The numbers can’t be ignored: the current generation of young Americans is delaying marriage longer than any other generation in history. But while the media trumpets this fact in a way that seems designed to scare us, until now no one has really taken the time to understand what people are doing instead.

Driven by his personal desire to understand why his single life stretched far into his thirties, Ethan Watters explores the cultural and social forces that have steered his generation away from the altar—and discovers many reasons to be optimistic about the course his generation has chosen. Central to his thinking is the idea of Urban Tribes: the closely knit
communities of friends that spring up during the ever-increasing period of
time between college and married life. Tribes are revealed to be the key to
understanding this generation, explaining not only why its members are
putting off marriage, but also why singles often live outside of families so
happily. In the end, Watters makes the case that the tribe years engender
the self-respect critical to successful partnerships.

A funny, deeply insightful, and compulsively readable book that dares to
suggest that the generation in question just might be interested in more
than buying the latest SUV and drinking lattes at the local coffeehouse,
Urban Tribes is destined to become one of the most talked-about books of
the year.

This is one of the best books I have read in a long time. Urban Tribes
redefines the debate over the nature of community and social cohesion in
society today. Ethan Watters provides powerful insight into the rise of new
kinds of cities and support structures for the growing class of creative,
single people inhabiting leading urban centers in the United States and
around the world. -Richard Florida, author of The Rise of the Creative
Class: And How Its Transforming Work, Leisure, Community and Everyday
Life

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