

Description

Book Review: Womb The Inside Story of Where We All Began by Leah Hazard

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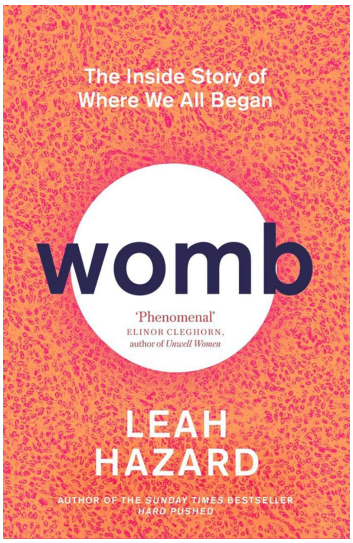
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Could menstrual blood be key to unlocking more efficient disease diagnostics? What physiological role does the uterus truly play in conception? How is the widespread use of synthetic oxytocin in labour really affecting outcomes for women and birthing people? Could we – or should we – opt out of periods? These are just a handful of the questions explored in Womb, the new book from Leah Hazard, midwife and author of Hard Pushed: A Midwife's Story and The Father's Home Birth Handbook.

Describing the uterus as “the size of a clenched fist and the shape of a lightbulb – with no less power and potential,” Hazard takes the reader on a journey of discovery about this most amazing of organs. Combining journalistic exploration and scientific enquiry with a sense of humour, the author gathers insights from scientists, midwives, doctors, doulas, historians, activists and service users to present a fascinating and triumphant history of the uterus – and thought-provoking look to the future.

A refreshing and confronting read, Womb explores pleasure, pain, new life and new meaning. The reader is challenged to reflect on their own understandings of the female reproductive system as Hazard shines a light on the ways in which patriarchy and social stigma have shaped scientific thought and medical practice. Inclusive, evidence-based an unflinchingly political, Womb is essential reading for student midwives. **TSM**

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