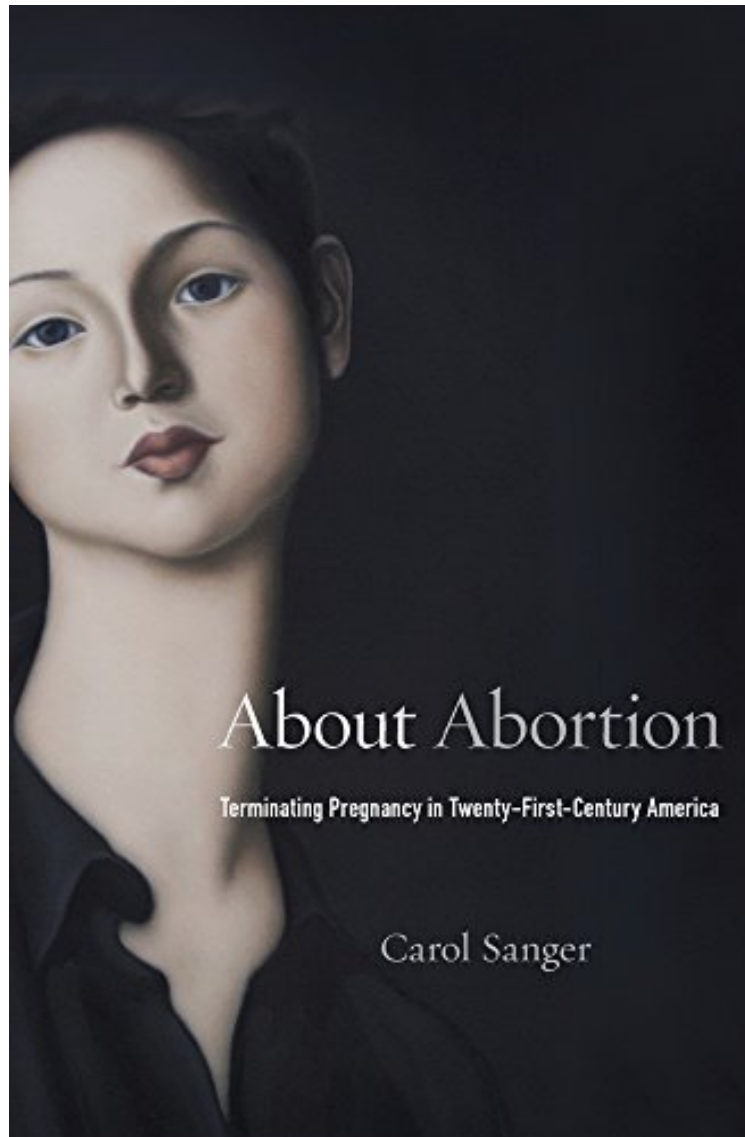


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About Abortion: Terminating Pregnancy in Twenty-First-Century America

Carol Sanger

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Carol Sanger : About Abortion: Terminating Pregnancy in Twenty-First-Century America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised About Abortion: Terminating Pregnancy in Twenty-First-Century America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An Intelligent Treatment of an Agonizing Issue By C. C. Black Professor Sanger, who holds the Black Chair in Law at Columbia Law School, has written what is bound to be one of the most important studies of abortion in this or any foreseeable decade. Those looking for self-satisfied, confident pronouncements to say nothing of radically liberal or conservative rants will have to look elsewhere. This is a thoroughly researched, deeply considered, well-written book about an extraordinarily difficult subject. Perhaps the most important point it makes is that abortion is so enveloped in silence and shame that even speaking of it, much less trying to reason through it with others, has become nearly impossible. With this book Sanger has broken the silence. Whether a compassionate conversation may ensue from that remains to be heard. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An illuminating, thoughtful consideration of abortion and the secrecy surrounding it. By Lawrence M. Hinman Excellent treatment of the local and moral issues surrounding abortion. Of particular interest is the way that Sanger focuses on the issue of secrecy and the implications of the secrecy that typically surround abortion. Illuminating. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Hayley F. Wonderfully and intelligently written. A bit repetitive at times, but otherwise, Sanger nails it.

One of the most private decisions a woman can make, abortion is also one of the most contentious topics in American civic life. Protested at rallies and politicized in party platforms, terminating pregnancy is often characterized as a selfish decision by women who put their own interests above those of the fetus. This background of stigma and hostility has stifled women's willingness to talk about abortion, which in turn distorts public and political discussion. To pry open the silence surrounding this public issue, Sanger distinguishes between abortion privacy, a form of nondisclosure based on a woman's desire to control personal information, and abortion secrecy, a woman's defense against the many harms of disclosure. Laws regulating abortion patients and providers treat abortion not as an acceptable medical decision let alone a right but as something disreputable, immoral, and chosen by mistake. Exploiting the emotional power of fetal imagery, laws require women to undergo ultrasound, a practice welcomed in wanted pregnancies but commandeered for use against women with unwanted pregnancies. Sanger takes these prejudicial views of women's abortion decisions into the twenty-first century by uncovering new connections between abortion law and American culture and politics. New medical technologies, women's increasing willingness to talk online and off, and the prospect of tighter judicial reins on state legislatures are shaking up the practice of abortion. As talk becomes more transparent and acceptable, women's decisions about whether or not to become mothers will be treated more like those of other adults making significant personal choices.

Carol Sanger understands that abortion is never an isolated event, but one that reflects the complicated realities around it. There is a great mind at work here, but one with a woman's body, an understanding heart, and a hope that every child will be born loved and wanted. (Gloria Steinem) This remarkable book goes beyond abortion law and abortion politics to illuminate abortion as a lived experience, and a common one at that a perspective far too often missing from a debate with no end in sight. An essential and timely warning to all of what happens when a constitutional right is narrowed down to invisibility. (Linda Greenhouse, author of *Becoming Justice Blackmun: Harry Blackmun's Supreme Court Journey*) Sanger takes readers on an insightful, original, and eye-opening guided tour of the practices and culture of abortion. Even as pro-life legislators enact laws that nominally aim to provide women with information, she shows that women already know what abortion is. They know because, as Sanger persuasively argues, abortion implicates everything we deem important: life, death, sex, family, freedom, equality, and more. (Michael C. Dorf, coauthor of *Beating Hearts: Abortion and Animal Rights*) Clear and persuasive. (Margaret Talbot *New Yorker* 2017-04-03) The abortion book I didn't realize I was waiting for Sanger (no relation to Margaret Sanger) digs into the roots of privacy around this personal decision and how it became more of a forced secrecy for so many Sanger lays out the self-feeding loop of abortion silence: a fear of others finding out rather than a choice not to disclose. She examines post-Roe laws and court cases that have had direct or indirect implications for abortion restrictions to make her case that normalizing abortion could end this compulsory silence. The good news? It's in our very capable hands [Sanger] provides new tools and frameworks for forging ahead while knowing we are already on the right path. (Katie Klabusich *Rewire* 2017-04-13) Sanger makes a compelling case for how a private matter: choosing to have an abortion has been so politicized and stigmatized that it has been transformed into something that women feel they must keep secret, lest they set themselves up for public shaming. (Jordan Smith *The Intercept* 2017-05-09) Excellent [Sanger] supports abortion rights, but [she] also presents the opposition to abortion fairly Her observations are nearly always insightful and often nicely trenchant Sanger is at her best and most original in discussing the secrecy surrounding abortions, which she sees as the biggest obstacle to public acceptance. Her argument is that even though abortion is legal, women who have an abortion tend to behave as though it weren't. They keep it a secret even from their friends in a way that goes beyond privacy, and suggests fear of recrimination. (Marcia Angell *New York of Books* 2017-06-22) [Sanger] deconstructs the contemporary way abortion is debated, offering direction and suggestions for a new way to discuss it in the 21st century by removing the stigma silence produces. Sanger covers topics that include fetal imaging, parental consent, men and abortion, and assumptions about women who seek abortions. This is perhaps the best book ever written on

the multiple facets surrounding abortion politics, law, and regulation. (D. Schultz Choice 2017-08-01)About the AuthorCarol Sanger is the Barbara Aronstein Black Professor of Law at Columbia Law School.