

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910778940303321
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Titolo	A Pleasing Birth [[electronic resource]] : Midwives And Maternity Care
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Philadelphia, : Temple University Press, 2010
ISBN	1-280-12785-6 9786613531735 1-4399-0700-5
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (297 p.)
Disciplina	618.2/0233/09492 618.202309492 618.2023309492
Soggetti	Maternal Health Services Midwifery Home Childbirth Netherlands
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di contenuto	Contents; Preface; Acknowledgments; I. Birth Care/Health Care; 1. Dutch Birth and the Shape of Health Care; 2. Uniek, Bewonderd, en Verguisd (Unique, Admired, and Reviled); II. Forms; 3. Structuring Care; 4. The Politics of Care; III. Forming; 5. Doe Maar Gewoon (Just Act Normally): Dutch Culture/Dutch Birth; 6. Two Sciences or No Science? Obstetric Research in the Netherlands; IV. Re-Forming; 7. Is All This Suffering Still Necessary? Pressure to Change the Dutch Way of Birth; 8. Re-Forming Health Care: Culture and Health Policy; Glossary; References; Index
Sommario/riassunto	Women have long searched for a pleasing birth-a birth with a minimum of fear and pain, in the company of supportive family, friends, and caregivers, a birth that ends with a healthy mother and baby gazing into each other's eyes. For women in the Netherlands, such a birth is defined as one at home under the care of a midwife. In a country known for its liberal approach to drugs, prostitution, and euthanasia, government support for midwife-attended home birth is perhaps its

most radical policy: every other modern nation regards birth as too risky to occur outside a hospital setting. In exp
