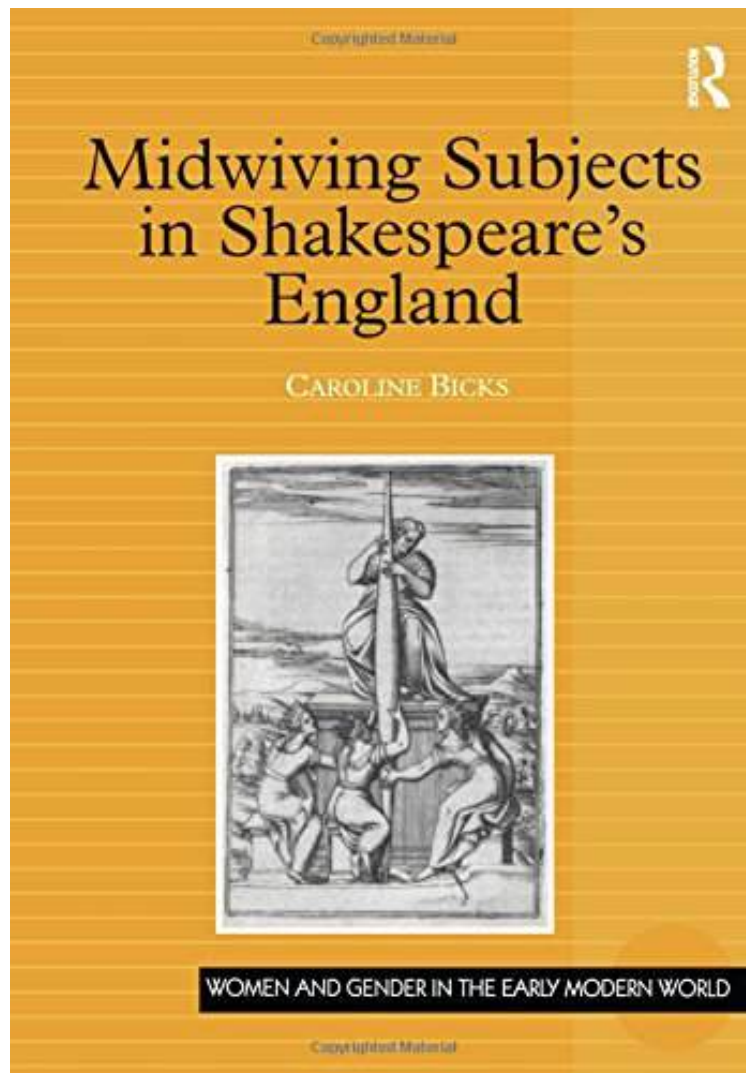


Midwiving Subjects in Shakespeare's England (Women and Gender in the Early Modern World)

By Caroline Bicks

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book It not only covers the topic seriously but uses Midwifery as an allegory or other appropriate trope for imperialism royal legitimacy the relation between language and reality and establishing legitimacy and identity It is a joy There are constantly suggested questions is there such a thing a At the intersections of early modern literature and history Shakespeare and Women s Studies Midwiving Subjects explores how Shakespearean drama and contemporary medical religious and popular texts figured the midwife as a central producer of the body s cultural markers In addition to attending most Englishwomen s births and testifying to their in extremis confessions about paternity the midwife allegedly controlled the size of one s tongue and genitals at birth and Caroline Bicks deftly weaves together history literature medicine and theology to explore early modern anxieties about midwives many roles This book provides a rich new slant on early modern midwives as keepers shapers and critics of femininity and masc

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