



Inconceivable: A Woman's Triumph Over Despair and Statistics

Julia Indichova , Christiane Northrup (Foreword by)

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A memoir of hope for the thousands of women struggling with infertility, from one who beat the odds by simply tuning in to her body and tapping her well of sheer determination.

At a time when more and more women are trying to get pregnant at increasingly advanced ages, fertility specialists and homeopathic researchers boast endless treatment options. But when Julia Indichova made the rounds of medical doctors and nontraditional healers, she was still unable to conceive a child. It was only when she forsook their financially and emotionally draining advice, turning inward instead, that she finally met with reproductive success. Inconceivable recounts this journey from hopeless diagnoses to elated motherhood.

Anyone who has faced infertility will relate to Julia's desperate measures: acupuncture, unidentifiable black-and-white pellets, herb soup, foul-smelling fruit, even making love on red sheets. Five reproductive endocrinologists told her that there was no documented case of anyone in her hormonal condition getting pregnant, forcing her to finally embark on her own intuitive regimen. After eight caffeine-free, nutrient-rich, yoga-laden months, complemented by visualization exercises, Julia received amazing news; incredibly, she was pregnant. Nine months later she gave birth to a healthy girl.

Unlike the many infertility books that take a clinical how to approach, Inconceivable simply professes the wisdom of giving expert status back to the patient. Julia's self-discovery, and her ability to see her body as an ally once again, yield a beautiful message about the importance of honoring the body's innate powers, and the power of life itself.

Inconceivable: A Woman's Triumph Over Despair and Statistics Details

Date : Published October 9th 2001 by Harmony (first published June 1998)

ISBN : 9780767908207

Author : Julia Indichova , Christiane Northrup (Foreword by)

Format : Paperback 224 pages

Genre : Autobiography, Memoir, Health, Nonfiction



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Kiana Bock says

Gives hope

A must read for anyone struggling with infertility. Gives you hope & strength to not give up. Thank you Julia.

Purnima says

I already reviewed this book on Amazon - but those reviews don't show up here. So I thought of writing a review here. I am seeing many critical reviews of this book. I can certainly see where they are coming from and the fact that it is frightening to think that one could become an authority of what is and isn't good for them. I think this may sound counter-intuitive to many individuals who favor rational thinking (or may favor treating everything with medicine). I have come from the Eastern world where a person is treated as an individual (for example, in Ayurveda or any non-mainstream medicine) and not generally given a blanket treatment for an ailment but an attempt is made to get to the root cause. So I felt much more receptive to the ideas in this book. What one may not realize in the first reading is that - there's so much more to Julia's story than just looking for experts outside and then suddenly falling pregnant. What the critical reviews have missed is the inner work that she did. There are many women who have benefitted from reading just Inconceivable and have made dietary changes and changes to their beliefs, their thoughts and have made themselves healthier.

In my mind, this book illustrates beautifully how attempting to connect the dots with your own thinking can do wonders and reveal more of who we are to ourselves and help us realize our real potential, realize our own worth. It can bring a unique change of mindset. That is what it did for me.

As some reviews pointed out, reading the stories at the end of the book may help drive home the message that is being conveyed in the book. I certainly think, it has helped me. And even more so, Julia's book that followed - the Fertile Female. I recommend both of these to any woman irrespective of where she is in her journey. I have given this book to a friend as a gift and she liked it too.

Rachel says

A woman experiences secondary infertility, is told by the "experts" that she's a lost cause, experiments with alternative treatments until she finds something that works for her, radically alters her diet and lifestyle, takes care of herself, and, just when she's about to give the experts another go, discovers she's gotten pregnant the old fashioned way. (Take that, fertility industry!)

Hurrah for Julia and all that, but I'm not that taken with this book. One cheer for reminding us not to let the medical-industrial complex strip us of our humanity and take over our lives, but I cringe at the counter-

stance that we are the "experts" on our own bodies. If I have to be the expert on my body, I feel like (and maybe this is my own neuroses speaking) I now suddenly having to learn, in my spare time, all the information that my physician went through a decade-plus of training to learn, plus the whole gamut of alternative alternatives. Makes me tired just thinking about it. And if I'm the expert, and my experiments don't have the desired outcome, does that make it all my fault?

Which brings me to another thing that bugged me about the book. The author confesses that part of the pain of her infertility was the feeling that she was letting her husband and her daughter down, failing to provide another child/sibling. Not that she doesn't have the right to wrestle with and express those feelings, but I wasn't satisfied with the solution: she finally gets pregnant and has the longed-for child. Because not every infertile woman who reads this book looking for hope is going to wind up getting pregnant, naturally, supernaturally, or technologically. And that's a huge psychological burden to introduce into the story and then just leave sitting there like an elephant in the living room.

Maybe I'm too much of a pessimist. Or am unwilling to let go of faith in the medical establishment. Or just haven't had to deal with this stuff myself. Anyway, it's not my favorite infertility memoir. But it did prompt me to make better choices about my diet. At least until I remembered where I hid my candy bar stash.

Jess B says

I thought this book was going to be something I could relate to but it really wasn't. The struggle she may have actually felt was not properly conveyed in my opinion. It seemed like she saw doctor's who said it wasn't medically possible for her to have a SECOND child.....she was 42, after all. She didn't take no for an answer and then seemed to achieve her goal relatively quickly. (Not something I can relate to or feel empathy for). This is a story of good fortune and beating the odds sure, but not a story of infertility. Infertility at 42 is a product of biology which all woman are aware of. I guess I don't agree with the way the book is marketed.

The one thing I did take away from this book is a determination to eat better and take better care of myself. So in that way, it did impact me. I also enjoyed the end of the book with the various struggles of others and what they did to overcome the circumstances.

Kathleen F says

I think I'm going to have to add a category to my bookshelves that's titled "I had a baby and so can you!"

Julia Indichova's take on the fertility game post-40 is very interesting. After going the standard route with doctors (and being refused by all IVF clinics because her FSH was exceedingly high), she decided she'd try to figure things out on her own. She devised a new eating plan for herself, began a yoga regimen, and developed mind-body techniques that helped her feel more in control of her body. Eight months later (at age 43, I believe) she conceived a child naturally.

The book itself is quite short, but is like a little shot of hope in all of the fertility-crazed madness out there. All it suggests is that, if you take very good care of your body (and with it, your mind), you may well create an environment for conception. At the very least you will be a healthier and more grounded person, ready to

take on the challenges of motherhood in any way it comes to you.

After reading it, I'm going to dust off the juicer that's sat unused for a couple of years on my kitchen shelf. And I've already started looking into yoga classes...

Lucy Bilik says

Great book about mother who listen to her own body to bring on the healing that resulted in joy of another child. I was moved and learned a lot from it, given I have a feminist streak in me I felt like invincible and indestructible even when in pain. I have learned from the stories to treat my body with love and cherish by giving it rest and not push myself too much as was my habit.

I believe that this book is a true source of encouragement to let nature heal and when needed seek medical professional help. Good luck to all mothers and mothers to be.

Stacy says

Indichova writes about her infertility journey - from Why am I not pregnant yet? through visits with eminent doctors, shady "shamans", acupuncturists, colonic cleansers, and surrogate mothers, towards self empowerment and pregnancy. Indichova's long and winding road to fertility ran through the health food store and the yoga studio rather than the ivf clinic.

Indichova clearly found it empowering to reject her doctors' pessimistic council and persist in her quest. The whole struggle was a learning experience in which the lessons included trusting herself, taking care of herself, and continuing to hope. Along the way, she gave up her complete faith in western medicine and replaced it, in part, with faith in the power of faith itself. She seems to value the journey as much as the child she finally conceived.

Well, good for her. But I'm not convinced yet. It's possible that the Chinese herbs strengthened her uterus. But isn't it also possible that she would have gotten pregnant anyways? If a woman has a one in 1000 chance of getting pregnant... and then gets pregnant... it may feel like success/fate/God's plan... but maybe it's just luck.

Visda says

Chapter 11 she gets pregnant. In this chapter she mentions she celebrated her husband's great aunt's 93rd birthday on July 16 with getting her period. Her appointment with the specialist is "beginning of August". And she does a pregnancy test, which comes back positive on the day of her visit of this specialist. "beginning of August" any date earlier than August 11 doesn't make sense at all?

Amber says

I share Indichova's diagnosis of seconder infertility although mine is unexplained. I've visited the specialists, been through the test, done inseminations and IVF. Over and Over the medical community has told me there is nothing that can be done. This book is a very accurate portrait of living with this type of diagnosis in today's medical community. I am inspired by her to take control of my own fertility and to make the changes necessary to be successful. absolutely loved this book.

Erin says

Not a fan of this woman or this woman's writing. There's something really off putting about her. The idea that we are the experts of our own bodies is ridiculous to me...I would have zero ability to perform an emergency surgery on myself. While Dr's are far from perfect, they are way more educated than most of us when it comes to the human body. I did, however, find Julia's approach to curing her infertility through her diet very insightful. So for that, I gave it one star.

Kelly says

I felt the author focused more on the changes she made to her diet/exercise routines than actually exploring the emotional experience of being unable to conceive. I also thought that the author's views of fertility doctors was a little off; she mentions the expensive nature of the treatments several times in the book and implies that this is entirely due to the greedy nature of the doctors, but doesn't go any deeper than that - for example, the fact that most insurance policies provide absolutely no coverage for infertility.

I found the book to be ultimately unconvincing and unhelpful at best - at worst it is a validation for those who believe that the couples that experience infertility somehow bring the condition upon themselves and/or exacerbate their struggle by seeking medical help instead of eating organic food and doing yoga.

Jeanette says

1. I don't like that she considers herself an expert, when she's not
2. Nothing will work if you only do it one time- whether it's ivf, acupuncture, medicinal herbs, etc.

I think that this is good because it encourages people to educate themselves, change their diet (or at least seriously look at what you're eating) and look at different types of remedies. I also like that it's very pro-Resolve- a great organization! BUT- she's just so full of herself!

Karah says

I'm not sure how this book landed in my hands, but I'm so happy that it did. Personally, after experiencing consecutive miscarriages, I felt very confused and discouraged. I also felt such a lack of control-- I kept

being told there was nothing I could do. I was searching for stories of hope, but they seemed few and far between. Then I stumbled upon this book and loved it from the moment I picked it up. Julie Indichova writes about her struggle with secondary infertility and the difficulties she encountered when seeking Western medical interventions for help. After being told by numerous doctors that her FSH levels were too high and that there was little to be done for her, she listened to her instinct and began to heal herself from inside. She completely changed her diet-- eliminating toxins and increasing healthy alternatives. She also added yoga and meditation to her daily routine and started listening to her own instincts rather than her doctors' orders. Gradually, her FSH levels lowered and she began to feel more healthy and empowered. Eventually, against all odds, she conceived naturally without any medical interventions-- and delivered a healthy baby girl nine months later.

The last few pages of the book give brief stories of five other women who experienced similar situations. I'm not suggesting that drinking herbal teas will help you miraculously conceive a child, but I love that they all had a positive outcome after first taking care of themselves.

Although her struggle does not parallel mine, Julia's desire to gain a little control and find some peace of mind reminds me of my own. I feel like I'm on a similar quest and love the changes she made in her life. Even if she had not been blessed with a daughter at the end, she made some great lifestyle changes that were definitely for the better.

Diary says

This book was a quick read. I had picked it up at the library with two other books and this was last on my list. When I realized it was due the next day I tried to renew it but it had a hold, so I decided to breeze thru the 200 pages that night.

The book was basically about a women's obsession with getting prego and in her desperation to do so, she tries everything eastern, western and a little weird. While reading the book I kept thinking "something seems a little off about this girl." I couldn't place it but her thought patterns threw me a bit. A little later in the book she mentioned spending some time in an institution previously.

In the end she gets prego and attributes her success to the positive thinking, meditation, yoga, herbs and envisioning. All of those things are positive changes, but you need to keep in mind that it could also be attributed to an odds game...there was a long period of trying to get prego.

All in all if you're looking for some recommendations, this isn't going to give you any but it may encourage you to look into more of an eastern medicine standpoint.

Ariadne says

What a good book. I have been in need of an inspirational story regarding fertility and this really is one. Is there part of me that thinks her outcome is just pure stroke of luck? Yes, but at the same time the optimist side of me hopes it was b/c of all the things she did to improve her lifestyle at the same time. Being currently in the thick of infertility...I struggle to find the positive and this did it for me.
