



Not of Woman Born: Representations of Caesarean Birth in Medieval and Renaissance Culture

Renate Blumenfeld-Kosinski

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"Vividly tracing the evolution of Caesarean birth from the early 1300s (when the operation was performed almost exclusively by midwives) through the Renaissance period (when midwives were considered witches and male surgeons took control), Blumenfeld-Kosinski . . . does more than provide [an] engrossingly accessible, historical account of the now-commonplace procedure--she unveils the roots of a medical misogyny that still prevails today. A richly cross-disciplined study utilizing depictions of Caesarean delivery in art, literature, and medical texts and illuminations (illustrations), [this book] is a captivating and revealing work that will be relished by readers of medical and cultural history, as well as by those who are interested in the subject of male dominance over women."--Publishers Weekly

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