



Everything Conceivable: How Assisted Reproduction Is Changing Our World

By Liza Mundy



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Skyrocketing infertility rates and the accompanying explosion in reproductive technology are revolutionizing the American family and changing the way we think about parenthood, childbirth, and life itself. In this riveting work of investigative reporting, Liza Mundy, an award-winning journalist for *The Washington Post*, captures the human narratives, as well as the science, behind what is today a controversial, multibillion-dollar industry, and examines how the huge social experiment that is assisted reproduction is transforming our most basic relationships and even our destiny as a species.

Based on in-depth reporting from across the nation and around the world, using riveting anecdotal material from doctors, families, and children—many of them now adults—conceived through in vitro fertilization, Mundy looks at the phenomena created by assisted reproduction and their ramifications. Never before in the history of humankind has it been possible for a woman to give birth to an infant who is genetically unrelated to her. Never before has it been possible for a woman to be the genetic parent of children to whom she has not given birth. Never before has the issue of choice had such kaleidoscopic implications. If you support reproductive freedom, does that mean you support everything being offered in the reproductive marketplace? Thawing frozen embryos and letting them expire? Selecting the sex of your baby? Conceiving triplets and “reducing” the pregnancy down to twins? *Everything Conceivable* explores the personal impact on individuals using assisted reproduction to conceive, and the moral, ethical, and pragmatic decisions they make on their journey to parenthood. It looks at the vast social consequences: for hospital neonatal wards, for family structure, for schools, for our notion of genetic relatedness and whether it matters, for adoption; for our nation as a whole, and how we think about the earliest human life-forms. The book explores questions of social justice: the ethics of buying or borrowing some part of the reproductive process, as with egg donation and surrogacy. It looks at entirely new family structures being created by families who have conceived using sperm donors, so that children may have half-siblings around the country with whom they are, or are not, in contact. And it looks toward the future, to the impact today’s technology may have on coming generations.

Fascinating, commanding, keenly observed and reported, rich in personal drama as well as in the science of evolution and reproduction, Liza Mundy’s *Everything*

Conceivable is a groundbreaking consideration of the changes sweeping through our culture and the world.

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Everything Conceivable: How Assisted Reproduction Is Changing Our World By Liza Mundy Bibliography

- Rank: #1735499 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Knopf
- Published on: 2007-04-24
- Released on: 2007-04-24
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1

- Dimensions: 9.54" h x 1.39" w x 6.57" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 432 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. A revolution is taking place and it's being driven by the most fundamental of all human urges—the desire to reproduce. This revolution is the subject of Mundy's utterly fascinating book on assisted reproduction. The breadth and thoroughness of Mundy's investigation makes it nearly impossible to come away without having your opinions challenged if not changed altogether. Mundy, a feature writer for the *Washington Post*, combines a science reporter's objectivity with a mother's understanding, and she delivers her emotionally charged and often scientifically complex material in clear, bright and eminently readable prose. Mundy's research starts with the facts: 80 million people worldwide suffer from infertility; 500,000 frozen embryos exist in America alone; and fertility drugs are a \$3-billion a year business. From there she interviews mothers, fathers, infertility doctors, surrogate mothers, egg donors, sperm donors and adult children conceived through surrogacy and in vitro fertilization. The picture that emerges is one of a social experiment so new and untested—legally, medically, ethically and socially—that it behooves us all to be as informed as possible. There couldn't be a better starting point than this book. *75,000 first printing. (Apr. 24)* Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Liza Mundy, an award-winning feature writer for the *Washington Post*, delivers a dispassionate, comprehensive view of assisted reproduction in the 21st century. She has clearly done her research, building the project from an initial assignment to look at infertility among minorities to a book that examines the manifold ramifications of our newfound ability to circumvent evolution. Her clear-eyed look at the world strikes a few reviewers as a bit too removed, and her interviews and case studies sometimes gloss over deeper sociocultural issues, but the overall consensus is that Mundy wades through this complicated, emotional subject with aplomb.

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Mundy applies prodigious journalistic and research skills to a topic as compelling and timely as assisted reproduction, and the result is a one-night read. From its inception, the practice of assisted reproduction, initially limited to in vitro fertilization (IVF), has been a hot-button issue, with emotionally charged opinions weighing in on all sides. But since the comparatively halcyon days of what now seem relatively simple choices, relentless scientific advancement has continued to upgrade the pavement for anyone, female and male, who wishes to join the march toward motherhood. It may take a village to raise a child, but what are the cultural, social, and personal implications when a mixed-gender basketball team can create a child? What happens when it is not inconceivable (no pun intended) for a child to have five "parents"? A couple of any gender combination to have a child via an egg donor, a sperm donor, and a surrogate mother? What about regulating ethics in the reproductive resources industry involved in brokering eggs and sperm, recruiting a stable of gestational surrogates, and so forth, to anyone with the financial wherewithal and emotional vigor to go through the grueling assisted reproduction process? Mundy covers all bases, seamlessly merging scientific fact, real-life experiences, and philosophical implications. *Donna Chavez*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deborah Lake:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Everything Conceivable: How Assisted Reproduction Is Changing Our World. Try to make the book Everything Conceivable: How Assisted Reproduction Is Changing Our World as your close friend. It means that it can be your friend when you really feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunate in your case. The book makes you more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let us make new experience and knowledge with this book.

Lawrence Richardson:

The book with title Everything Conceivable: How Assisted Reproduction Is Changing Our World has a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of gain after read this book. This particular book exist new information the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world at this point. That is important to you to find out how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you throughout new era of the global growth. You can read the e-book in your smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

Eric Ballentine:

People live in this new day time of lifestyle always try and and must have the spare time or they will get great deal of stress from both day to day life and work. So , whenever we ask do people have spare time, we will say absolutely yes. People is human not really a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity are there when the spare time coming to a person of course your answer will certainly unlimited right. Then ever try this one, reading ebooks. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, often the book you have read is actually Everything Conceivable: How Assisted Reproduction Is Changing Our World.

Walter Dion:

Many people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a book. They are directly felt the item when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose the book Everything Conceivable: How Assisted Reproduction Is Changing Our World to make your personal reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading talent is developing when you similar to reading. Try to choose simple book to make you enjoy to study it and mingle the sensation about book and looking at especially. It is to be initial opinion for you to like to available a book and examine it. Beside that the reserve Everything Conceivable: How Assisted Reproduction Is Changing Our World can to be your brand new friend when you're sense alone and confuse with what must you're doing of their time.

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