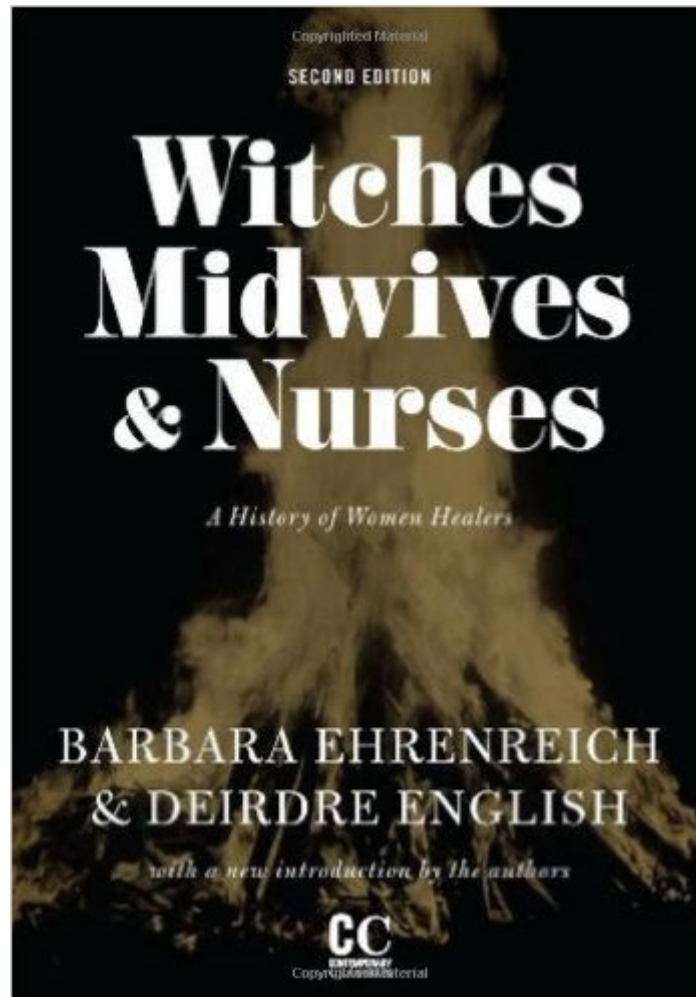


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# Witches, Midwives, And Nurses: A History Of Women Healers (Contemporary Classics)



## Synopsis

As we watch another agonizing attempt to shift the future of healthcare in the United States, we are reminded of the longevity of this crisis, and how firmly entrenched we are in a system that doesn't work. *Witches, Midwives, and Nurses*, first published by the Feminist Press in 1973, is an essential book about the corruption of the medical establishment and its historic roots in witch hunters. In this new edition, Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English have written an entirely new chapter that delves into the current fascination with and controversies about witches, exposing our fears and fantasies. They build on their classic exposé on the demonization of women healers and the political and economic monopolization of medicine. This quick history brings us up-to-date, exploring today's changing attitudes toward childbirth, alternative medicine, and modern-day witches.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am torn between giving this a 4 or a 5 - in a way I would consider this work to be an essay opposed to a "book". What I thought was fascinating: First - the background of the authors (!). Apparently they brought women's studies to women in the 1960's via these pamphlets and talks given in libraries, etc. (never heard of this movement - I really must applaud them.) That alone shows just how far women have come since the 1960's, and is frightening when truly considered. As recently as that point in time, women's bodies had become a foreign territory to be deciphered by the medical establishment regarding fertility, reproduction and functionality. That is really what this book is about as an overview... The starting point of this book maps out how the medical profession began with women in the very primary role as natural healers (witches. Over time the natural

healers began to get pushed to the side by men (or the establishment)- practitioners who took the more "scientific approach" of blood-letting and leaches. I know who I would rather go to!!! Also, the book/essay touches upon some of the select few women who did attend medical school. Those select women (although ostracized by their male counterparts) quickly joined "the ranks" of a fairly closed-door society of the medical "elite". Midwives (once again a very necessary and useful service) were then seen as a threat and marginalized, is not made illegal. Until the mid to late 1800's Medical practices and standards were up for debate - and the way the book portrays the chronology points to money closing ranks, pulling together to protect the privileged (capitalism) to the exclusion of others - often the poor but bright, midwives, people of color etc.

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