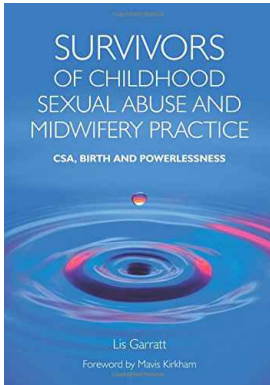


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# Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse and Midwifery Practice: CSA, Birth and Powerlessness



Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse and Midwifery Practice: CSA, Birth and Powerlessness

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0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a body-mind psychotherapist and a midwifery educator I want to recommend this book to anyone and everyone who takes care ...By Mindy LevyAs a midwife, a body-mind psychotherapist and a midwifery educator I want to recommend this book to anyone and everyone who takes care of women before, during and after childbirth. There are new insights in this book regarding the emotional availability of midwives, and how their personal past traumas affect the quality of care that they are capable of giving. Any midwife, doctor or doula who has "checked out" during parts of a difficult birth can learn to understand themselves better, bring consciousness to their behavior and thus improve their practice.

Many midwives will care for women who are survivors of childhood sexual abuse (CSA), whether these women disclose this or not. Pregnant and birthing women commonly experience their bodies becoming 'public property', a variety of sometimes intimate medical procedures, and limited choices on where and how care is provided. For CSA survivors, who have suffered loss of ownership over their bodies as children and may experience recurring feelings of powerlessness and loss of control, these factors can combine with impersonal and medicalised settings and practices to deeply traumatic effect. 'Sexual abuse is all about power, not sex.' - interviewee Many midwives also experience powerlessness and loss of control as professionals as a result of these same settings and practices, and those midwives who are themselves CSA survivors bring a particularly acute awareness of this and of the needs of survivor mothers. This unique study sets out to gain a deeper understanding of the needs of these mothers by exploring them alongside the parallel experiences of survivor midwives. It explores the insights and reflections they together bring to midwifery, and the positive results of more

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