

there are deeply felt experiences of transformative motherhood both in choosing to relinquish a child for adoption and in making the commitment to raise an adopted child. Another chapter focusing on teen motherhood explores the effects of new motherhood on young women who are still in transition to adulthood. Bergum displays profound respect for the experiences of each and every mother she interviews.

Bergum shines brightest in her final chapter, “The Way of the Mother.” Here she does an artful job of drawing out the commonalities in the varied experiences of motherhood described by the diverse group of women she has interviewed, and she makes an eloquent case for motherhood as the basis of a morality of responsibility:

I suggest that the experience of women during pregnancy, birth, and nurturance demonstrates how the woman turns toward the child, and how, in this turning to the child (as Other), she comes to a renewed sense of herself (the Self). In this moral turn the woman asks the questions, “Who am I?” and “What should I do now?” Using reproductive choices as an example, I propose that moral questions and our responses to them stem from a relational root—the commitment that we have toward each other.... The stories of mothering are sources of moral knowledge. (134)

The Rhetoric of Midwifery: Gender, Knowledge, and Power

Mary M. Lay
New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2000

Reviewed by Melissa Miller Chastain

A well-researched, articulate contribution to the field of midwifery and rhetoric, this book analyses the recent Minnesota hearings on midwifery licensing and regulation. A professor at the University of Minnesota, Lay affirms that this book provides a “rare opportunity to study the medical and midwifery practices in conflict; the use of discourse to maintain professional jurisdictions; the exclusive claim to scientific knowledge and discourse by dominant professions; and the cultural status granted to women’s experience and knowledge of their bodies” (ix). Written in an approachable style, *The Rhetoric of Midwifery* not only offers an understanding of “how the hegemonic medical profession maintains its jurisdiction claims and how midwifery practice currently responds to those claims, but also insight into the role that discourse or language plays throughout these interactions” (x).

The Rhetoric of Midwifery is well structured. It explains the previous and current controversies surrounding midwifery and birth in a lucid manner, so that those outside the field may easily comprehend the material. The first three chapters cover the midwifery debate in the U.S., rhetorical analysis within these midwifery debates, and the rhetorical history of midwifery. The following three chapters detail the experience of the Minnesota midwives, their professional jurisdictions, and their licensing rules and regulations. The final chapter recapitulates the issues of gender and power surrounding the direct-entry midwife. Also included in the book are three sets of appendices; Notes; a Bibliography; and an Index, all of which are exceptionally helpful in and of themselves.

Lay's explicit coverage of these proceedings shows how each side, the midwives and the traditional medical community, has its own individual authoritative terminology. Clearly, the book is written in support of the Minnesota midwives but, to accurately portray the hearings, Lay includes the language of their opponents. The fact that a reader is able to conceptualize both sides of the argument and then make a judgment is one of the strengths of this book. Although the Minnesota midwives were granted their licensing by the passing of a state law in January 2000, the statutes are ambiguous. For example, midwives are able to provide care "for those women who are expected to have a normal pregnancy, labor and delivery," but they are not able to perform emergency episiotomies (186).

A wonderful scholarly addition to the field, *The Rhetoric of Midwifery* will also be a valuable resource not only for the field of midwifery, but also for women's studies, the medical field, for historians, sociologists, philosophers, and rhetoricians.

Pregnancy, Childbirth, and the Newborn: The Complete Guide

Penny Simkin, Janet Whalley, and Ann Keppler
New York: Meadowbrook Press, 1991. Second ed.

Reviewed by Jillian Duquaine

Penny Simkin, Janet Whalley, and Ann Keppler, three members of the Childbirth Education Association of Seattle, have compiled a well-organized, comprehensive guide to the three stages in the female reproductive cycle: pregnancy, birth, and caring for a newborn. The second edition, updated and expanded, includes more illustrations, photographs, and charts, as well as two