Contents

Foreword ................................................................................................................... v
Acknowledgements ................................................................................................. ix
Notes on the Contributors ..................................................................................... xiii

1. Introduction ........................................................................................................ 1
   Rebecca Probert, Joanna Miles and Pervez Mody

Part I

2. Marriage Rites—Trends in Marriages by Manner of 
   Solemnisation and Denomination in England and Wales, 1841-2012 ...................... 19
   John Haskey

3. From this Day Forward? Pre-Marital Cohabitation 
   and the Rite of Marriage from the 1960s to the Present Day ......................... 57
   Rebecca Probert

4. No Frills: Wedding Presents and the Meaning of 
   Marriage, 1945-2003 .............................................................................. 77
   Louise Purbrick

5. Civil Partnership Ceremonies: (Hetero)normativity, 
   Ritual and Gender.............................................................................. 99
   Elizabeth Peel

Part II

6. The Rite that Redefines the Rights? The Contemporary Role and 
   Practice of Pre-Nuptial Agreement ............................................................ 117
   Ayesha Vardag and Joanna Miles

7. The ‘Pure’ Relationship, Sham Marriages and 
   Immigration Control ........................................................................ 141
   Helena Wray

8. Unregistered Muslim Marriages: An Emerging Culture 
   of Celebrating Rites and Conceding Rights ............................................. 167
   Rajnaara C Akhtar

9. Forced Marriage: Rites and Rights ............................................................ 193
   Pervez Mody
Part III

10. Church of England Weddings and Ritual Symbolism .......................... 211
    Sarah Farrimond

11. Playing 'House of Lords Bingo': A Critical Discourse
    Analysis of Hansard Debates on Civil Partnership and
    Same Sex Marriage..................................................................................... 229
    Rosie Harding

Part IV

12. Let's Talk About a Divorce: Religious and Legal Wedding.............. 255
    Peter W Edge

13. Why Marriage Needs to be Less Sexy ................................................... 275
    Jonathan Herring

Index............................................................................................................. 293