



Love Song For Baby X: How I Stayed (Almost) Sane on the Rocky Road to Parenthood

Cheryl Dumesnil

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Love Song for Baby X is the moving and humorous story of a lesbian couple's struggles with infertility as they attempt to become parents, set against the backdrop of the marriage equality movement.

While poet Cheryl Dumesnil suspects she'll confront some formidable obstacles on her path to parenthood, she is nevertheless unprepared for what she actually encounters, including navigating the maze of the high-tech fertility business, the emotional conundrum of pregnancy loss, and the gathering steam of the marriage equality movement.

Love Song for Baby X follows Cheryl and her unlawfully wedded wife through four conceptions, three miscarriages, a temporarily legal wedding during San Francisco's Winter of Love in 2004, a stint as poster children for the marriage equality movement, and finally the arrival of their longed-for son—after twenty-five hours of labor. Along the way Dumesnil fails often (and comically) in her attempts to cultivate inner peace. Though she struggles mightily with the opposing forces of hope and fear, in the end, she finds the middle ground between them: acceptance.

Winner of the 2008 Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize, **Cheryl Dumesnil** is the author of *In Praise of Falling*, editor of *Hitched! Wedding Stories from San Francisco City Hall*, and co-editor, with Kim Addonizio, of *Dorothy Parker's Elbow: Tattoos on Writers, Writers on Tattoos*. Her poems have appeared in *Nimrod*, *Indiana Review*, *Calyx*, and *Many Mountains Moving*, among other literary magazines. Her essays have appeared on literarymama.com, hipmama.com, mamazine.com, and in *Hip Mama Zine*. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her wife and their two sons.

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