

1. Victorian Women Expected to Be Idle and Ignorant

→ during ~~the~~ Civil War & time of Chaucer women could manage large estate when husbands were away at war, and could ~~not~~ help w/

family businesses (ended in Victorian Era)

- Women subservient to men

- Marriage gave women her status

→ Women weren't as important or respected as men

→ industrial revolution increased population & wealth, but decreased women's status

→ ~~men had to keep women~~ it was a man's job to keep women idle

→ work was still scarce if women needed it (textile factory)

→ women didn't work or get an education

→ women who seek employment were pitied by others

→ women gained her wealth status from ~~the~~ ~~man~~ the man she marries.

→ in previous times women engaged in many jobs (assisted husbands, and on own account)

→ worked in small scale businesses, ~~the~~ families worked together in craft

Unoccupied / inactive

If women worked = shameful - meant man couldn't provide enough

spread to middle class

women lost independence

2. Victorian Women Prepared for Marriage, Not Work

- Women need to make men happy / marry rich
- Women couldn't work outside the home / decreased business chances
- Women's education was made to impress others / only learned ^{about} things useful in the home
- learned ~~to~~ French to impress wealthy
- Looked forward to marriage unless ~~poor~~
- Women studied music and art
- Only the rich had governesses
- Couldn't be in a carriage without a man
- Victorian male takes advantage of female "worse than death"
- If engagement was broken off, or divorce, suffered consequences

only way to raise status

no say over # of children

> anything to woo men

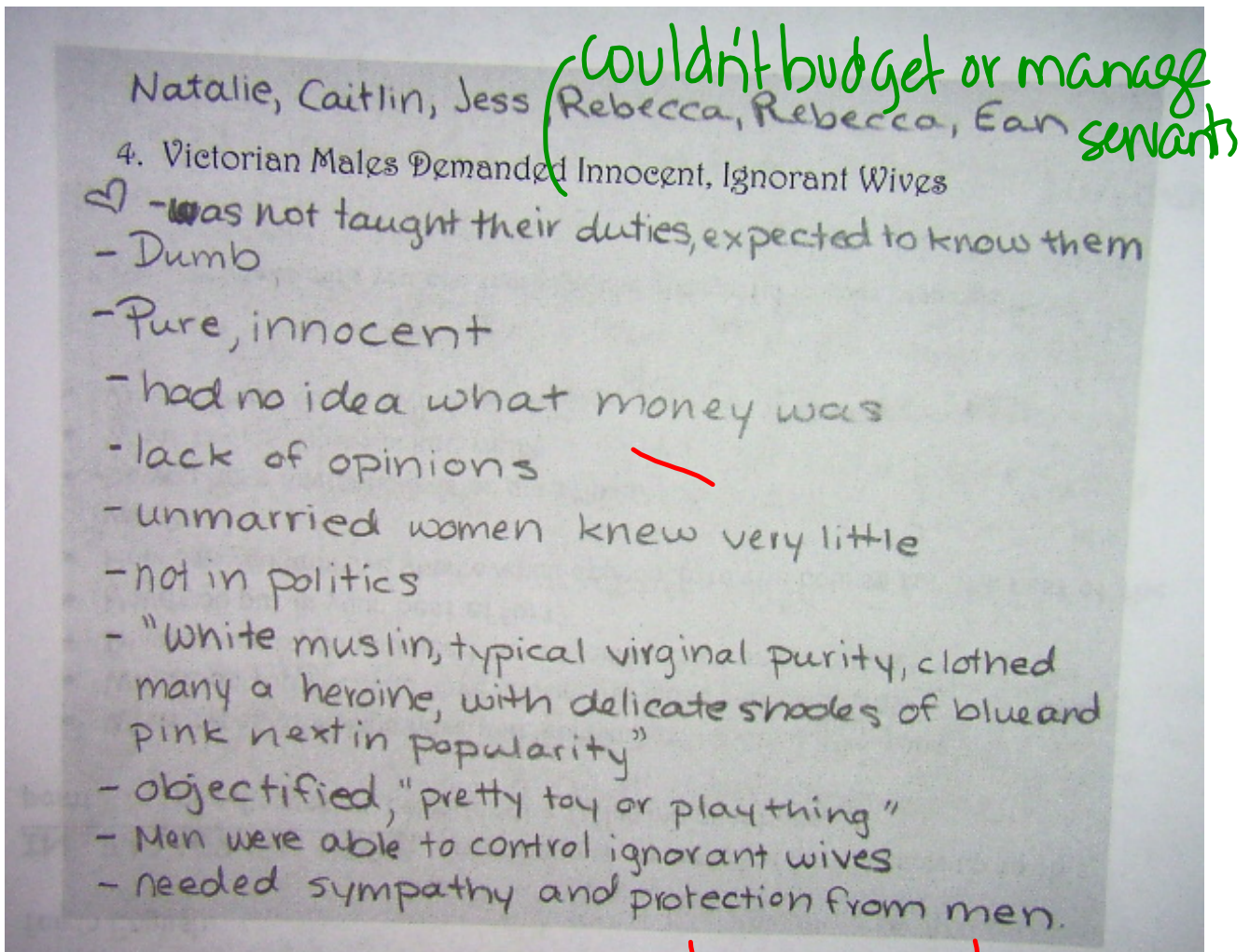
* reputation was important

- no divorce
- liaison were common - hypocrisy

3. Girls Educated by Governesses or in Boarding Schools

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- Census of 1851 over twenty-one thousand women appeared as governesses (one of few opportunities for a single woman)
- Governesses typically taught the upper middle class or aristocrats or professional men or the clergy
- Boarding schools: many young women were physically tortured with an instrument called a backboard
 - Backboard- a board fastened across the back to give erectness to the figure - learn how to woo men
- Musical ability, needlework, drawing & painting flowers were considered "good bait" in the husband fishing business
- Embroidering and altar-cloths was considered a lady-like occupation



Dependence on Parents → Submission to husband

- accepted any proposal (no love, based on status)
- wife ≠ a confidante, not a partner or companion
- once married, no rights to property

5. Marriage Required Subservience but
Offered Financial Security

- marriage wasn't based on companionship
- It was harder for a woman to get out of matrimony than it was for a man
- Men had automatic custody of his children, until 1840 an infant dependent upon a mother could be taken from her.
- Financially the husband had to support his wife
- During the divorce process the wife's personal & real property became her husband's possession & he was able to give the property to his children.