

Birth Ambassadors documents the social history of the emergence of doula care in the United States. Doulas use a midwifery model to understand pregnancy and birth. They believe in women's right to make informed choices regarding their health care. They advocate for patients and offer women unconditional emotional support for women's choices about their births. *Birth Ambassadors* explores the many dilemmas doulas face within the maternity reform movement, which seeks to empower women during and after childbirth.

Doulas are ambassadors to the world of birth, highlighting women's emotional experience of birth in settings where beliefs and practices of the participants (the woman, her family, the nurses, midwives and obstetricians) are sometimes in conflict. For doulas to fulfil their goal of entering mainstream maternity care, they and their organizations face critical challenges.

This book is THE definitive work on doulas in the United States... Want to know what a doula actually does for laboring mothers? Read this book! Want to know what a doula can do for you personally, if you are expecting? READ THIS BOOK! Want to know if you yourself should become a doula? READ THIS BOOK! ...You will find all your answers within its beautifully written pages.

—Robbie Davis-Floyd PhD, Senior Research Fellow, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Texas Austin, author of *Birth as an American Rite of Passage*, and co-editor of *Mainstreaming Midwives*

Christine H. Morton, Ph.D. is a research sociologist whose research has focused on women's reproductive experiences and maternity care roles. Since 2008, she has been at Stanford University's California Maternal Quality Care Collaborative, where she conducts research on maternal mortality and morbidity.

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with Elayne G. Clift, MA**

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