



Call for Chapters

Demeter Press is seeking submissions for an
edited collection tentatively entitled:

Barren: An Exploration of the Journey to Parenthood

Editors: Judy LeBlanc and Tasha Page

Please submit 400-500 word abstracts by: April 1, 2024

The normative reproductive narrative is one with a predictable timeline of planned pregnancy and a healthy full-term pregnancy leading to the birth of a healthy baby. This narrative of pregnancy and childbirth discounts the reality of the one in four birthing persons who experience pregnancy loss and the one in six who experience fertility challenges. Failing to include these stories in the normative discourse furthers the stigma of infertility, causes isolation, and can contribute to poor mental health outcomes.

This collection seeks to amplify the voices of those who've experienced barriers to fertility including high-risk pregnancy and pregnancy loss. These folks may have accessed assisted reproductive technology and/or surrogacy, have chosen adoption or are child free, not by choice. The work included aims to normalize these experiences, and openly discuss the mental health implications.

As co-editors, and a mother daughter team, we have a shared commitment to amplifying the voice of those who have taken a non-normative journey to parenthood and experienced infertility. Judy LeBlanc is a published writer of fiction and nonfiction who taught creative writing for several years. She herself has experienced what is commonly known as a "missed miscarriage" and, through her children, has been witness to the heartbreak and toll that infertility and pregnancy loss places on the family. Tasha Page's personal experience with infertility, IVF, high risk pregnancy, and pregnancy loss has guided her professional practice and study as a social worker. Tasha is a passionate advocate for perinatal mental health and rewriting the narrative on reproduction and loss.

We are seeking submissions from academics, artists, activists, writers, mothers, and those who support work with/in communities. Submissions might include: personal essay/reflection, academic essay, academic research, memoir, creative non-fiction, narrative, poetry, art, photography, and hybrid genre.

Of interest are narratives by those who've accessed assisted reproductive technology, surrogacy, or chosen adoption, as well as those who were unable to become parents. This anthology seeks to include voices from the LGBTQ+ community as well as BIPOC individuals, as we recognize the marginalization and increased risk of complications experienced by these folks within the medical system.

Submission guidelines

Submission Guidelines: Abstract (400-500 words) with a 75-word bio (single document) by April 1, 2024. Acceptance will be made by May 5, 2024. Completed works (up to 6,500 words double-spaced pages, 12-point font, in MLA reference format for citation) are due Oct

3, 2024. Please note that acceptance will depend on the strength and fit of the final piece. Also please note that papers will be received and reviewed in English. Prospective authors who may have limited experience with publishing in English are strongly encouraged to seek the assistance of a technical editor before submitting proposals and papers, as language difficulties may be raised as a concern during the external review process.

Please send inquiries and abstracts to; tasha.page@ymail.com or j-leblanc@shaw.ca