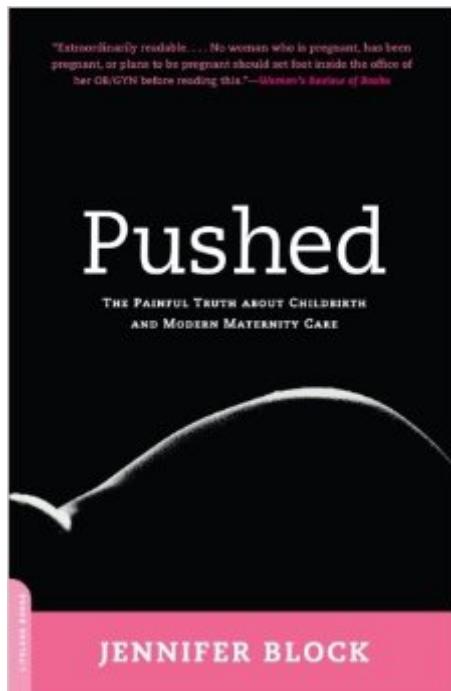


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Pushed: The Painful Truth About Childbirth And Modern Maternity Care



Synopsis

A groundbreaking narrative investigation of childbirth in the age of machines, malpractice, and managed care, *Pushed* presents the complete picture of maternity care in America. From inside the operating room of a hospital with a 44% Cesarean rate to the living room floor of a woman who gives birth with an illegal midwife, Block exposes a system in which few women have an optimal experience. *Pushed* surveys the public health impact of routine labor inductions, C-sections, and epidurals, but also examines childbirth as a women's rights issue: Do women even have the right to choose a normal birth? Is that right being upheld? A wake-up call for our times, Block's gripping research reveals that while emergency obstetric care is essential, we are overusing medical technology at the expense of maternal and infant health.

Book Information

Paperback: 344 pages

Publisher: Da Capo Press; Reprint edition (April 8, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0738211664

ISBN-13: 978-0738211664

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (150 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #32,840 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Obstetrics & Gynecology #100 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Women's Health > Pregnancy & Childbirth #857 in Books > History > World

Customer Reviews

Block's central thesis is this: "What's best for women is best for babies. And what's best for women and babies is minimally invasive births that are physically, emotionally, and socially supported. This is not the experience that most women have. In the age of evidence-based medicine, women need to know that standard American maternity care is not primarily driven by their health and well-being or by the health and well-being of their babies. Care is constrained and determined by liability and financial concerns, by a provider's licensing regulations and malpractice insurer. The evidence often has nothing to do with it." Block paints a depressingly grim picture of modern maternity care in which only a handful of women experience physiological childbirth. The rest give birth plugged into machines. Drugs and hormones course through their veins; scalpels and scissors cut them open,

often after coercion and frequently despite the woman's expressed refusal. Almost everyone she interviews admits there's a problem, but no one seems to be able to change the system. Those who buck the system altogether--home birth midwives and unassisted birthers, for example--face legal harassment, imprisonment, fines, or loss of custody of their children.

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