



Book Review

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The Sound of Silence: Journeys through miscarriage. Edited by Irma Gold

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About the book: The Sound of Silence: Journeys through miscarriage. Edited by Irma Gold (Paperback). Wombat Books, 2011. 165 pages.

Twenty-two professional and semi-professional writers combine their considerable talents to communicate personal stories of the lasting heartbreak and sorrow, which accompanies miscarriage in Australia. Miscarriage is a phenomenon which strikes in up to one in three pregnancies yet remains a subject that rarely enters our daily conversations. Our grandmothers, daughters and friends are likely to be intimately aware of this unspoken grief, and the combined authors explore personal paths of initiation into this reticent group.

Although 'The Sound of Silence' has appeared as 'Black Holes-The Art of Losing Babies', it is a new Wombat publication edited by Irma Gold. Gold decided to publish the anthology after her own miscarriage experience to comfort the unknown woman she shared a room with when miscarrying her third pregnancy.

The stories vary greatly in form from prose to poetry, and in style from raw and confronting to quietly sorrowful. They draw the reader to dip into the book for yet another perspective. Each offering is of a length that can be easily read on the train on the way to work, or over a meditative cup of tea and they are aimed directly at women from a female point of view.

Not just contemplative, Gold has extended her anthology to include a list of support organisations, informational websites and blogs which adds another dimension to the book and makes it a more valuable publication. It would be a relevant addition to any Australian maternity ward or GP bookshelf and has the potential to reduce feelings of isolation for those who have experienced a miscarriage at any point in their lives.