

## **Review of *Robbie's Reader: Vignettes of My Magical Life***

By Robbie Davis-Floyd, PhD

Review by Thomas R. Verny, MD

I met Robbie at the first International Congress on Pre and Perinatal Psychology in 1983 in Toronto. At that time, she was already well-known as a cultural and medical anthropologist with special interests in childbirth and midwifery. Gradually, Robbie became more active in APPPAH, lecturing at many of our congresses, joining the board for a time, and publishing several papers in JOPPPAH. She recently offered a five-week course for APPPAH students called the “Anthropology of Birth.”

In her recently self-published book, *Robbie's Reader: Vignettes of My Magical Life*, we learn that her interest in studying births in different contexts and parts of the world was triggered by her birth experiences. In her academic work, Robbie has argued that midwives play important roles in safeguarding positive outcomes for childbearing people, substantiating her reasoning with scientific evidence. Birth workers, childbearing people, and academics within and outside of the humanities and social sciences have relied on her groundbreaking book, *Birth as an American Rite of Passage* (1992, 2003, 2022), and her edited collection *Birth Models that Work* (2009) to better understand how we think about and learn about birth via various cultural lenses. Since 1983, she has given over 1,000 presentations worldwide at universities and childbirth, midwifery, and obstetric conferences. She has become an icon in midwifery circles.

Robbie is not exaggerating with the subtitle of her book, *Vignettes of My Magical Life*. Her other writings have been academic, yet, she takes us on a retrospective journey through her personal life in this book. Robbie has filled this book with fascinating vignettes that include her autobiography, a chapter describing her father and another on why she loves the strength of men, her Eulogy for her mother, experiences of her two births, funny and not-so-funny