



No One Talks About This Stuff: Twenty-Two Stories of Almost Parenthood

Kat Brown, Editor

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No One Talks About This Stuff is a ranging anthology of frank, humorous essays about facing infertility, pregnancy loss, and childlessness.

The twenty-two contributors felt “disenfranchised grief” over pregnancies that did not lead to children and circumstances that denied them parental identities. They faced health crises including miscarriages, endometriosis, and terminations for medical reasons. Stella Duffy, a lesbian novelist, endured infertility alongside her breast cancer treatment; Quinn Clark decided against parenthood because of CTPSD; and Gemma Stone pondered her parenthood options as a trans woman.

For some, medical interventions had mixed results; for others, alternative routes, including having stepchildren, pursuing surrogacy, or adopting, emerged; for others, acceptance was the mission. Cultural expectations of motherhood compounded the sorrow of women from African, Orthodox Jewish, and South Asian communities. Laura Barton’s “Small, Soft, Grey Pig” narrates her losses through keepsakes; Miranda Ward’s “Self-portrait, Pregnant” compiles poetic vignettes. “The Baby Loss Diaries” introduces Nana-Adwoa Mbeutcha’s perspective; later in the collection, her husband, Donald, contributes a piece as well.

With entries that are somber, angry, and wry, the forthright essay collection *No One Talks About This Stuff* addresses the feelings of shame and sadness that accompany atypical experiences with parenthood.

REBECCA FOSTER (July / August 2024)

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