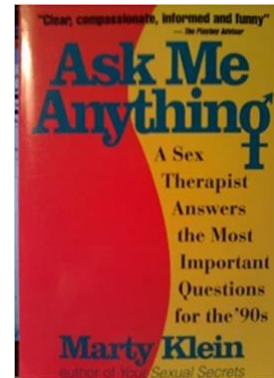


**"Ask Me Anything:
A Sex Therapist Answers
the Most Important
Questions for the '90s."**

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PhD, Certified Sex
Therapist and Licensed Marriage
and Family Therapist for 34 years



Question #49 from "Ask Me Anything," page 34

49. My sister said she got pregnant during her period. Isn't that impossible?

While it is very unusual, it's not impossible.

Normally, a woman will release a single egg when she ovulates each month. It will hang around, waiting to be fertilized by a sperm; when that doesn't happen, the body flushes out the unneeded uterine lining and menstruation occurs.

On rare occasions, however, a woman releases a second egg during a month's ovulation. Since eggs and sperm can live up to seventy-two hours in the body, they can survive menstruation if released late enough in the woman's period. Thus, fertilization can actually occur during or immediately after menstruation.