

# MOTHER BUNTING

And what is actually going on is, you had a baby that died, maybe it died in the early weeks of pregnancy when it's called a miscarriage, or maybe it died just before it was born, or just after. Or maybe nobody died. But you did have a baby, and maybe it nearly died, or it didn't but you thought it would, or maybe you killed it, or you thought you did, or you wanted to but couldn't, or now you wish you had. or you never wanted to at all, but you worried all the time that it would die, or maybe your dad did really die, just before or just after your baby was born. Or maybe the baby has no dad, or maybe there was a dad but he left. Or maybe he is still there but you really wish he wasn't. Maybe sometimes you think he will kill you, or your baby, or both. And maybe you just have had no proper sleep, not just last night, or the night before, but for *eight months straight*.

And maybe you are in despair because your house looks like a pile of crap and your body is trashed in ways you can never speak about to anyone, you can't even speak about it to yourself, it's so upsetting. And maybe your kid just spent the morning screaming and throwing things around the sitting room, and you tried every 'parenting advice' blog and in the end you just got really, primevally angry and shouted at your kid and wanted to kill her, and then she cried all upset and you felt *absolutely terrible*, and that you aren't a fit parent and should never have had the kids...

and quite possibly you are going through some other unnameable and unknown torment. and then you had to come to this party and you became this pretty bunting in the background, making people feel nice but not really noticing you except in passing.