

# Babysitter: An American History: Miriam Forman Brunell

Babysitting is a common and essential part of American life. Millions of children are cared for by babysitters each year, and the vast majority of these experiences are positive and safe. However, as Miriam Forman Brunell argues in her book *\*Babysitter: An American History\**, the history of babysitting in the United States is not always a happy one. Brunell's book is a comprehensive and engaging examination of the history of babysitting in the United States. She covers a wide range of topics, from the early days of babysitting in the colonial era to the present day. Brunell draws on a variety of sources, including oral histories, diaries, and popular culture, to provide a rich and nuanced account of this important aspect of American life.



## **Babysitter: An American History** by Miriam Forman-Brunell

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1708 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 330 pages



Brunell begins her book by exploring the origins of babysitting in the United States. She argues that babysitting emerged as a distinct occupation in the late 18th century, as more and more women began to work outside the home. At first, babysitting was typically done by young girls from poor

families. However, as the 19th century progressed, babysitting became increasingly common among middle-class families. By the early 20th century, babysitting had become a well-established part of American life.

Brunell also examines the changing role of babysitters over time. In the early days of babysitting, babysitters were primarily responsible for providing physical care for children. However, as the 20th century progressed, babysitters increasingly took on more educational and emotional responsibilities. Today, babysitters are often expected to provide children with enrichment activities, such as reading, playing games, and taking them on outings. Brunell argues that this shift in the role of babysitters reflects the changing values of American society.

In addition to exploring the history of babysitting, Brunell also examines the social and cultural significance of babysitting. She argues that babysitting has played a vital role in the development of American childhood. Babysitters have helped to socialize children, teach them new skills, and provide them with a sense of security and belonging. Brunell also argues that babysitting has had a significant impact on the lives of women. For many women, babysitting has been a source of income and independence. It has also allowed women to participate in the workforce and pursue their own interests.

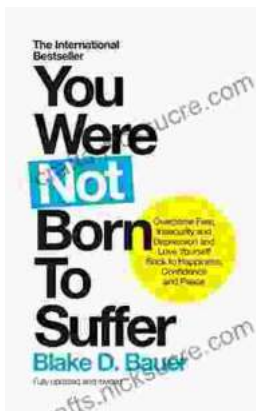
Brunell's book is a valuable contribution to the history of American childhood and the history of women. It is a well-written and engaging book that sheds new light on an important aspect of American life. *\*Babysitter: An American History\** is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of childcare, the history of women, or the history of American childhood.



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