



The Midwife's Advice

By Gay Courter

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Hannah Sokolow, the spirited heroine of the international bestseller, *The Midwife*, returns to tackle new medical challenges in New York. As head midwife for Bellevue Hospital, Hannah faces opposition from male obstetricians who are protecting their turf. After counseling one troubled immigrant woman, Hannah takes a bold step toward a new frontier: sex therapy. When her husband follows his political heart to help the Russian revolution, Hannah follows hers—into a searing affair with a prominent doctor who is separated from her by faith, class, and marriage, but who is driven with a fierce desire that matches her own.

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The Midwife's Advice By Gay Courter Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

First met in Courter's bestselling novel *The Midwife*, Hannah Sokolow returns in a compelling sequel set during the years 1913-1922. Now head midwife at Bellevue Hospital, Hannah finds herself dispensing sexual advice to her impoverished patients, becoming, as it were, a forerunner of Dr. Ruth Westheimer. Hannah's acquires a reputation as a miracle worker after she counsels an Italian-American mother of five girls on how to conceive a male child. (Having noticed the preponderance of boys among orthodox Jewish families, she suggests that her patient follow Talmudic directions on sexual matters.) Although she studies the works of Freud, Kraft-Ebbing and Havelock Ellis, Hannah uses mainly intuition and common sense to counsel her embarrassed clients about all aspects of female--and male--sexuality. Her own domestic life unravels when husband Lazar returns to Russia as Trotsky's aide, leaving her to enjoy a steamy affair with Bellevue's head of obstetrics. Courter links her rambling story to the events of the era, as Hannah forms an uneasy alliance with a parade of feminists and revolutionaries. A surfeit of vacuous characters and gratuitous cameo appearances by such historical figures as Walter Lippmann and Emma Goldman impede the narrative flow somewhat, but Hannah's achievements (and perhaps Courter's explicit descriptions of human anatomy and sexual functions) will keep readers absorbed. 50,000 first printing; \$50,000 ad/promo; Literary Guild alternate.

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From Library Journal

Hannah Sokolow (*The Midwife*, LJ 1/15/81. o.p.) returns in a sequel covering the years 1913-22. The persistent questions of her patients at Bellevue Hospital drive Hannah to consult privately about sexual behavior. Each chapter deals with a different year and a different problem. Underlying the discussion of sexual and medical conditions are the political events of the day--World War I, the battle for birth control, and the Russian revolution--and medical or political details often slow this long book. Hannah's love affair during her husband's prolonged absence in Mother Russia adds interest. While Hannah may be atypical in her professional successes (the title comes from her advice column in a Yiddish paper), her efforts to work while being a wife and mother without much help will be familiar to many. Competent, but not compelling; for libraries where *The Midwife* was popular. Literary Guild alternate; previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 6/15/92.

- *Rebecca S. Kelm, Northern Kentucky Univ. Lib., Highland Heights*

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From Kirkus Reviews

In *The Midwife* (1981), Hannah Blau Sokolow, Jewish-Russian midwife, delivered babies in Russia, in America, on the high seas, and detoured into advice on sexual matters. Now established as a midwife at Bellevue Hospital in 1913 Manhattan, Hannah, married to Trotskyite Laser and mother of two, will blossom into a full-fledged sex therapist. One of the first problems tackled by Hannah, encountering a wretched girl-producing patient, is why (as the patient claims) Orthodox Jews seem to produce an inordinate number of boys. Hannah researches both religion and science and produces results (Courter documents this unusual research in her "Author's Note"). Meanwhile, as Hannah is monitoring birthings, other problems catch her interest: frigid women, impotent men, the nature of sexuality (she felt that, in spite of Dr. Freud, Adam came from Eve and not vice versa), lack of sexual impulses, and even the woes of a cross-dresser. But while Hannah is Dr. Ruth-ing, home problems impinge. Laser is off to Russia with Trotsky (he'll eventually return, disillusioned); there are battles to be fought for women's rights and legalization of birth-control information; and Hannah is into a hopeless love affair with a Bellevue physician. Throughout, we get glimpses of political

celebrities of the time--Mabel Dodge, Margaret Sanger, radical Emma Goldman, and even Trotsky himself - - grim and rude. Finally, Hannah will become famous as a sex therapist via a newspaper column and a book. Again, for the Belva Plain audience and for those enthralled by dramas centered on the nether end: a ham-handed treatment of delicate matters--which should fairly fly off the airport bookracks. -- *Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Robert Miller:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in each and every way. By being competitive today, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the particular crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that often many people have underestimated this for a while is reading. Sure, by reading a reserve your ability to survive increase then having chance to remain than other is high. For you who want to start reading a book, we give you this The Midwife's Advice book as starter and daily reading book. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Irma Patterson:

Reading can called brain hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book particularly book entitled The Midwife's Advice the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging each and every word written in a publication then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get before. The The Midwife's Advice giving you one more experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful data for your better life in this era. So now let us explain to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Gary Simms:

Do you have something that you enjoy such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to pick book like comic, quick story and the biggest the first is novel. Now, why not attempting The Midwife's Advice that give your entertainment preference will be satisfied through reading this book. Reading behavior all over the world can be said as the way for people to know world better then how they react in the direction of the world. It can't be mentioned constantly that reading habit only for the geeky man but for all of you who wants to be success person. So , for every you who want to start looking at as your good habit, you may pick The Midwife's Advice become your current starter.

Ana Smith:

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