



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:

Jeffrey Smith:

This book untitled *The Midwife's Advice* to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this reserve you can get a lot of benefit into it. You will easily to buy this particular book in the book store or you can order it by way of online. The publisher on this book sells the e-book too. It makes you more easily to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smartphone. So there is no reason to your account to past this book from your list.

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John Barrow:

The reason? Because this *The Midwife's Advice* is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap this but latter it will shock you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who write the book in such wonderful way makes the content inside easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning thoroughly. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book have got such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

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