

## An Unsuitable Mother

The Bad Mother's HandbookBad Mothers: Regulations, Represetatives and Resistance"Bad" MothersOld and NewOld and NewThe Sunday MagazineAutism Myths and LegendsThe Myth of the Bad MotherOur boys and girls, a monthly magazineKey to Chardenal's First and Second French CoursesThe New Royal DictionaryMinutes of Proceedings Before the Committee for Privileges; and Reports from Select Committees of H.L., and EvidenceGood things, for the young of all agesThe Divine Life in ManThe Day of restParliamentary PapersMedical recordMedical RecordReports of Cases Determined by the Supreme Court of the State of NevadaThe Journal of Mental Science Kate Long Hughes Michelle Miller Molly Ladd-Taylor Edward Everett Hale Vera von de Greent Jane Swigart C. A. Chardenal Frederic Alphonso Noble Great Britain. Parliament. House of Commons George Frederick Shradyn Nevada. Supreme Court

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the bad mother s handbook is the story of a year in the lives of charlotte karen and nan none of whom can quite believe how things have turned out why is it all so difficult why do the most ridiculous mistakes have the most disastrous consequences when are you too old to throw up in a flowerbed after too much vodka when are you too young to be a mother both hilarious and wise it is a clear eyed look at motherhood and childhood in its many guises from the moment the condom breaks to the moment you file for divorce or more optimistically from the moment you hear your baby s first cry to the moment you realize that there are as many sorts of mother as there are children and that love sometimes is the most important thing of all

while the image or construct of the good mother has been the focus of many research projects the bad mother as a discursive construct and also mothers who do bad things as complicated agentic social actors have been quite neglected despite the prevalence of the image of the bad mother across late modern societies the few researchers who address this powerful social image point out that bad mothers are culturally identified by what they do yet they are also socially recognized by who they are mothers become potentially bad when they behave or express opinions that diverge from or challenge social or gender norms or when they deviate

from mainstream white middle class heterosexual nondisabled normativity when suspected of being bad mothers women are surveilled and may be disciplined punished or otherwise excluded by various official agents i e legal medical and welfare institutions as well as by their relatives friends and communities too often women are judged and punished without clear evidence that they are neglecting or abusing their children frequently they are blamed for the marginal sociocultural context in which they are mothering this anthology presents empirical theoretical and creative works that address the construct of the bad mother and the lived realities of mothers labeled as bad throughout the volume the editors consider voices and acts of resistance to bad mother constructions demonstrating that mothers across time and across domains have individually and collectively taken a stand against this destructive label

with a distinct minority of american families living the two parent one worker lifestyle touted as the norm the authors examine the question do most mothers now qualify as bad mothers in one way or another cover

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