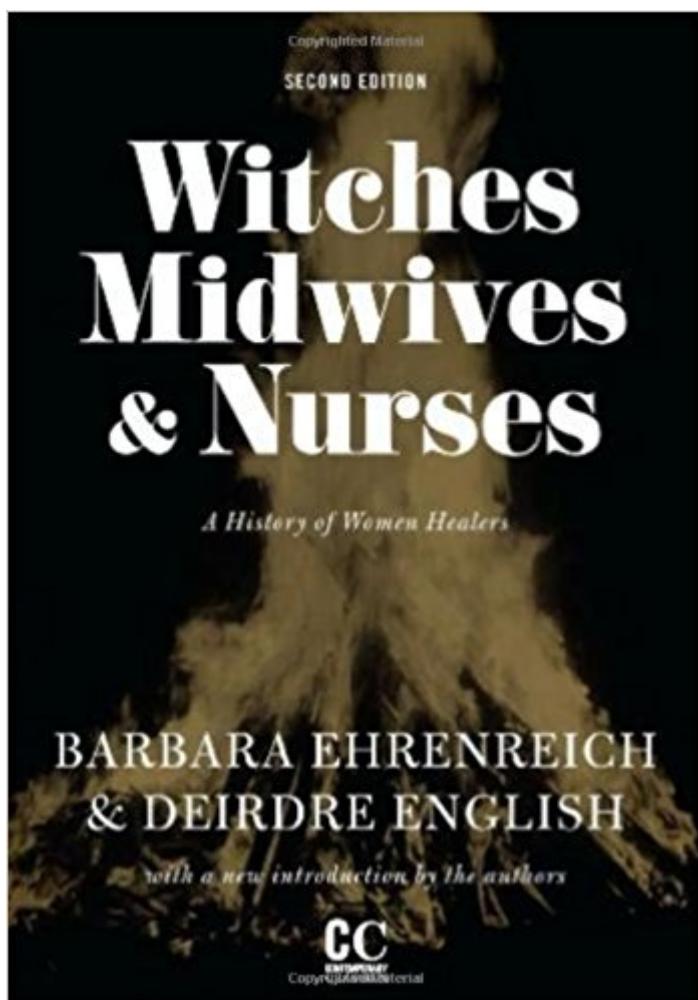


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# Witches, Midwives, And Nurses: A History Of Women Healers (Contemporary Classics)



## 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

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: The Feminist Press at CUNY; 2nd edition (July 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1558616616

ISBN-13: 978-1558616615

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.4 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 67 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

"This booklet will open your eyes. Barbara Ehrenreich and Deirdre English show how, for reasons of class politics, women's suppression and naked greed, wealthy men discredited, persecuted and outright killed the wisewomen healers, leaving themselves to be the sole practitioners of their 'scientific' medicine. The information presented here gives a whole new perspective to medical history and points to some of the causes underlying our current healthcare mess."--WomanSource Catalog & Review

Barbara Ehrenreich is author of the 2002 New York Times bestseller *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not)*

Getting By in America. She has written nearly twenty books, and has been a columnist for Time magazine and the New York Times. She has contributed to The Progressive, Harpers, The Atlantic Monthly, Ms., The New Republic, Z Magazine, In These Times, and Salon.com. Deirdre English is the former editor of Mother Jones magazine. She has written for the Nation, New York Times Book Review, San Francisco Magazine, S.F. Chronicle Sunday Magazine, Vogue, and public radio and television. Currently, English is a professor at University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Journalism.

This is a perfect feminist retelling of how modern western medicine developed and who it crushed along the way. It outlines an under-discussed pattern of oppression and male dominance in medicine since the Medieval period. Even long before the germ was discovered, universities began to train and license witch hunters to weed out female lay healers and herb women in an effort to encourage patients into the care of their newly licensed doctors. Later on, even female midwifery and the revival of the lay healer in the mid 1800s were squelched by university sanctioned doctors and their propaganda campaigns. Until finally at the turn of the century, the universities were the first to bring news of the newly discovered germ to America, sealing the coffin for women as lay doctors. But, incorrigible as we are, women will always find a way. Florence Nightingale and her contemporaries forged a compromise between women and doctors as the modern nurse. Yet an uncomfortable compromise it remains, as nursing started as and still is an ill-respected and under-paid position, always subservient to the all too common male doctor.

The premise of this book is the coming down through history of the gentle Wise Woman skills that are still used in various ways in Nursing today. It puts that together very well. It's a thought provoker. Good book to expand the thinking and realize how things have evolved And where they still exist in some form today.

I just finished time traveling with this book. I had no idea why women were called witches, but now I know that it was a word created to demonize women who are natural healers. Now I see magic in a different light and embrace all women who choose to learn the craft of healing. My eyes are wide open to growth and new possibilities as a women healer. AsÃ¢fÃ°!

If you care about the history of healers, this should be in your reading list. It is a quick read and even if you've heard the stories and the information is not entirely new to you, it still has many

details worth learning about. I personally feel that anyone in medical school should also read it to learn an important part of history that may be omitted in schools. It's frustrating to read what happened back then but it is very important to know.

Overall it's a great book, very easy to read and I also learned a lot from this book! It deserves 4 stars! I recommend it to all women who are in or going into the medical field!

This is an amazing, very short and precise booklet that should be read by every healer and every woman in the world. These authors have done amazing works

Excellent, albeit quick, history of women healers throughout the ages and the oppressive religious and political regimes that eventually turned modern medicine into a man's world. Impressively researched for such a tiny tome. I enjoyed every page.

This short story shares many interesting beginnings of modern medicine. I think it is an easy, informative read. I only gave 4 stars because some of the content is outdated. But I should mention it was first written in the early 70's. I do highly recommend you read this if you are interested in any way in medicine.

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