

Making Sense of Motherhood

Becoming a mother changes lives in many ways and this original and accessible book explores how women try to make sense of and narrate their experiences of first-time motherhood in the Western world. Tina Miller pays close attention to women's own accounts, over time, of their experiences of transition to motherhood and shows how myths of motherhood continue because women do not feel able to voice their early (often difficult) experiences of mothering. The book charts the social, cultural and moral contours of contemporary motherhood and engages with sociological and feminist debates on how selves are constituted, maintained and narrated. Drawing on original research and narrative theory, the book also explores the disjuncture that often exists between personal experience and public discourse and the cultural dimensions of expert knowledge.

TINA MILLER is Senior Lecturer in Sociology at Oxford Brookes University. Her publications include journal articles and book chapters on mothering, reproductive health, narratives and methodological issues in qualitative research. She is co-editor of *Ethics in Qualitative Research* (with M. Mauthner, M. Birch and J. Jessop, 2002).

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to my mother and my three beautiful daughters, Hannah, Freya and Lydia. Their lives so full of promise and potential stretch before them; my hope is that in this uncertain world their journeys will be peaceful.

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