

FORWARD

Pregnancy? Birth? Motherhood?

It's something you experience – but a book of poems? Well during my own pregnancy that's all I wanted to read about! I searched high and low through every library and bookshop I could get to and barely found anything that could satiate my desire. Like a food you have to have at 2am, I was thirsty for the blood of words being born onto a page about crying babies, women screaming down hospital wards, husbands fretting, anything that remotely related to my own experience of pregnancy or anyone else's. I was not able to satiate that desire until I completed this anthology.

*“Why are there so few poems about babies and motherhood?
Because mothers, whose daily life has so many poetic moments have no
time to sit and write.” - Robyn Erwin*

That is so true! That's why this book is by poets who just had to work around poeey nappies, screaming babies, vomit and everything that will get in the way of great writing! But they did it!

‘What a wonderful idea for a poetry book!’

...is a line that I often heard about this collection of poems. It intrigued mothers and poets everywhere. Mothers who had never written were inspired to write for the first time and those who had stopped writing due to family obligations took up their rusty pens. One woman called me saying “I have not written since high school but your book has inspired me.” Another said, ‘I used to win awards in poetry years ago but then I had the kids!’ It was great to be stirring imaginations. Poets were emerging from the darkest corners of the closet and digging up thoughts and emotions they had buried long ago. I eagerly awaited the arrival of each new poet and was not surprised that so many of them had an extraordinary way of translating their experience.

But this book is not just a collection from mothers. It was fantastic to have contributions from fathers as well, and from poets who have never had children. There is both light and dark between these pages and a sense of understanding that opens up a secret box of thoughts unlike any you might have read before. But enough from me, I now need to let you, the reader, decide for yourself. Enjoy!

Vee Malnar