time, painting African American's as sub human, citing the bible as a justification of hate are breathtaking. I firmly believe that in the future a book about the fight for marriage equality will be written. Hopefully it will be as good as this excellent book. It is too sad that Ms. Pascoe will not be here to write. it.24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. The rise and fall of America's laws against interracial marriage - an engaging accountBy Eric A. IsaacsonProfessor Pascoe provides a sweeping historical and sociological review of America's laws against interracial marriage, their origins, and demise, focusing not just on Southern states' statutes targeting and limiting relationships of African Americans, but also the Western states' many laws targeting people of Chinese, Japanese, Filipino, and Hawaiian descent - with particular attention to the cultural attitudes that once sustained these laws.Professor Pascoe is a careful scholar and a brilliant author, whose book represents academic historical writing at its very finest. She provides an extensively documented and objective yet gripping, indeed often moving, account - one that personalizes the effect of the laws explored on the lives of specific individuals who found themselves caught up in a legal system that denied legitimacy to their most important familial relationships.

A long-awaited history that promises to dramatically change our understanding of race in America, *What Comes Naturally* traces the origins, spread, and demise of miscegenation laws in the United States--laws that banned interracial marriage and sex, most often between whites and members of other races. Peggy Pascoe demonstrates how these laws were enacted and applied not just in the South but throughout most of the country, in the West, the North, and the Midwest. Beginning in the Reconstruction era, when the term miscegenation first was coined, she traces the creation of a racial hierarchy that bolstered white supremacy and banned the marriage of Whites to Chinese, Japanese, Filipinos, and American Indians as well as the marriage of Whites to Blacks. She ends not simply with the landmark 1967 case of *Loving v. Virginia*, in which the Supreme Court finally struck down miscegenation laws throughout the country, but looks at the implications of ideas of colorblindness that replaced them. *What Comes Naturally* is both accessible to the general reader and informative to the specialist, a rare feat for an original work of history based on archival research.