

Surrogate motherhood

A picture I found on the Internet gave me some food for thought. It showed a pregnant woman gently wrapping her arms around her baby bump. It triggered a sense of life, a sense of family, a sense of pleasure. But something disturbed this impression. It was only a small sign, but it managed to ruin everything: black vertical stripes in varying sizes running down the mother's belly. Together, they formed a rectangle. Underneath there were fourteen black numbers. In short: it was a barcode. The picture drew attention to surrogate motherhood - the woman in the picture wouldn't be a "real" mother. Why? Because she would have to give the baby away as soon as it's born. Why? Because she's a surrogate

What sounds like a great option for women who can't become pregnant, actually is a torture for the surrogates. Can you imagine carrying a baby for nine months inside of you and then give it to strangers just because the contract says it? Maybe you agree now, but believe me: as soon as the baby is born, you'll hate yourself for your decision you made nine months ago. It's just impossible for women to bear a baby and then hand it over to another woman or couple. Nature didn't involve this.

And think about the children. Surrogates often also have children of their own, because usually this is one of the conditions of becoming a surrogate. Think about these children. Imagine you being five years old. Imagine you watching your mother's bump grow. You exactly know she'll have a baby, you get really excited, but you'll never get to see your little brother or sister. You'd be the older brother, you'd help your mum where you could, you'd take care of your little sibling. You'd be so proud. And then there's no one you can take care of. You don't want to support that, do you?

But surrogacy presents further risks: if women are only there to bear children, there is a risk of women being only seen as baby producers. This would throw us and our image of women back to the Third Reich. Everything that has been achieved in the last years would count for nothing. All the women that fought for their own and every woman's rights... everything would be for nothing.

You see, the picture of the barcode on the mother's bump is not as unreasonable as previously thought – although of course it's meant ironically. But if we don't think about the consequences, we'll live in a world that diverges from nature more and more. Of course it is hard for women to be unable to have a baby – but maybe they should not pay any price to try to fulfill their greatest wish.