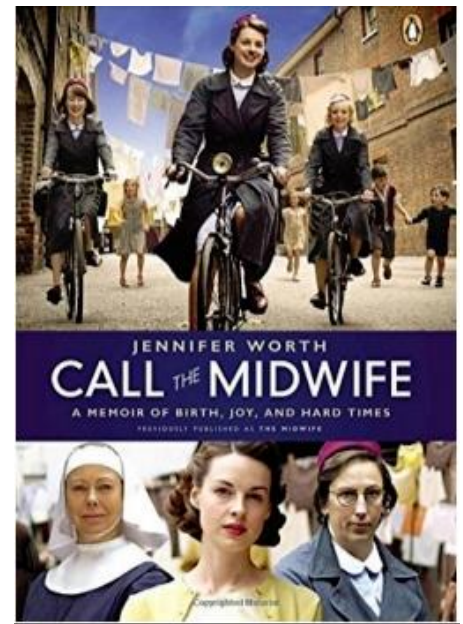


Call The Midwife By Jennifer Worth

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Even though the Docklands were notoriously dangerous, the midwives and district nurses were able to walk unaccompanied without fear. Is there a comparable profession today?
- How many children in a family do you think is ideal? Why?
- Discuss the Church's decision to take away Mary's baby. Would she have been able to provide for it without turning to prostitution?
- Worth asks, "What woman worthy of the name Mother would stand on a high moral platform about selling her body if her child were dying of hunger and exposure? Not I" (p. 162). Is it biology or psychology that drives women to extreme measures to protect their children while fathers often deny either paternity or their paternal responsibilities?
- Should Doris have allowed Cyril to send away the baby she bore illegitimately? Did she have a choice?
- Ted became a loving and wonderful father to Edward without actually being his biological father. How important is biology in the parent-child relationship?
- Babies as premature as Conchita's twenty-fifth child are never allowed to stay home today. Do you think he would he have survived if he had been taken to the hospital?
- After learning their respective histories, Worth radically changes her opinion of both Sister Evangelina and Mrs. Jenkins. Share an episode in your own life when your initial dislike for a person was transformed once you got to know him or her better.



- During the time that Worth recounts, most women delivered their babies at home and were deeply suspicious of hospitals. Today, the opposite is true. How do you think such a dramatic change came about and is it for better or for worse?
- If you already have children, did you use a midwife? If you don't but are planning to have children, would you? Why or why not?