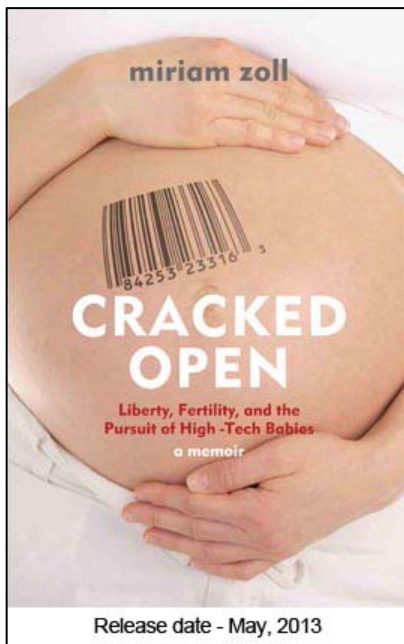


CRACKED OPEN

LIBERTY, FERTILITY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HIGH-TECH BABIES

a memoir by Miriam Zoll
foreword by Judy Norsigian and Michele Goodwin



“Odds are, everything you know about fertility in America is wrong. Between our culture’s blind faith in technology, the media’s compulsion to sensationalize, and a lot of magical thinking, an entire generation of women has plotted their futures based on false information about their reproductive options. Miriam Zoll does an enormous service by making public her quest to get pregnant, but her memoir is more than a moving and honest personal story. As a professional human rights and health advocate, she is able to make sense of a confusing morass of studies, statistics, and practices with a scientific rigor that rises to watchdog journalism. May others follow in her stead.”

—Kate Bolick, contributing editor, the Atlantic

“Regardless of the reasons, more and more people are swarming to the doorsteps of fertility clinics with their hopes high and their pockets bulging with cash. Many do not realize the extent to which they are participating in a vast experiment, where evidence-based medicine has yet to establish a reasonable foothold.”

—From the foreword by Judy Norsigian and Michele Goodwin

Cracked Open is Miriam Zoll’s eye-opening account of growing into womanhood with the simultaneous opportunities offered by the U.S. women’s movement and new discoveries in reproductive technologies. Influenced by the pervasive media and cultural messages suggesting that science had finally eclipsed Mother Nature, Zoll postponed motherhood until the age of 40. When things don’t progress as she had hoped, she enters a world of medical seduction and bioethical quagmires. Desperate to conceive, she surrenders to unproven treatments and procedures only to learn that the odds of becoming a mother through reproductive technologies are far less than she and her generation had been led to believe.

Miriam Zoll is an award-winning writer and an international public health and reproductive rights advocate and educator. She is the founding coproducer of the Ms. Foundation for Women’s original Take Our Daughters To Work Day and a member of the board of Our Bodies Ourselves.

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