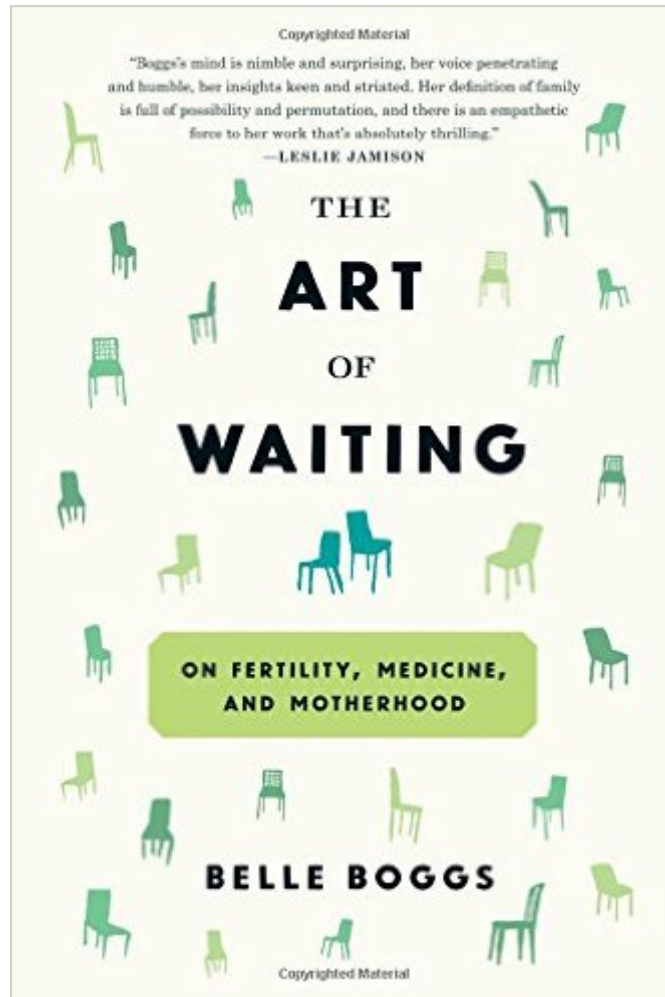


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# The Art Of Waiting: On Fertility, Medicine, And Motherhood



## Synopsis

A brilliant exploration of the natural, medical, psychological, and political facets of fertility When Belle Boggs's "The Art of Waiting" was published in Orion in 2012, it went viral, leading to republication in Harper's Magazine, an interview on NPR's The Diane Rehm Show, and a spot at the intersection of "highbrow" and "brilliant" in New York magazine's "Approval Matrix." In that heartbreaking essay, Boggs eloquently recounts her realization that she might never be able to conceive. She searches the apparently fertile world around her--the emergence of thirteen-year cicadas, the birth of eaglets near her rural home, and an unusual gorilla pregnancy at a local zoo--for signs that she is not alone. Boggs also explores other aspects of fertility and infertility: the way longing for a child plays out in the classic Coen brothers film *Raising Arizona*; the depiction of childlessness in literature, from *Macbeth* to *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*; the financial and legal complications that accompany alternative means of family making; the private and public expressions of iconic writers grappling with motherhood and fertility. She reports, with great empathy, complex stories of couples who adopted domestically and from overseas, LGBT couples considering assisted reproduction and surrogacy, and women and men reflecting on childless or child-free lives. In *The Art of Waiting*, Boggs deftly distills her time of waiting into an expansive contemplation of fertility, choice, and the many possible roads to making a life and making a family.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A beautifully written, exhaustively researched exploration of fertility and infertility viewed from multiple vantage points. This quote from the New York Times review says it best: [\[A\] thoughtful](#)

meditation on childlessness, childbearing, and â " for some â " the stretch of liminal agony in between. Her book is a corrective and a tonic, a primer and a dispeller of myths. It is likely to become a go-to guide for the many couples who discover that having children is not the no-assembly-required experience they were expecting. They will come away enlightened, reassured and comforted by her debunker mentality. . . . Ms. Boggs has done something quite lovely and laudable with *The Art of Waiting*: Sheâ™s given a cold, clinical topic some much-needed warmth and soul. The miracle of life, you might even say.â • â "Jennifer Senior, *New York Times*

As a maternal-child public health writer, and as a woman who experienced fertility troubles, I loved this book. A smart, insightful, well-researched, yet never dry or boring examination/memoir hybrid, I didn't want this book to end. I kept putting off reading it just to stretch it out. The prose is carefully measured and chosen, and the passion and intellect is palpable on the page. I will be rereading this for years to come.

With sensitivity and compassion, Boggs explores the modern fertility journey, that seeks to feed hunger as old as time itself. Amazing research and thoughtful reflection. A great read.

Beautifully written book that delves into the thorny issues of motherhood in the 21st century, fertility (and infertility), "childlessness," baby fever, and so much more...

I devoured this collection of essays. Wide in scope and clear-eyed, it combines personal experience with deep research. A multi-faceted and artful book.

A beautiful and wise book written with precision, warmth, compassion, and humor. Also incredibly well-researched and full of interesting facts about fertility, conception, and family-making across species! I'd been waiting to read this one since seeing the title essay in *Orion*, and was unsurprised when this collection made so many lists for what to read this fall. I can't recommend *The Art of Waiting* enough!

Brilliant, well researched, and lyrical, Boggs is excellent company for essayists like Eula Biss and Leslie Jamison. I have not been disappointed with anything from Graywolf.

This is a beautiful and well-reported book that made me think in different ways about infertility,

adoption, and parenting.

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