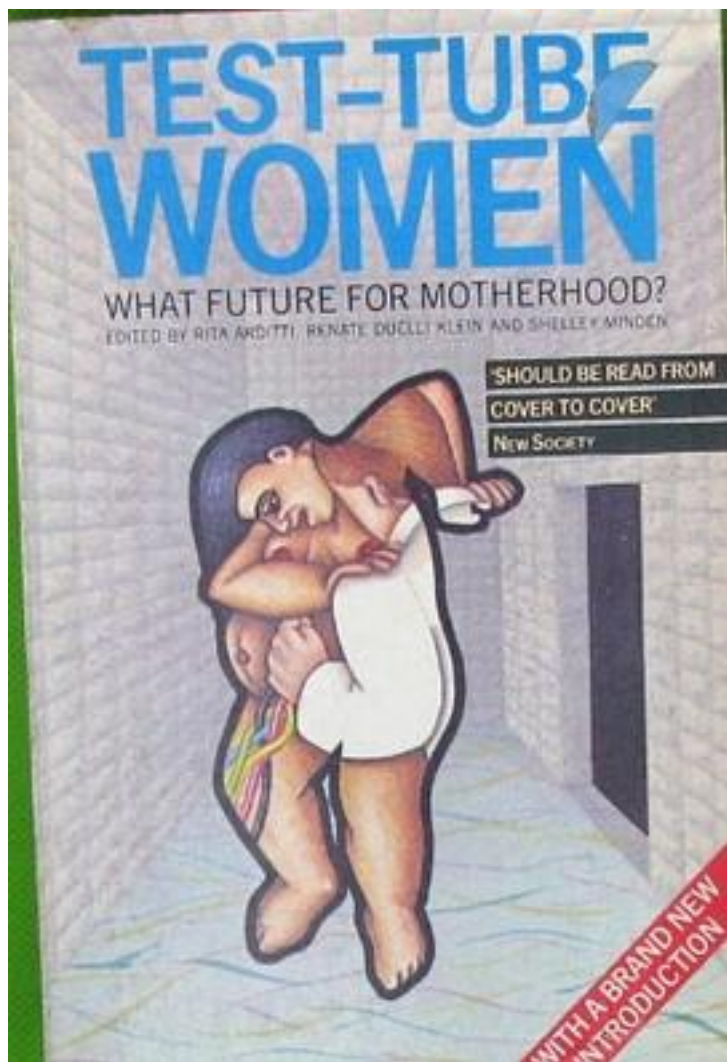


Test Tube Women



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PREFACE TO THE 1989
EDITION
In 1984i¼ new reproductive technologies were just beginning
to become part of the public discussion. In deciding to put
together Test-Tube Women we wanted to take a look at new
technologies such in-vitro fertilizationi¼ embryo flushing and
transfer. We also wanted to investigate technologies that
were not really that newi¼ such as artificial inseminationi¼
and further developments of contraceptives. Sex selection
and the use of amniocentesis in the so-called Third World
was a further area of concern to us. The scientists devel-

oping these technologies told us that women should be
grateful for their inventions and that they had been
developed because women wanted them. They also said the
technologies would open up new choices for motherhood and
they would help infertile women.
We were sceptical. Although we could not know at the
time what the specific developments would bei¼ nor how
quickly the technologies would proliferatei¼ affecting an
increasing number of women all over the worldi¼
neverthe-

lessi¼ two crucial pieces of information were already obvious.
The first was that a white medical and scientific establish-

ment is in control of the technologies and that there is
a long history of exploitation of women by these groupsi¼
specifically in relation to reproduction. Women of colori¼ poor
womeni¼ lesbiansi¼ disabled womeni¼ elderly and young
women have all been experimented on and used by the
technodocs in their human trials and applications of
contraceptives such as the Pilli¼ Depo-Provera and IUDsi¼
in
particular the Dalkon shield. With these new technologies
it seemed to be the turn of mainly white and middle-class
women to serve as experimental guinea pigs.
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