

the midwife's apprentice pdf

the midwife's apprentice pdf is a sought-after resource for readers interested in gaining access to this beloved historical novel by Karen Cushman. This article explores various aspects of the midwife's apprentice pdf, including its availability, content overview, and the benefits of reading this acclaimed book in digital format. As a Newbery Medal-winning novel, "The Midwife's Apprentice" captivates audiences with its rich storytelling and historical accuracy. Understanding how to find and legally obtain the midwife's apprentice pdf can enhance reading convenience and accessibility for many users. This article will also delve into the themes, characters, and educational value that make the midwife's apprentice pdf a valuable addition to any digital library. The following sections provide a comprehensive guide for readers, educators, and literary enthusiasts looking to explore this classic work in electronic form.

- Availability and Access of the Midwife's Apprentice PDF
- Overview of the Midwife's Apprentice Content
- Thematic Analysis and Literary Significance
- Benefits of Reading the Midwife's Apprentice PDF
- How to Use the Midwife's Apprentice PDF in Educational Settings

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Overview of the Midwife's Apprentice Content

The midwife's apprentice pdf contains the complete text of Karen Cushman's historical novel, set in medieval England. The story revolves around a young, homeless girl named Brat who becomes an apprentice to a midwife. Through this apprenticeship, Brat learns vital skills, gains self-confidence, and discovers her identity. The novel masterfully combines historical facts with compelling storytelling, making it both educational and engaging.

Plot Summary

The narrative follows Brat's journey from a neglected and nameless orphan to a capable and respected apprentice. Her relationship with the midwife, Jane, serves as the foundation for the novel's exploration of themes such as resilience, growth, and community. The midwife's apprentice pdf captures this transformation vividly, providing a window into the challenges and customs of medieval life.

Key Characters

- **Brat:** The protagonist, a young girl who grows through her apprenticeship.
- **Jane:** The midwife who takes Brat in and teaches her the art of midwifery.
- **Supporting Village Characters:** Various villagers who interact with Brat and Jane, enriching the story's social context.

Thematic Analysis and Literary Significance

The midwife's apprentice pdf reveals themes that resonate with readers of all ages, making it a timeless piece of literature. Themes of empowerment, identity, and perseverance are woven intricately throughout the narrative. Additionally, the book offers an insightful portrayal of medieval healthcare practices and social structures, contributing to its educational value.

Empowerment and Self-Discovery

Brat's transformation from an outcast to a skilled midwife's apprentice symbolizes personal growth and empowerment. The novel encourages readers to overcome adversity and seek self-improvement, themes that are clearly conveyed in the midwife's apprentice pdf version.

Historical and Cultural Context

The novel's setting in the 12th century provides readers with an authentic glimpse into medieval life. The midwife's apprentice pdf includes descriptions of customs, occupations, and daily challenges of the time, making it a valuable resource for history enthusiasts and students alike.

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How to Use the Midwife's Apprentice PDF in Educational Settings

The midwife's apprentice pdf is an excellent tool for educators aiming to integrate historical fiction into their curriculum. Its accessibility and rich content make it suitable for classroom discussions, assignments, and projects related to literature and history.

Classroom Integration Strategies

- Assigning chapters for reading and discussion.
- Utilizing the midwife's apprentice pdf to highlight historical context and vocabulary.
- Encouraging students to annotate and reflect using digital tools.
- Incorporating multimedia presentations based on the novel's themes.

Supporting Diverse Learning Needs

The midwife's apprentice pdf can be adapted for students with different learning preferences. Text-to-speech functions and adjustable font settings allow learners with visual impairments or reading difficulties to engage effectively with the material.

Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the plot of The Midwife's Apprentice?

The Midwife's Apprentice follows the story of a young girl named Beetle who becomes an apprentice to a midwife in medieval England, learning about midwifery and discovering her own identity and strength.

Who is the author of The Midwife's Apprentice?

The author of The Midwife's Apprentice is Karen Cushman.

Are there any audiobooks or PDF versions of The Midwife's Apprentice available?

Yes, The Midwife's Apprentice is available in audiobook format on platforms like Audible and in PDF

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What are the main themes in The Midwife's Apprentice?

The main themes in The Midwife's Apprentice include self-discovery, resilience, the importance of community, and the role of women in medieval society.

Is The Midwife's Apprentice suitable for middle-grade readers?

Yes, The Midwife's Apprentice is suitable for middle-grade readers, generally recommended for ages 10-14, due to its historical context and engaging storytelling.

How can I convert The Midwife's Apprentice PDF to other formats?

You can convert The Midwife's Apprentice PDF to other formats using software like Calibre or online converters, provided you have a legally obtained copy and respect digital rights management (DRM) restrictions.

Additional Resources

1. *The Midwife's Apprentice* by Karen Cushman

This Newbery Medal-winning novel tells the story of a young girl named Brat who becomes a midwife's apprentice in medieval England. Through her experiences, she gains confidence, skills, and a sense of belonging. The book beautifully explores themes of resilience, self-discovery, and the importance of community.

2. *Year of Wonders* by Geraldine Brooks

Set during the 1666 plague outbreak in an English village, this historical novel follows a young housemaid who becomes a midwife and healer. It provides a gripping portrayal of courage, faith, and survival amidst tragedy. The story highlights the role of women in medicine and community care during times of crisis.

3. *The Secret Keeper* by Kate Morton

This novel intertwines past and present as a woman uncovers the secrets of her mother's past, which includes a story of midwifery and healing. It explores family secrets, identity, and the power of storytelling. The book's rich historical detail provides a compelling backdrop for the mystery.

4. *Midwives* by Chris Bohjalian

Based on a true story, this novel follows a midwife in rural Vermont who faces legal and ethical

challenges after a difficult birth. It delves into the complexities of childbirth, medical ethics, and the trust between midwife and patient. The narrative highlights the emotional and professional struggles of those dedicated to natural birth.

5. *Still Life with Breadcrumbs* by Anna Quindlen

While not directly about midwifery, this novel features themes of healing and personal transformation that resonate with the spirit of midwife apprenticeships. The protagonist rebuilds her life after loss, finding solace in art and nature. It's a quiet, thoughtful exploration of renewal and resilience.

6. *Call the Midwife* by Jennifer Worth

This memoir recounts the author's experiences as a midwife in 1950s East London. It offers an intimate look at the challenges and rewards of midwifery in a time of social change. The book celebrates the dedication of midwives and the communities they serve.

7. *The Birth House* by Ami McKay

Set in early 20th-century Nova Scotia, this novel tells the story of a young woman training to become a midwife amid a community resistant to change. It highlights the clash between traditional healing and modern medicine. The narrative honors the strength and wisdom of women healers.

8. *Wicked Women of the Midwest* by Michael Lesy

This collection of true stories includes accounts of women who defied social norms, some of whom were midwives or healers. It provides historical context for the often misunderstood roles women played in healthcare. The book is a fascinating look at the intersection of gender, power, and medicine.

9. *A Midwife's Tale* by Laurel Thatcher Ulrich

Based on the diary of Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife, this historical account offers detailed insight into the daily life and work of a midwife in colonial America. It sheds light on women's roles in healthcare and community life during that era. The book is both a scholarly work and a compelling narrative.

[The Midwife S Apprentice Pdf](#)

The Midwife's Apprentice PDF: A Comprehensive Guide to Finding, Accessing, and Understanding the Novel

This ebook delves into the popular children's novel, *The Midwife's Apprentice*, exploring its availability as a PDF, its enduring appeal, its pedagogical value in classrooms, and the various online resources associated with it. We will discuss legal and ethical considerations regarding accessing copyrighted material, highlighting legitimate avenues for obtaining the PDF and examining its thematic relevance for readers young and old.

Ebook Title: *Unlocking the World of The Midwife's Apprentice: A Guide to the Novel and its Digital*

Availability

Contents:

Introduction: Defining *The Midwife's Apprentice*, its author (Karen Cushman), and its lasting impact on children's literature.

Chapter 1: The Story and its Themes: A detailed summary of the plot, key characters (like Brat, Agnes, and the midwife), and the novel's exploration of themes such as social class, gender roles, and the power of perseverance. We will analyze its historical setting and the accuracy of its depiction of medieval life.

Chapter 2: Pedagogical Value and Classroom Applications: How educators utilize *The Midwife's Apprentice* in classrooms, focusing on its suitability for different age groups and the development of literacy skills, critical thinking, and historical awareness. This chapter will include lesson plan ideas and discussion prompts.

Chapter 3: Finding *The Midwife's Apprentice* as a PDF Legally: Examining the legal and ethical implications of downloading copyrighted material. We will discuss legitimate sources for obtaining PDFs, such as purchasing ebooks from reputable online retailers, library databases (like Overdrive), and checking for free public domain versions. We'll also discuss the dangers of illegal downloads and the importance of respecting copyright.

Chapter 4: Online Resources and Community Engagement: Exploring online resources dedicated to *The Midwife's Apprentice*, including fan forums, teacher resources, and critical analyses. This chapter will focus on fostering community engagement and promoting a deeper understanding of the novel.

Chapter 5: Analyzing the Language and Style: A close examination of Cushman's writing style, its simplicity and accessibility for young readers, and the use of descriptive language to evoke the medieval setting. We will examine the vocabulary and how it contributes to the overall narrative.

Chapter 6: Adaptations and Further Exploration: A look at any film, theatrical, or other adaptations of the novel, and suggestions for related reading to further explore the themes and historical context of *The Midwife's Apprentice*. This section will include recommendations for books with similar themes or settings.

Conclusion: Summarizing the key findings and reiterating the importance of responsible access to digital copies of copyrighted material while encouraging readers to engage with this compelling story.

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Chapter 5: This chapter delves into the literary aspects of the novel, analyzing Cushman's writing style and its impact on the story's effectiveness and appeal.

Chapter 6: This section expands the reader's understanding by suggesting related works and exploring adaptations of the novel into other mediums.

Conclusion: This section summarizes the main points of the ebook and reinforces the key message of responsible digital consumption while promoting appreciation for the novel.

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Throughout this ebook, keywords like "The Midwife's Apprentice PDF," "Karen Cushman," "medieval children's literature," "children's book analysis," "classroom resources," "legal ebook download," "copyright laws," "online learning resources," "historical fiction," "character analysis," and related terms will be strategically incorporated into headings, subheadings, and body text to improve search engine rankings. The ebook will also be structured using clear headings and subheadings (H1-H6 tags) to enhance readability and SEO.

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3. Can I find The Midwife's Apprentice as a free PDF from a library database? Some libraries offer ebooks through platforms like Overdrive, check with your local library.
4. What are the main themes explored in The Midwife's Apprentice? The novel explores themes of social class, gender roles, perseverance, and finding one's place in the world.
5. What is the historical setting of The Midwife's Apprentice? The novel is set in medieval England.
6. What age group is The Midwife's Apprentice best suited for? It's suitable for children aged 8-12, but enjoyed by older readers as well.
7. How can I use The Midwife's Apprentice in a classroom setting? It can be used for literacy lessons, historical studies, character analysis, and discussion of themes.

8. Are there any other books similar to *The Midwife's Apprentice*? Yes, many other historical fiction books for children explore similar themes and settings.
9. What makes *The Midwife's Apprentice* such a popular and enduring children's book? Its engaging characters, compelling plot, and exploration of relatable themes make it a classic.

Related Articles:

1. Analyzing Karen Cushman's Writing Style in *The Midwife's Apprentice*: A deep dive into Cushman's narrative techniques and language use.
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6. Character Development in *The Midwife's Apprentice*: An In-depth Look at Brat's Transformation: A close examination of Brat's character arc throughout the novel.
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9. The Significance of Mentorship in *The Midwife's Apprentice*: Agnes' Influence on Brat's Life: An exploration of the mentor-mentee relationship between Agnes and Brat.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: The Midwife's Apprentice Karen Cushman, 1995 In a small village in medieval England, a young homeless girl acquires a home and a new career when she becomes the apprentice to a sharp-tempered midwife.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: War and Millie McGonigle Karen Cushman, 2022-03-15 The Newbery Award-winning author of *Catherine, Called Birdy* and *The Midwife's Apprentice* tells a heartfelt and humorous story of WWII on the homefront. Millie McGonigle lives in sunny California, where her days are filled with beach and surf. It should be perfect--but times are tough. Hitler is attacking Europe and it looks like the United States may be going to war. Food is rationed and money is tight. And Millie's sickly little sister gets all the attention and couldn't be more of a pain if she tried. It's all Millie can do to stay calm and feel in control. Still--there's sand beneath her feet. A new neighbor from the city, who has a lot to teach Millie. And surfer boy Rocky to admire--even if

she doesn't have the guts to talk to him. It's a time of sunshine, siblings, and stress. Will Millie be able to find her way in her family, and keep her balance as the the world around her loses its own?

the midwife s apprentice pdf: Catherine, Called Birdy Karen Cushman, 2014-12-04 Shaggy Beard wishes to take me to wife! What a monstrous joke. That dog assassin whose breath smells like the mouth of Hell, who makes wind like others make music, who is so ugly and old! Catherine's in trouble. Caught between a mother who is determined to turn her into the perfect medieval lady and a father who wants her to marry her off to much older and utterly repulsive suitor. Luckily, Catherine has a plan. She has experience outwitting suitors and is ready to take matters into her own hands. A fun and vibrant coming-of-age novel about a 14-year-old girl's fight for freedom and right to self-determination.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: Matilda Bone Karen Cushman, 2000-10-16 Into the fascinating, pungent setting of Blood and Bone Alley, home of leech, barber-surgeon, and apothecary, comes Matilda, raised by a priest to disdain worldly affairs and focus on spiritual matters. To Matilda's dismay, her work will not involve Latin or writing, but practical tasks: lighting the fire, going to market, mixing plasters and poultices, and helping Peg treat patients. She is appalled by the worldliness of her new surroundings, and the sharp-tongued saints she turns to for advice are no help at all. Filled with the witty dialogue and richly authentic detail that Karen Cushman's work is known for, *Matilda Bone* is a compelling comic novel about a girl who learns to see herself and others clearly, to laugh, and to live contentedly in this world. Author's note.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: The Birth House Ami McKay, 2009-10-13 In this breathtaking debut novel, Ami McKay has created an unforgettable portrait of the struggles that women have faced to control their own bodies and to keep the best parts of tradition alive in the world of modern medicine. *The Birth House* is the story of Dora Rare—the first daughter in five generations of Rares. As apprentice to the outspoken Acadian midwife Miss Babineau, Dora learns to assist the women of an isolated Nova Scotian village through infertility, difficult labors, breech births, unwanted pregnancies, and even unfulfilling sex lives. During the turbulent World War I era, uncertainty and upheaval accompany the arrival of a brash new medical doctor and his promises of progress and fast, painless childbirth. Dora soon finds herself fighting to protect the rights of women as well as the wisdom that has been put into her care. A tale of tradition and science, patriarchy and paternalism, past and future, *The Birth House* is a dazzling first novel. (Library Journal), and a story more timely than ever.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: Plain Kate Erin Bow, 2010-09-01 A debut novel that's as sharp as a knife's point. Plain Kate lives in a world of superstitions and curses, where a song can heal a wound and a shadow can work deep magic. As the wood-carver's daughter, Kate held a carving knife before a spoon, and her wooden charms are so fine that some even call her witch-blade -- a dangerous nickname in a town where witches are hunted and burned in the square.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: The View from Saturday E.L. Konigsburg, 2010-12-21 From the Newbery Medal-winning author of the beloved classic *From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler* comes four jewel-like short stories—one for each of the team members of an Academic Bowl team—that ask questions and demonstrate surprising answers. How had Mrs. Olinski chosen her sixth-grade Academic Bowl team? She had a number of answers. But were any of them true? How had she really chosen Noah and Nadia and Ethan and Julian? And why did they make such a good team? It was a surprise to a lot of people when Mrs. Olinski's team won the sixth-grade Academic Bowl contest at Epiphany Middle School. It was an even bigger surprise when they beat the seventh grade and the eighth grade, too. And when they went on to even greater victories, everyone began to ask: How did it happen? It happened at least partly because Noah had been the best man (quite by accident) at the wedding of Ethan's grandmother and Nadia's grandfather. It happened because Nadia discovered that she could not let a lot of baby turtles die. It happened when Ethan could not let Julian face disaster alone. And it happened because Julian valued something important in himself and saw in the other three something he also valued. Mrs. Olinski, returning to teaching after having been injured in an automobile accident, found that her Academic

Bowl team became her answer to finding confidence and success. What she did not know, at least at first, was that her team knew more than she did the answer to why they had been chosen.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: Ink and Shadows Ellery Adams, 2021-01-26 Controversy erupts in Miracle Springs, North Carolina, when the owner of the local bookstore tries to play peacekeeper—but winds up playing detective instead . . . Known for her window displays, Nora Pennington decides to showcase fictional heroines like Roald Dahl's Matilda and Madeline Miller's Circe for Halloween. But a family-values group disapproves of the magical themes and wastes no time launching a modern-day witch hunt. Suddenly, former friends and customers are targeting not only Nora and Miracle Books, but a new shopkeeper, Celeste, who's been selling CBD oil products. Nora and her friends in the Secret, Book, and Scone Society are doing their best to put an end to the strife—but then someone puts an end to a life. Declared an accident, the ruling can't explain the old book page covered with strange symbols and disturbing drawings left under Nora's doormat. It's up to Nora and the Secret, Book, and Scone Society to sort out the clues before more bodies turn up and the secrets from Celeste's past come back to haunt them all . . . "Entertaining . . . packed with mystery, romance, and sisterhood." —Kirkus Reviews

the midwife s apprentice pdf: Maniac Magee (Newbery Medal Winner) Jerry Spinelli, 2014-01-28 A Newbery Medal winning modern classic about a racially divided small town and a boy who runs. Jeffrey Lionel Maniac Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run—and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: Rodzina Karen Cushman, 2003-03-20 Rodzina Clara Jadwiga Anastazyja Brodski, a strong and stubborn Polish orphan, leaves Chicago on an orphan train, expecting to be adopted and turned into a slave—or worse, not to be adopted at all. As the train rattles westward, she begins to develop attachments to her fellow travelers, even the frosty orphan guardian, and to accept the idea that there might be good homes for orphans—maybe even for a big, combative Polish girl. But no placement seems right for the formidable Rodzina, and she cleverly finds a way out of one unfortunate situation after another until at last she finds the family that is right for her. Like Karen Cushman's other young girl protagonists, Rodzina is trying to find her place in the world—and she does. The compelling narrative is laced with wry humor and keen observation, full of memorable characters, and a thoroughly researched Afterword.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: The Ballad of Lucy Whipple Karen Cushman, 1996-08-16 In 1849 a twelve-year-old girl who calls herself Lucy is distraught when her mother moves the family from Massachusetts to a small California mining town. There Lucy helps run a boarding house and looks for comfort in books while trying to find a way to return home.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: Parked Danielle Svetcov, 2021-02-02 For fans of Rebecca Stead and Joan Bauer comes a scrappy, poignant, uplifting debut about family, friendship, and the importance of learning both how to offer help and how to accept it. A big-hearted novel with characters I wish were my friends in real life. —Gennifer Choldenko, author of the Al Capone at Alcatraz series Jeanne Ann is smart, stubborn, living in an orange van, and determined to find a permanent address before the start of seventh grade. Cal is awkward, sensitive, living in a humongous house across the street, and determined to save her. Jeanne Ann wants Cal's help just about as much as she wants to live in a van. As the two form a tentative friendship that grows deeper over alternating chapters, they're buoyed by a cast of complex, oddball characters, who let them down, lift them up, and leave you cheering. Debut novelist Danielle Svetcov shines a light on a big problem without a ready answer, pulling it off with the perfect balance of humor, heartbreak, and hope. Insightful [and] touching...Not to be missed. —Karen Cushman, author of *The Midwife's Apprentice* For readers of Dan Gemeinhart [and] Katherine Applegate. —The Children's Book Review You won't be able to put it down. Trust. —ScaryMommy.com Relatable and beautifully told. —Commonsense Media Pertinent....Honest...Uplifting...Fresh. —PW Utterly of this moment. —Jack Cheng, author of *See You in the Cosmos* Absorbing and warmhearted. —Annie Barrows, author of

the Ivy & Bean series Realistically hopeful...Recommended. —SLC Sharp...Perceptive. —BCCB Unforgettable. —Brightly

the midwife s apprentice pdf: *Castle in the Attic Lit Link Gr. 4-6* Ron Leduc, 1998-01-01 William has just received the best present of his life, an old, real-looking stone and wooden model of a castle, with a drawbridge, moat and a finger-high knight to guard the gates. Novel by Elizabeth Winthrop. Reproducible chapter questions, plus comprehension questions, a story summary, author biography, creative and cross curricular activities, complete with answer key. 64 pages.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: *Shiloh* Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, 1991-09-30 Eleven-year-old Marty Preston loves to spend time up in the hills behind his home near Friendly, West Virginia. Sometimes he takes his .22 rifle to see what he can shoot, like some cans lined up on a rail fence. Other times he goes up early in the morning just to sit and watch the fox and deer. But one summer Sunday, Marty comes across something different on the road just past the old Shiloh schoolhouses -- a young beagle -- and the trouble begins. What do you do when a dog you suspect is being mistreated runs away and comes to you? When it is someone else's dog? When the man who owns him has a gun? This is Marty's problem, and he finds it is one he has to face alone. When his solution gets too big for him to handle, things become more frightening still. Marty puts his courage on the line, and discovers in the process that it is not always easy to separate right from wrong. Sometimes, however, you do almost anything to save a dog.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: The Adventurers Guild: Night of Dangers Zack Loran Clark, 2019-12-17 In the third installment of the popular Adventurers Guild trilogy, Zed and Brock must prevent catastrophe when a centuries-old plot threatens to rip their world apart. Someone had made a terrible, tragic, fatal mistake. Unless, of course . . . Unless they'd done it on purpose. After falling victim to a vile betrayal, Zed is cut off from Brock and their friends and unable to warn them about a dangerous enemy on the move. The Adventurers Guild may have defeated the evil that cast the elves from their home, but that doesn't keep them in the Freestoners' good graces for long. An ordinary day at the market comes to a fatal end when a rare Danger infiltrates the city, leaving over a dozen dead. Tensions come to a boil as the city is threatened by upheaval from within and becomes alight with terror. Brock finds himself frustratingly unable to utilize his underground contacts . . . though the mysterious Lady Grey may not be finished with him yet. To come together to save their city from a timeless evil looking to settle a score, the young adventurers must learn to trust in each other and be willing to do whatever it takes to stop the tragedy of the Day of Dangers from happening again. Also available in the series: *The Adventurers Guild Twilight of the Elves*

the midwife s apprentice pdf: *A Mango-Shaped Space* Wendy Mass, 2008-11-16 An award-winning book from the author of *Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life* and *The Candymakers* for fans for of *Wonder* and *Counting by Sevens* Mia Winchell has synesthesia, the mingling of perceptions whereby a person can see sounds, smell colors, or taste shapes. Forced to reveal her condition, she must look to herself to develop an understanding and appreciation of her gift in this coming-of-age novel.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: Catherine, Called Birdy Karen Cushman, 1994 The thirteen-year-old daughter of an English country knight keeps a journal in which she records the events of her life, particularly her longing for adventures beyond the usual role of women and her efforts to avoid being married off.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: Farewell to Manzanar Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston, James D. Houston, 2002 A true story of Japanese American experience during and after the World War internment.

the midwife s apprentice pdf: *Nefarious Crimes, Contested Justice* Joanne M. Ferraro, 2008-12 *Nefarious Crimes, Contested Justice* also traces shifting attitudes toward illegitimacy and paternity from the late sixteenth through the eighteenth centuries. Both the Catholic Church and the Republic of Venice tried to enforce moral discipline and regulate sex and reproduction. Unmarried pregnant women were increasingly stigmatized for engaging in sex. Their claims for damages because of seduction or rape were largely unproven, and the priests and laymen that they were

involved with were often acquitted of any wrongdoing. The lack of institutional support for single motherhood and the exculpation of fathers frequently led to abortion, infant abandonment, or even infant death.

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could withstand pain better than white “ladies.” Even as they were advancing medicine, these doctors were legitimizing, for decades to come, groundless theories related to whiteness and blackness, men and women, and the inferiority of other races or nationalities. *Medical Bondage* moves between southern plantations and northern urban centers to reveal how nineteenth-century American ideas about race, health, and status influenced doctor-patient relationships in sites of healing like slave cabins, medical colleges, and hospitals. It also retells the story of black enslaved women and of Irish immigrant women from the perspective of these exploited groups and thus restores for us a picture of their lives.

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aunt and good-as-a-mother for the past six years, died in the garden among her pole beans and carrots, life for Summer and her Uncle Ob has been as bleak as winter. Ob doesn't want to create his beautiful whirligigs anymore, and he and Summer have slipped into a sadness that they can't shake off. They need May in whatever form they can have her -- a message, a whisper, a sign that will tell them what to do next. When that sign comes, Summer will discover that she and Ob can keep missing May but still go on with their lives.

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