

Contents

Introduction *viii*

- 1 **Is Anyone Out There Listening** 1
The Anti-Mother Culture 5 The Experts 8
Social Isolation and Emotional Upheaval 10
- 2 **Mothers Cut To Shape** 17
Bonds are Forged by Birth 18
- 3 **The Empty Womb** 33
Birth Control 35 Western Attitudes to Infertility 39
- 4 **Ways In Which Men See Women:
Pure And Polluted** 45
Mothers in India 47 The Jewish Ideal 52
The Mediterranean Ideal 56
- 5 **Experimenting With Motherhood** 61
Motherhood in an American Utopia 61
Communist China 65 The Israeli Kibbutz 67
- 6 **With Child** 73
Becoming a Mother in the West 78
Childbirth Classes: Woman to Woman 85
- 7 **Birth – A Social Act** 91
Men and Childbirth 93 The God Sibs 96
The Place of Birth 99 Body Fantasies and Birth Symbols 100
Movement 107 Touch and Massage 109
Dirt, Cleanliness and Purification 112 Midwives 113
- 8 **Birth In Three Cultures** 119
Birth under Communism 119 A Peasant Birth in Jamaica 125
Birth in South Africa 129

9	Ritual In The Western Way Of Birth	133
	'Good' Patients 133 Hospital Birth 137	
	Rites of Admission 138 Induction 140	
	The Tethered Body 142 Drugs for Pain Relief 145	
	Ceremonial Garments 146 A Production Timetable 147	
	Delivery as a Race to the Finishing Post 148 Episiotomy 149	
	Clearing Out and Cleaning Up 150	
	The Defusing of Female Power 151 Controlling Women 152	
	Joking Behaviour 153 The Depersonalization of Birth 155	
10	The First Encounter	157
	In Touch 166 Prelacteal Feeding 168 Seclusion 168	
	The Fire Rest 171 Nurturing the Mother 172	
	A Traditional Lying-in 174	
	Mother and Baby and the New Technology 176	
	The Effects of Active Management of Labour 177	
11	Learning To Be A Mother	185
	The Romance Trap 185 The Romance of a Baby 189	
	The First Baby 192 The Nuclear Family 195	
	Learning to be Parents in Pre-Industrial Societies 196	
	Images of Parenthood in Western Society 197	
	Expert Opinion 198 Mothers Who Cannot Mother 200	
12	Working Mothers	205
	How Women Worked 207 Mothers on a Pedestal 210	
	Working Mothers Today 212 Men's Work Patterns 219	
	Father Figures 220 The Invisible New Man 223	
13	Is There A Future For Motherhood?	231
	References 235	
	Photographic credits 250	
	Index 251	