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This Common Secret: My Journey As An Abortion Doctor



Synopsis

In *This Common Secret* Dr. Susan Wicklund chronicles her emotional and dramatic twenty-year career on the front lines of the abortion war. Growing up in working class, rural Wisconsin, Wicklund had her own painful abortion at a young age. It was not until she became a doctor that she realized how many women shared her ordeal of an unwanted pregnancy—and how hidden this common experience remains. This is the story of Susan's love for a profession that means listening to women and helping them through one of the most pivotal and controversial events in their lives. Hers is also a calling that means sleeping on planes and commuting between clinics in different states—and that requires her to wear a bulletproof vest and to carry a .38 caliber revolver. This is also the story of the women whom Susan serves, women whose options are increasingly limited. Through these intimate, complicated, and inspiring accounts, Wicklund reveals the truth about the women's clinics that anti-abortion activists portray as little more than slaughterhouses for the unborn. As we enter the most fevered political fight over abortion America has ever seen, this raw and powerful memoir shows us what is at stake.

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Customer Reviews

As a nurse who is 100% pro-choice, pro-homebirth, and pro-midwifery, I must say that I really liked this book. Dr. Wicklund is an amazing woman and is now one of my heroes. As I said before, I am staunchly pro-choice and I aspire to be a homebirth midwife. To many anti-choice people, this may seem like a contradiction, but it's really not. Some of them operate under the misconception that

being pro-choice means that you hate children and want all women to have abortions. This book shows that's 100% false. I was pleasantly surprised to read that Dr. Wicklund not only gave birth to her own daughter at home, but also attended several homebirths as a lay-midwife in the 70s before going to medical school. In the book, she speaks how much she loved attending homebirths and her co-author mentions in the back of the book that she attended his daughter's birth at home after she opened her abortion clinic. Most of the people in my family are anti-choice and cannot understand how I can be both pro-choice and pro-homebirth, so I was very happy to find out that I'm not the only one who supports both. I also loved reading her stories about her clinic and how she stood up to the protestors and the people who threatened her. The story about the aunt and uncle who came down to try to stop their niece's abortion and scared the staff had me on the edge of the seat. I love the way Dr. Wicklund and her staff handled that situation and I also loved how they got that little girl away from her sex-offender father. She's willing to fight for what she believes in and will not allow herself to be bullied. It takes a lot of guts to go face to face with people who openly state that they want you dead. I really admire her spirit, and that is why I consider her to be a hero.

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