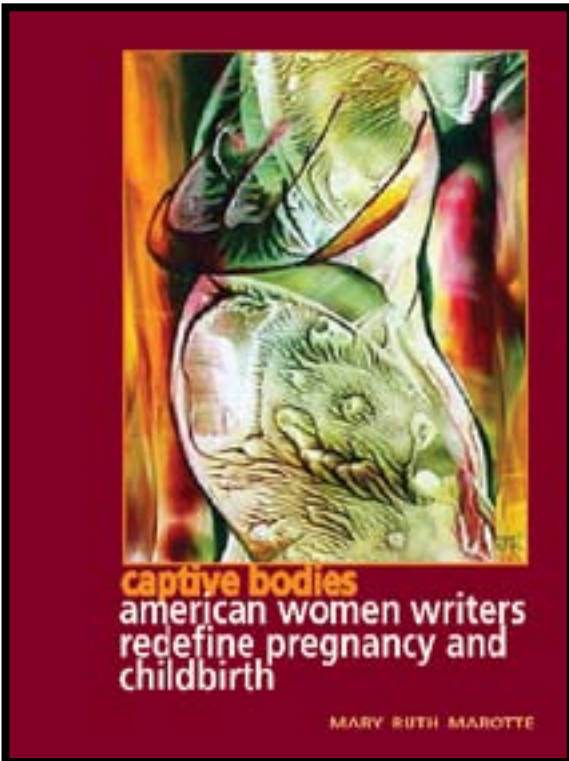


# Captive Bodies: American Women Writers Redefine Pregnancy and Childbirth

Mary Ruth Marotte



While classifying the pregnant condition as a state of captivity might elicit negative connotations, Marotte underscores how American women writers have envisioned the condition of captivity as one in which the pregnant woman can realize, perhaps even find power in, a challenging and disturbing loss of subjectivity. In *Captive Bodies*, Marotte explores the use of the term "captive," locating in it a multivalent meaning. To be captive in pregnancy is to reach a kind of sublime, a rapturous experience that has both negative and positive effects on the experiencing subject. In working with both primary and theoretical texts, Marotte reveals a genre of "pregnancy literature" that will validate this subject as one worthy of continued intellectual study and critical attention.

"Marotte's book goes beyond simply arguing that literary depictions of pregnancy are worthy of our attention, instead arguing that the social critiques they offer are part of women's ongoing attempts to wrest pregnancy and maternity out of the hands of those who would (and have for centuries) sugar-coated it, over-spiritualized it, devalued it, isolated it, and naturalized it."

- Jane Simonsen, History and Gender/Women's Studies, Augustana College

**Mary Ruth Marotte, Ph.D.**, is an Assistant Professor of English at The University of Central Arkansas, where she specializes in women's studies and critical theory. She is the co-founder and co-director of UCA's annual graduate literature conference and serves on the board of the Arkansas Shakespeare Theater. Her scholarly pursuits remain those that address the problems and possibilities of merging the worlds of mothering and academia. She lives in Conway, Arkansas with her husband and three young children.

**October 2008**  
**146 pages \$34.95**  
**978-1-55014-999-9**

## ORDER FORM

**Regular/Bulk Orders:**

c/o Demeter Press  
140 Holland St. West, PO 13022, Bradford ON L3Z 2Y5  
T- 905.775.9089  
info@demeterpress.org  
www.demeterpress.org

**Single Orders:** Your local bookstore or [www.demeterpress.org](http://www.demeterpress.org)

**Examination Copy Requests:** [info@demeterpress.org](mailto:info@demeterpress.org)

Marotte, *Captive Bodies*

\_\_\_\_\_ @ pb **\$34.95** \_\_\_\_\_

Tax (5% GST for Canadian Orders) \_\_\_\_\_

Postage and Handling (see below) \_\_\_\_\_

Total (all orders must be prepaid) \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Country \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Single Orders: Please make cheques/money orders payable to "DEMETER PRESS."**

Postage and Handling for Single Orders: for Canadian shipments, please add \$8.00 for one book and \$4.00 for each additional book in an order; for U.S.A. shipments, please add \$10.00 for one book, and \$4.00 for each additional book in an order. \*Overseas orders add \$15.00 for one book, and \$4.00 for each additional book.

[www.demeterpress.org](http://www.demeterpress.org)

\*\*For bulk/wholesale orders please contact: Brunswick Books T- 416.703.3598 F- 416.703.6561 [orders@brunswickbooks.ca](mailto:orders@brunswickbooks.ca)