



Midwives (Oprah's Book Club)

Chris Bohjalian

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"Superbly crafted and astonishingly powerful. . . . It will thrill readers who cherish their worn copies of *To Kill A Mockingbird*." --People

With a suspense, lyricism, and moral complexity that recall **To Kill a Mockingbird** and **Presumed Innocent**, this compulsively readable novel explores what happens when a woman who has devoted herself to ushering life into the world finds herself charged with responsibility in a patient's tragic death.

The time is 1981, and Sibyl Danforth has been a dedicated midwife in the rural community of Reddington, Vermont, for fifteen years. But one treacherous winter night, in a house isolated by icy roads and failed telephone lines, Sibyl takes desperate measures to save a baby's life. She performs an emergency Caesarean section on its mother, who appears to have died in labor. But what if--as Sibyl's assistant later charges--the patient wasn't already dead, and it was Sibyl who inadvertently killed her?

As recounted by Sibyl's precocious fourteen-year-old daughter, Connie, the ensuing trial bears the earmarks of a witch hunt except for the fact that all its participants are acting from the highest motives--and the defendant increasingly appears to be guilty. As Sibyl Danforth faces the antagonism of the law, the hostility of traditional doctors, and the accusations of her own conscience, **Midwives** engages, moves, and transfixes us as only the very best novels ever do.

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