



Call the Midwife: A Memoir of Birth, Joy, and Hard Times (The Midwife Trilogy Book 1)

By Jennifer Worth



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The highest-rated drama in BBC history, *Call the Midwife* will delight fans of *Downton Abbey*

Viewers everywhere have fallen in love with this candid look at post-war London. In the 1950s, twenty-two-year-old Jenny Lee leaves her comfortable home to move into a convent and become a midwife in London's East End slums. While delivering babies all over the city, Jenny encounters a colorful cast of women—from the plucky, warm-hearted nuns with whom she lives, to the woman with twenty-four children who can't speak English, to the prostitutes of the city's seedier side.

An unforgettable story of motherhood, the bravery of a community, and the strength of remarkable and inspiring women, *Call the Midwife* is the true story behind the beloved PBS series, which will soon return for its sixth season.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Worth gained her midwife training in the 1950s among an Anglican order of nuns dedicated to ensuring safer childbirth for the poor living amid the Docklands slums on the East End of London. Her engaging memoir retraces those early years caring for the indigent and unfortunate during the pinched postwar era in London, when health care was nearly nonexistent, antibiotics brand-new, sanitary facilities rare, contraception unreliable and families with 13 or more children the norm. Working alongside the trained nurses and midwives of St. Raymund Nonnatus (a pseudonym she's given the place), Worth made frequent visits to the tenements that housed the dock workers and their families, often in the dead of night on her bicycle. Her well-polished anecdotes are teeming with character detail of some of the more memorable nurses she worked with, such as the six-foot-two Camilla Fortescue-Cholmeley-Browne, called Chummy, who renounced her genteel upbringing to become a nurse, or the dotty old Sister Monica Joan, who fancied cakes immoderately. Patients included Molly, only 19 and already trapped in poverty and degradation with several children and an abusive husband; Mrs. Conchita Warren, who was delivering her 24th baby; or the birdlike vagrant, Mrs. Jenkins, whose children were taken away from her when she entered the workhouse. (*Apr.*)
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Review

“Emulating James Herriot—except with fewer cows and more cockneys—Worth sketches a warm, amiable portrait of hands-on medical practice. . . . A charming tale of deliveries and deliverance.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

(*AudioFile*)

“Nicola Barber uses a rich Cockney accent to deliver an insightful portrayal of Jennifer Worth’s memoir of nursing and midwifery in the East End of London in the 1950s. . . . A rare and moving listening experience.”

—*AudioFile*

(*Library Journal*)

“[Narrator] Barber is brilliant. She slips into every accent effortlessly, and her Cockney accent is particularly charming. She carries the weight of the stories with ease and affection, and embodies the characters beautifully.”

—*Literary Hoarders*

“Narrator Nicola Barber . . . does an excellent job of portraying both seasoned and inexperienced midwives as well as the wide variety of British accents. Fans of the BBC series will enjoy this audiobook, as will anyone interested in the history of midwifery.”

—*Library Journal*

About the Author

Coming soon...

Nicola Barber is an Audie Award-winning narrator whose voice can be heard in television and radio commercials and popular video games such as World of Warcraft. Nicola is also an Audie nominee in the Solo Female Narration category for her work on Murphy's Law by Rhys Bowen and Call the Midwife by Jennifer Worth.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jim Moffett:

What do you think of book? It is just for students because they're still students or that for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Only you can be answered for that problem above. Every person has various personality and hobby for every single other. Don't be pressured someone or something that they don't need do that. You must know how great as well as important the book Call the Midwife: A Memoir of Birth, Joy, and Hard Times (The Midwife Trilogy Book 1). All type of book would you see on many sources. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Andrew Fogarty:

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Julio Yates:

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Kathryn Robinson:

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