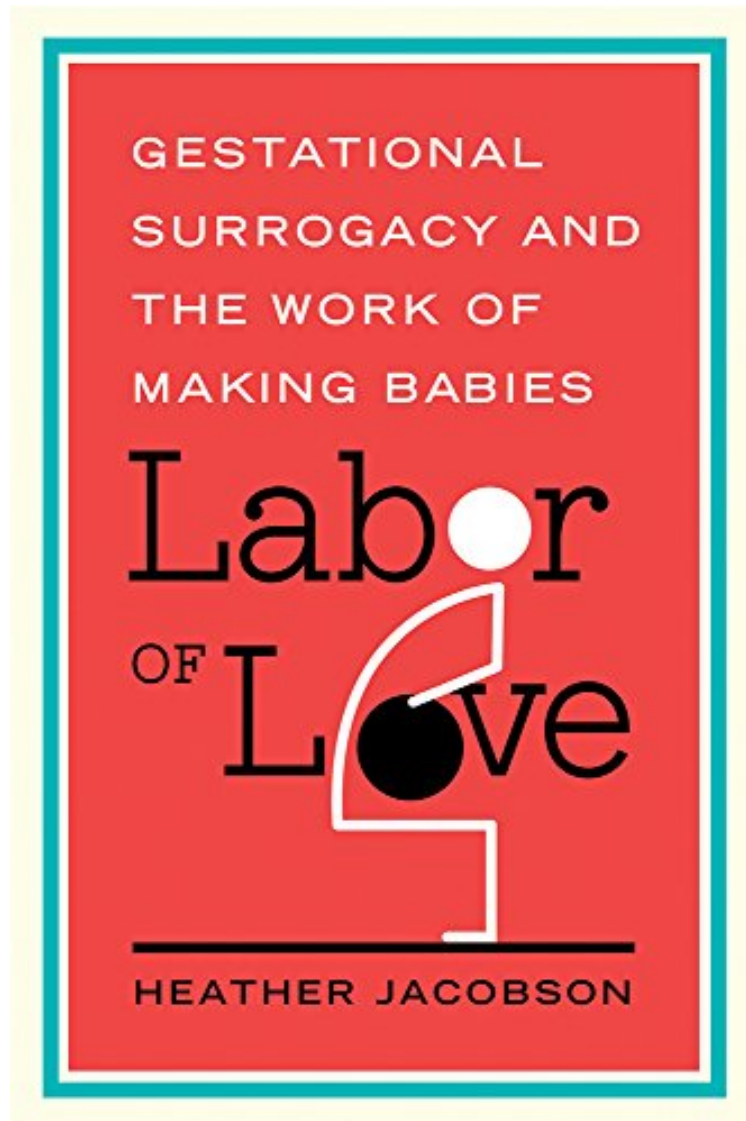


Labor of Love: Gestational Surrogacy and the Work of Making Babies (Families in Focus)

Heather Jacobson

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#208384 in Books Jacobson Heather 2016-03-15 2016-02-16Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .46 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0813569508218 pagesLabor of Love Gestational Surrogacy and the Work of Making Babies | File size: 66.Mb

Heather Jacobson : Labor of Love: Gestational Surrogacy and the Work of Making Babies (Families in Focus) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Labor of Love: Gestational Surrogacy and the Work of Making Babies (Families in Focus):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. An important contribution to the study of surrogacy, and the social-

political discourse about the practice. By Ron Dayan This is an invaluable contribution to the study of surrogacy parenting, and the ethical and political discourse around the practice. Heather Jacobson's perspective is original and provocative. Surrogates are carefully screened and instructed about how important is their proactive role ("job") in the process, yet many of us who are involved in this field are often diligent in stressing that they are not employees. But in the process of "protecting" the practice from social criticism, do many of us in the "surrogacy community" actually minimized the amount of "work" these women have to put into the process? How emotionally involved they are, and how invested they feel in the success of these journeys? Heather Jacobson's ethnographic research documents the process, something that psychological studies and ethical papers do not set out to do. The study is comprehensive, the observations insightful, and the conclusions thought-provoking. I highly recommend getting this to anyone who is interested in more "mindful surrogacy". It should be interesting for current or future surrogate, members of families that benefited from surrogacy, and anyone else who is interested in these areas professionally or politically. The book is very well written and accessible to all readers, not just in academia.

While the practice of surrogacy has existed for millennia, new fertility technologies have allowed women to act as gestational surrogates, carrying children that are not genetically their own. While some women volunteer to act as gestational surrogates for friends or family members, others get paid for performing this service. The first ethnographic study of gestational surrogacy in the United States, *Labor of Love* examines the conflicted attitudes that emerge when the ostensibly priceless act of bringing a child into the world becomes a paid occupation.

"*Labor of Love* is a thorough, thoughtful, well-researched analysis of women's labor in the commercial gestational surrogacy market in the United States."