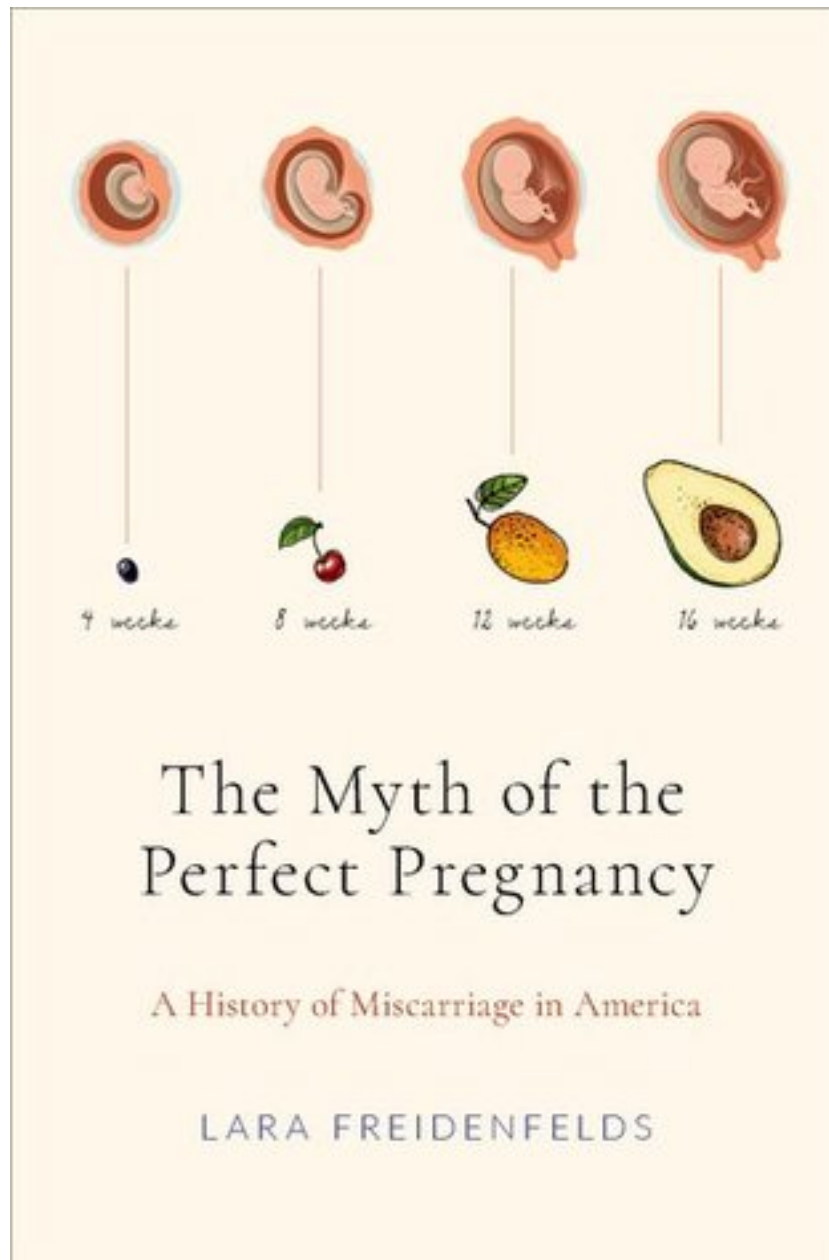


The Myth of the Perfect Pregnancy: A History of Miscarriage in America Book PDF Download



By:
Lara Freidenfelds

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The Myth of the Perfect Pregnancy: A History of Miscarriage in America Book PDF Summary

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Everything we think we know about how to be pregnant is a construction - and Lara Freidenfelds carefully details how and when that construction came to be, and how medical professionals and marketing corporations have sold women blame and responsibility for things beyond their control in this fascinating book. Feridenfelds charts the ways in which the deep grief that people who are pregnant feel when they lose a pregnancy is deeply shaped by constructions of "baby" and parenthood (especially

Everything we think we know about how to be pregnant is a construction - and Lara Freidenfelds carefully details how and when that construction came to be, and how medical professionals and marketing corporations have sold women blame and responsibility for things beyond their control in this fascinating book. Feridenfelds charts the ways in which the deep grief that people who are pregnant feel when they lose a pregnancy is deeply shaped by constructions of "baby" and parenthood (especially motherhood) that have been created to benefit corporate sales. Marketers want to sell multiples of pregnancy tests, ovulation kits, and every possible accessory to pregnancy as soon as possible, encouraging women to consider embryos babies even at a stage when the pregnancy may be over, but impossible to detect. Similarly, medical interventions and monitoring have increased over the course of the twentieth century, often to benefit medical professionals and their income rather than parents. All of this amplifies a person's grief when a pregnancy is lost. It's eye-opening.

There's much I wish this book did better, especially a racial analysis of how these things came to be. It's clear that Freidenfelds is talking about the middle class more than any other group throughout the book, but more, she's talking about the white middle class. There's no mention of the testing of the pill on Puerto Rican women in this book, for example, despite a lot of info on the pill itself. There's no real investigation of the way in which sterilization was used punitively against Black, Native, and Latina women well into the 1970s and 80s (and potentially still!) even as white women tried to use it as a contraceptive method. Slavery is mentioned in passing more than once, but there's no real attempt to wrestle with the legacy of that institution in terms of reproductive justice. Friedenfelds does a *lot* in this book - but I feel like a slight shift in perspective would have allowed her to do more without adding to the material weight of the text.