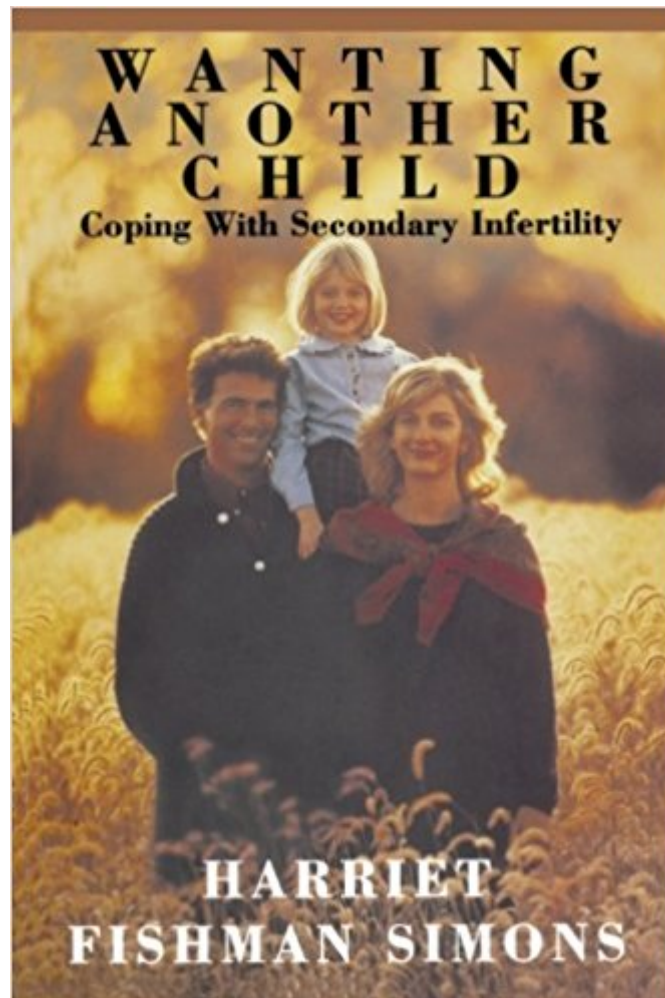




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# **Wanting Another Child: Coping With Secondary Infertility**



## Synopsis

Parents experiencing infertility experience many of the losses of childless individuals, but have unique issues to confront as well. Often, there is an unacknowledged loss which increases their sense of isolation. This book incorporates the narratives of 60 individuals coping with secondary infertility and draws on their experiences to validate the loss and suggest strategies for moving forward.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Secondary infertility is often a "hidden" issue, and couples suffering from the inability to have another wanted child often feel caught in the netherworld between the childless infertile and parents of larger families. Harriet Fishman Simons, a clinician specializing in fertility issues and a support group leader for RESOLVE, an advocacy group for infertile individuals, has been involved in infertility issues for over 20 years. In her book *Wanting Another Child: Coping with Secondary Infertility*, Simons discusses the plight of the secondarily infertile--the awkwardness of being among infertile couples without children, the pain of watching other families conceive again. The book takes a broad-based look at an issue that is becoming more common as more couples rely on fertility treatments to form their families. Simons weaves personal stories with theory and sociological data. She includes chapters on social and emotional issues (the effects of secondary infertility on the couple as well as friends, family, and coworkers), parenting during secondary infertility issues (helping children cope with their parent's secondary infertility), and possible resolutions to and

strategies for coping with secondary infertility. Simons's style may be academic, but the information and message is not, and this book is a welcome addition to a new subfield of study. --Ericka Lutz

"Infertility among parents feels different from infertility among the childless," states Simons, who further explains that "secondary infertility [the inability to conceive or carry a pregnancy to term after the birth of one or more children] is even more common statistically than primary infertility." The emotional impact of this plight upon both parents and children is examined in this helpful guide. Medical causes and treatments are discussed along with the existence of support groups such as RESOLVE and Parents of Only Children. Simons' concise and compassionate prose is certain to help educate and direct troubled parents. Denise Perry Donavin --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I was surprised and impressed at how thoughtful the book was written, covering all types of scenarios involving secondary infertility from people of all experiences, including miscarriages. I disagree with the previous poster who said that recurrent miscarriages was not dealt with--it was not a main focus but was certainly mentioned many times. I enjoyed hearing women and men describe their experiences with secondary infertility, and the way the author affirmed the emotions that accompany secondary infertility. It is quite a comprehensive guide and gave some good suggestions on how to cope, permission to do what you need to cope and to affirm that you are not alone and are normal in how you feel. I found it a really encouraging resource. I'm going to give it to a few friends and family members so that they can understand better what me and my husband go through month to month, year to year, and honestly, sometimes day to day.

I found this book so helpful in making me realize I wasn't alone in this strange mixture of feelings. While I found it helpful to be part of a support group for others suffering from infertility, I also found it difficult at times to relate to those suffering from primary infertility, and I did not want to seem ungrateful for the wonderful child I had when so many people had no child at all. I have passed this book along to several other people and have suggested it to others online -- I only wish it were still in print!

Where was this book when I REALLY needed it!!! They need to reprint this because there are so many people who could benefit from this book. I have dealt with my secondary infertility for 8 years from childbirth complications. I have never really felt like I "fit in" with the infertile childless and the

people who could have more kids. I recommend this book with 5 stars+++. It may bring on some tears but that is part of the process of coming to terms and the grieving process. You will read about how other ladies have dealt with other peoples pregnancies, caught between two worlds of the fertile and infertile, how families do not really give the support you hoped for and knowing they still love you, the second child you had in your mind and heart will never be and you have to mourn for that child, validating your idea of what is a family, adoption as an option, and accepting an only child family. It really helped me out a lot to realise I am not alone and validate my feelings that I have had the past 8 years. If you are a good friend or family member dealing with secondary infertility get this and read it then pass it on to your friend. She/he will feel so good that you cared enough to give it. It was written by a RESOLVE counselor. It is an EXCELLENT book for husbands to read because they see this differently in a lot of ways and this book will help them see the wives point of view. I highly recommend it. Please reprint it!!

Harriet Fishman Simons's description of how it feels to have a child but be unable to have another exactly mirrored how I have felt, and I think the book was very perceptive in describing the unique sorrow that faces parents who want so much but cant have another child. Her description of the differences between how women and men deal with this problem is particularly good and corresponds to how I have felt and how other women I know have felt. I cried reading this book but found it cathartic. However, my one complaint about this book is the relative neglect is gives to the issue of secondary infertility stemming from multiple miscarriages rather than the failure to conceive. I have searched for books that deal with this issue--and I think this is not uncommon for women suffering from secondary infertility. The issue of whether to keep trying, the fact that in most cases the doctors cant give you any reason for the failure, the toll that miscarriage places on your marriage and on raising your child, arent really dealt with except for passing references.

I felt like Harriet Fishman Simons must have been eavesdropping on me because she was able to define my thoughts, feelings, worries and insecurities so accurately! This book has been my lifeline in an otherwise very lonely situation. Most other books deal with the problem of infertility and usually only focus on the patients where treatment is eventually successful. I needed help with when treatment fails and dealing with that. I was going to pass this along to a friend dealing with her own infertility but decided that I can't give this book up just yet. She'll have to get her own copy! I even went through and highlighted passages that I felt were particularly true or comforting to me in my situation. This is one book that I will recommend heartily to anyone dealing with secondary infertility.

I had no expectations when I opened this book, having read a number of books on infertility. What a pleasant surprise to discover that Ms. Fishman Simons knows the subject of secondary infertility so well and provides in her book just what couples experiencing this very much ignored problem need for guidance. While reading it was emotionally difficult at times, I found many perspectives that matched what I had felt and some insightful comments on how to get past secondary infertility. I highly recommend this book to anyone coping with secondary infertility, certainly as a beginning to "recovery," and to family and friends of the secondary infertile couple.

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