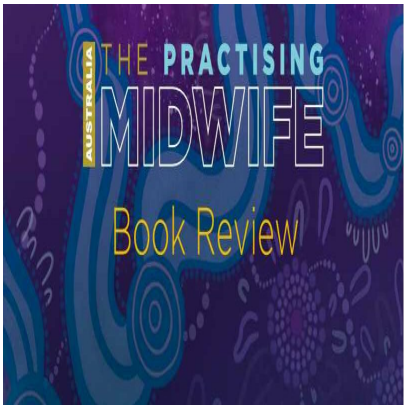


Description

Book Review: Midwife Crisis by Kelli Zakharoff

Publisher: Self published

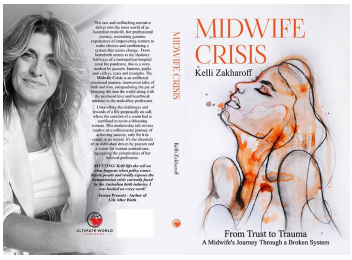
Publication Date: 2024

Format: pbk, pp304

RRP: $34.95

ISBN: 978-1923255289

Reviewer: Dr Hazel Keedle – Midwifery researcher, author and academic



In this book Kelli Zakharoff delves into her memory bank of midwifery experiences and takes the reader on a tumultuous journey. The stories Kelli shares depict the complicated life of a midwife and she elicits the raw emotions of challenging birth stories. Kelli recounts a varied midwifery career which included embracing the life as a private midwife.

The varied home birth stories serve as a reminder of the importance of normalcy and the impact of support. Devastatingly, like too many other private midwives, Kelli experienced formal notifications to the midwifery registration board and she recounts these experiences honestly. I appreciate this honesty and recognise her bravery in sharing as it is often a journey that is isolating and lonely, and one that leaves the midwife with feelings of shame and suffering from mental-health issues. As a profession, we must get better at supporting our midwifery sisters during those difficult times.

Kelli, like so many midwives, has the strength and ability to rise like a phoenix through her challenges, much like the women we support through the final stages of labour. She reminds us that being a midwife is core to our identity, and when that identity is threatened, we can be unsure of who we are. Reflecting on Kelli's story reminds us about the joys and challenges of trying to be women-centred in Australia's maternity system. **TPM**

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