With more than half of Americans now in favor of marriage equality, it is clear that societal norms of marriage are being quickly redefined. The growing belief that the state may not discriminate against gays and lesbians calls into question whether the state may limit marriage to couples and exclude other kinds of marital unions. While much has been written about same-sex marriage, as of yet, there has been no book-length legal treatment of unions among three or more individuals.

The first major study on plural marriage and the law, *In Defense of Plural Marriage* begins to fill this lacuna in the scholarly literature. Ronald C. Den Otter shows how the constitutional arguments that support the option of plural marriage are stronger than those against. Ultimately, he proposes a new semicontractual marital model that would provide legal recognition for a much wider range of intimate relationships.

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In Defense of Plural Marriage

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To my (only) wife, Grace, who has helped me through the most difficult part of my life and continues to do so.

I love you very much and I am grateful for everything you have done for me in the past.

Without you, this book, and many other important things, would not have been possible.
“If you liked it, then you shoulda put a ring on it.”

– Beyoncé Knowles, “Put a Ring on It”
Contents

Acknowledgments
Introduction
1 The Constitutional Possibility of Plural Marriage
2 Judging the Case Against Plural Marriage (Part I)
3 Judging the Case Against Plural Marriage (Part II)
4 The Importance of Marital Choice
5 Marriage Equality
6 The Disestablishment of Marriage
Conclusion
References
Index
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