

The Lilly and the Rose

By Hope Hathaway (*nom de plume* for a licensed midwife and mother who lives and practices in Northern California)

- First in a series of novels about mothers, midwives and politics of normal childbirth
- The Nancy Drew series of midwifery
- Target audience women 20 to 50 years old
- Developed to be fast read >> “buy in the airport, finish before you land”
- About 150-200 pages in length –
- Includes color photos of photogenic normal birth
- Second book should be ready to go to the publishers when first one hit the stores, so as to keep the momentum up and stay ahead of the copy-cat knock-offs.

Cast of Characters:

The narration is written in the voice of the midwife, northern European ethnicity, settings is on the West Coast, both urban and rural, with diverse cultures, economic status, religions and ethnicities. In general, client populations served by community midwives tend toward more diversity than the average population.

Titles for the first half of the series:

The Heather and the Holly, The Pearl and the Pirouette, The Crystal Flower, The Iris and the Amber, The Lilac and the Lavender, The Deer and the Dove,

After readers have developed a taste for the topic, the series will branch out to various related themes. One of these stories will be entitled “**Half Way to Heaven**”, and will use on the positive side of evangelical Christianity as the setting and backdrop in the lives of the mothers-to-be and midwives. As it focuses on normal childbearing, it will also explore the enriched inner life of

their faith (based on love and charity, *not* dogma!) and the socially supportive structures of their church (non-domination, non-offensive and non-prostylizing!).

Number 5 in the series will be an autobiography of author entitled: **“Faith and Hope”**, chronically her training as student nurse at the tender age of 18 and employment as an L&D and ER nurse in the “Dark Ages of the Deep South” for the next decade, her life as a domestic Peace Corps worker in rural North Carolina and her eventually migration to the West Coast. For the first decade of her life in California she was Mennonite midwife practicing under the religious exemptions clause. The story then chronicles her central role in the meta-morphosis of traditional or “lay” midwifery into a licensed profession in the state of California. This includes criminal prosecutions, foiled attempts to get authorizing legislation passed and eventual triumph against the substantial opposition of the rich and powerful – organized medicine and the trial lawyers lobby.

An additional story will be **historical fiction** set in the 1900s. It will back flash back to Europe in the 1840s and then progress forward to approximately 1920. At present, no title has suggested itself.

Last in the series is set in a third decade of the 21st century and to be titled **“20/20”**. It will be a fictionalized account of how all the political tension between 20th century obstetrics (chronicled already in the historical fiction) and 21st century physiological management is worked out and what that rehabilitated system means to childbearing families and to those who care for them – midwives and others.

Genre: Factual Fiction / Oral History, a genre that contains specific statements of fact about history, the art and science of midwifery practice historically and in contemporary times, the politics of planned home birth and the medical model of obstetrical care. Each book will include a limited number of citations and a one-page bibliography. While all the action and emotional content revolves around a fictional cast of characters (except book #5), dialogue will accurately reflect the information, preparation and scientifically-based advice given by professionally licensed midwives in the first decade of the 21st century. The main theme of factual information

will relate physiologically-based maternity care, newborns and child development. Other minor or incidental topics will include aspects of nutrition as it relates to pregnancy and the well-known safety issues surrounding institutionalized medical care (iatrogenic and nosocomial).

Midwives vs. Mothers: The series is not, *per se*, about midwives or midwifery politics.

Other works of fiction that dealt with childbirth and midwives have all used the word “Midwife” or “Midwives” in the title, making that the major theme of the book. In this series, the title of each novel is taken from the name of the *mother* and her midwife (as a individual). The focus or theme of each book is the process of childbearing – mothers-to-be, their prenatal care, labor and birth, issues common to the experience of newborn babies and new mothers, and the social role of motherhood. Medical and midwifery politics form the backdrop, often as confounding factor secondary to the care of the midwife. This provides additional topics of interest and opportunities for drama.

In addition to the general theme of childbearing women, this series also incorporates and explores the experience of women in the second half of their adult life – mature marriages, childrearing of teenagers and their relationship with adult children, the biology of female aging (menopause and sexuality) and what benefits these biological changes may bring to women. In particular, it develops the distinction between “reproductive” phase of pregnancy and birth (20 to 40) Vs “generative” (45 to 75), an exciting and rewarding stage of life in which women get to build on their biological motherhood. By building on the social and nurturing abilities they developed as wives and mothers, older women can create interesting and rewarding lives. This permits them to contribute to society by extending these qualities to their neighborhoods and society at larger, including reform of such as systems such as health care and the public interface with family life.