

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910783791603321
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Titolo	Birth fathers : the transformation of men in American rites of birth / / Richard K. Reed
Pubbl/distr/stampa	New Brunswick, N.J. : , : Rutgers University Press, , 2005 ©2005
ISBN	1-280-36093-3 9786610360932 0-8135-3781-9
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (ix, 259 pages)
Disciplina	618.4
Soggetti	Childbirth - Social aspects - United States Birth customs - United States Labor (Obstetrics) - United States Natural childbirth - United States Fatherhood - United States Fathers - United States - Psychology Fathers - United States - Attitudes Men - United States - Attitudes Father and infant
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- 1. American Fathers and Hospital Childbirth -- 2. Couvade in Society and History -- 3. Standing Vigil: Fathers in the Waiting Room, 1920-1970 -- 4. Birth Revolution: Men to the Barricades -- 5. Birth Classes: Training Men to Birth -- 6. Men's Experience of Birth -- 7. Fathers, Birth, and Society -- Notes -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	"Treating birth as ritual, Reed makes clever use of his anthropological expertise, qualitative data, and personal experience to bring to life the frustrations and joys men often encounter as they navigate the medical model of birthing."-William Marsiglio, author Sex, Men, and Babies: Stories of Awareness and Responsibility In the past two decades, men

have gone from being excluded from the delivery room to being admitted, then invited, and, finally, expected to participate actively in the birth of their children. No longer mere observers, fathers attend baby showers, go to birthing classes, and share in the intimate, everyday details of their partners' pregnancies. In this unique study, Richard Reed draws on the feminist critique of professionalized medical birthing to argue that the clinical nature of medical intervention distances fathers from child delivery. He explores men's roles in childbirth and the ways in which birth transforms a man's identity and his relations with his partner, his new baby, and society. In other societies, birth is recognized as an important rite of passage for fathers. Yet, in American culture, despite the fact that fathers are admitted into delivery rooms, little attention is given to their transition to fatherhood. The book concludes with an exploration of what men's roles in childbirth tell us about gender and American society. Reed suggests that it is no coincidence that men's participation in the birthing process developed in parallel to changing definitions of fatherhood more broadly. Over the past twenty years, it has become expected that fathers, in addition to being strong and dependable, will be empathetic and nurturing. Well-researched, candidly written, and enriched with personal accounts of over fifty men from all parts of the world, this book is as much about the birth of fathers as it is about fathers in birth.
