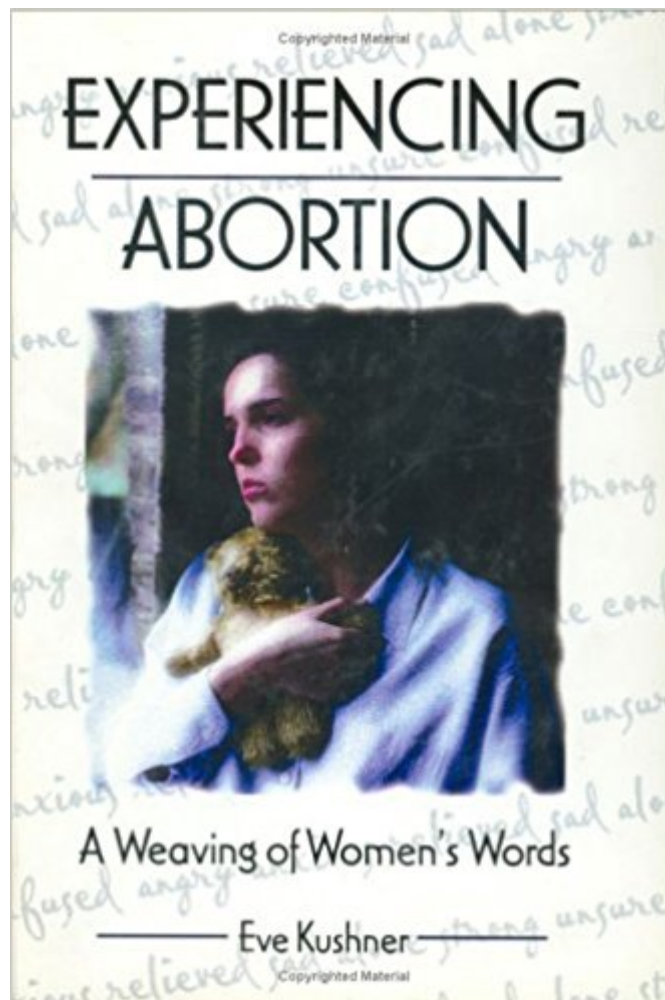




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# **Experiencing Abortion: A Weaving Of Women's Words (Haworth Innovations In Feminist Studies)**



## Synopsis

If you've had an abortion and are feeling isolated and vulnerable, *Experiencing Abortion* will remind you that you are not alone and that you must feel your emotions in order to accept your choice and heal. Each woman responds to abortion in her own way, yet, as this sensitive, insightful book shows, there are many similarities among women's post-abortion emotions. Sharing in the firsthand, personal experiences of other women who speak for themselves in this book will help you come to terms with anguish, stress, grief, anger, or any other overwhelming emotions you might be feeling. Don't go on ignoring or blocking out your feelings. Learn to incorporate your experience into your sense of self in a healthy way. By reading *Experiencing Abortion*, you will learn about the multiple feelings and reactions abortion can trigger, the process of accepting an abortion, and the struggle to control fertility without treating your body as an enemy. Offering you a safe, honest, and supportive environment in which to explore your feelings about your abortion, this book discusses many important topics, including: the way moods can overtake you after abortion how avoiding your experience can defer acceptance, which in turn leads to denial and guilt how pregnancy, abortion, and subsequent bleeding can affect your perception of your body the struggle to enjoy sex after your abortion your heightened awareness of gender after an abortion how your intimate relationships may change after an abortion the psychological reasons you may sometimes forgo birth control accepting yourself after a second abortion *Experiencing Abortion* will help women who have had an abortion understand that it is a complex physical and emotional experience that doesn't necessarily end after a week or a month or a year. It will also help professionals in abortion facilities and therapists who offer pre- and post-abortion counseling understand how abortion affects each individual differently and how they might help women work through their feelings both before and after abortion. Partners, friends, and families will find this book helpful and informative as they try to help their loved one get through this sometimes difficult, even traumatic, experience.

## Book Information

Series: Haworth Innovations in Feminist Studies

Hardcover: 362 pages

Publisher: Routledge; 1 edition (June 11, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1560239026

ISBN-13: 978-1560239024

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.2 x 8.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,143,450 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 in [Books > Textbooks > Medicine & Health Sciences > Medicine > Clinical > Reproductive Medicine & Technology](#) #169 in [Books > Medical Books > Medicine > Internal Medicine > Reproductive Medicine & Technology](#) #221 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Women's Studies > Abortion & Birth Control](#)

## Customer Reviews

This collection of women's tales of abortion will certainly be useful as a textbook, but a lack of in-depth analysis makes it a bit of a drag as a read. Portions of the various interviews are arranged under headings such as "Moving Through Moodiness" and "Making Peace with Our Bodies" that constitute the bulk of the book's little analysis. Stripped of most personal information, and beginning almost inevitably with the woman's age, name and ethnic background (i.e., "Donna, who is white and 42," "Olivia, a 46-year-old African American"), the interviews tend to run together. Kushner uses a collective narrative voice, and often states the obvious, such as "If we have had a birth control failure, we may fear sex after an abortion." Much of this material is presented as if it were a radical departure from accepted wisdom, for example the segment about Fritz, a white 21-year-old who, Kushner claims, forces us to re-examine stereotypes about women who may need abortions. "Can that group include farm-fresh women like Fritz?" Some of the most interesting considerations here come from women who feel political pressure from both pro-choice and anti-choice factions. "I felt like if in any way I was unhappy, then I was just fueling the antichoice fires," one 25-year-old recalls while explaining why she focused her grief in other ways. In another segment, a 22-year-old recounts how quickly an accidental pregnancy during her third year of college altered her born-again Christian, pro-life views, and that she never confided in her fellow Christians about the procedure. Copyright 1997 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

"Good spectrum of women's experiences related in a nonjudgmental manner." -- Canadian Family Physician  
Beautifully written and very insightful... An excellent and sorely needed resource. I will recommend it to both clients and colleagues. -- Prepublication review, Kim Kluger-Bell, MFCC, Psychotherapist in Berkeley, Calif.  
Even as a very experienced psychotherapist, I gained many new insights about abortion from Kushner's wise, compassionate, and comprehensive book. --

Prepublication review, Audrey McCollum, MSW, Psychotherapist, Etna, NH Frank, open and well written.... A valuable addition to the libraries of those specializing in women's studies, psychotherapy and counselling. -- Journal of Biosocial Science, vol. 33 Kushner compassionately and insightfully orchestrates a rich chorus of women's voices in a groundbreaking experiential study.... A wonderful resource book. -- Prepublication Review, Carol Becker, Professor of Human Development, California State University, Hayward

ALTHOUGH I FOUND A FEW SENTENCES THAT WERE ORIGINAL AND CONFIRMING, THIS BOOK IS PROBABLY WINNING 5 STARS FOR JUST THE TOPIC ALONE. NO WHERE IS THERE A CHANCE FOR WOMEN TO TALK ABOUT THIS ISSUE BUT THIS BOOK IS SO CLINICAL - YES, ORGANIZED - BUT COLD, SOMEHOW. I HATED THE JUMPING AROUND OF AGES AND DATES AND AGES OF HOW OLD THE GIRLS WERE AT THE TIME; I STARTED IN THE MIDDLE THEN SKIMMED IT TILL THE END. A GREAT BOOK FOR A CLASS, HOMEWORK OR REFERENCE BUT DID NOTHING FOR ME.

If you want to explore your own abortion or find out more about womens' abortion experiences, you should buy "Experiencing Abortion." The political fight over a woman's right to have an abortion rarely speaks to the actual experience women have when confronted with an unplanned pregnancy. In "Experiencing Abortion," Eve Kushner finally makes visible the women who decide abortion is their only choice. Unlike many abortion books, "Experiencing Abortion" is not just story after story of women who have had abortions. Rather, it is organized in an almost therapy-like way. Kushner pulls out the many different themes behind abortions from emotions women feel after an abortion to accepting their decision, from looking at the relationships the women were in during the abortion to finally finding peace with the decision. This is a good book for anyone who has used denial as a main way of coping with difficult experiences. This format can help one to move forward with her own healing. With each theme, the reader can incorporate her own feelings one at a time together with other women's perspectives. Reading this book was a bit like being in group therapy only much less vulnerable and I believe "Experiencing Abortion" helped get me into therapy, which has changed my life in many important ways. If you too want to finally start to deal with your own abortion, or you want to help other do so, you should buy this book.

I found this book to be a great resource for a woman who has gone through abortion. It is true to it's title and uses women's stories as a way to help women deal with all the feelings of PAS. Even if you

feel that no one on earth could feel like you do, read this book and I'm sure that there is at least one woman that went through what you are going through. Talks about women that have dealt with one and multiple abortions. It made me feel that somewhere a woman that had an abortion had felt the way I feel and that I wasn't alone or weird.

Speaking from a personal experience I can not begin to describe what an extremely good find this book has been. It's true that while perhaps it would help more to be able to talk openly with other women to share in the aftermath and recovery, this book has been the next best thing. I would highly recommend this to anyone who may be attempting to integrate this experience into their sense of self - it has been invaluable to me.

This book lets women who have experienced abortion speak for themselves! Unlike so many authors covering abortion (and women's issues, in general), this author does not shepherd her analytical agenda through the narrative and press women's stories into shapes that fit. The author groups these varied experiences in a manner that elucidates and suggests larger significance but does not constrain the voices' originality.

As someone who has always empathized with women who have had abortions, I got so much insight from reading this book. Eve Kushner makes a delicate subject readable as well as authentic. Her interviews with scores of women who have experienced abortions have greatly widened my understanding of it. There is no preaching one way or the other on the topic. This book is for everyone who wants to know more about abortion.

This book is a wonderful, touching and powerful look at what women go through during the abortion process from making a choice, to support (or lack thereof) from friends and family and coworkers, and the actual procedure and aftercare of the woman during abortion. I'd recommend this book if you are looking for the woman's point of view on the issue.

This is an important book. Eve Kushner does an excellent job of weaving together the stories of an incredibly diverse group of women. You will surely encounter a voice that you can relate to somewhere in the pages. She covers so many aspects of abortion that simply don't get discussed. If you or someone you know is going to or has experienced an abortion, this is a good starting point for them.

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