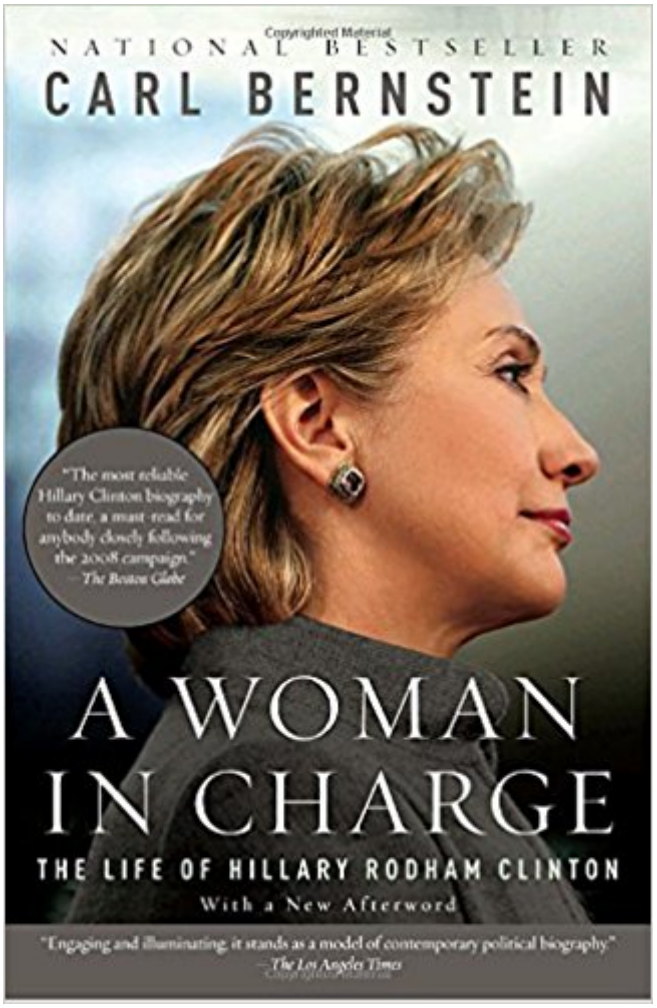
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A WOMAN IN CHARGE: The Life Of Hillary Rodham Clinton



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Synopsis

The nuanced, definitive biography of one of the most controversial and widely misunderstood figures of our time: the woman running a historic campaign as the 2016 Democratic presidential nomineeÃ¢â ¬â •Hillary Rodham Clinton.Ã Â Drawing on hundreds of interviews with colleagues and friends and with unique access to campaign records, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and bestselling author Carl Bernstein has given us a book that enables us, at last, to address the questions Americans are insistentlyÃ¢â ¬â •even obsessivelyÃ¢â ¬â •asking: Who is she? What is her character? What is her political philosophy? And, what can we expect from Hillary if we elect her President of the United States?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Read an excerpt from A Woman in Charge A Woman in Charge is Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Carl Bernstein’s illuminating account of Hillary Rodham Clinton, revealing the complex of motivations and machinations behind her extraordinary life and career. Drawing on over 200 interviews with Clinton associates (both colleagues and adversaries), as well as major pieces written by and about the former First Lady, Bernstein has constructed an indelible portrait of perhaps the most polarizing figure in American politics, from her midwestern roots to her own presidential ambitions; but don’t take our word for it--read an excerpt from the first chapter and decide for yourself. Excerpt. Ã Â© Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved. Chapter One: Formation I adored [my father] when I was a little girl. I would eagerly watch for him from a window

and run down the street to meet him on his way home after work. With his encouragement and coaching, I played baseball, football and basketball. I tried to bring home good grades to win his approval. –Living History Hillary Rodham’s childhood was not the suburban idyll suggested by the shaded front porch and gently sloping lawn of what was once the family home at 235 Wisner Street in Park Ridge, Illinois. In this leafy environment of postwar promise and prosperity, the Rodhams were distinctly a family of odd ducks, isolated from their neighbors by the difficult character of her father, Hugh Rodham, a sour, unfulfilled man whose children suffered his relentless, demeaning sarcasm and misanthropic inclination, endured his embarrassing parsimony, and silently accepted his humiliation and verbal abuse of their mother. Yet as harsh, provocative, and abusive as Rodham was, he and his wife, the former Dorothy Howell, imparted to their children a pervasive sense of family and love for one another that in Hillary’s case is of singular importance. When Bill Clinton and Hillary honeymooned in Acapulco in 1975, her parents and her two brothers, Hughie (Hugh Jr.) and Tony, stayed in the same hotel as the bride and groom. Dorothy and Hugh Rodham, despite the debilitating pathology and undertow of tension in their marriage (discerned readily by visitors to their home), were assertive parents who, at mid-century, intended to convey to their children an inheritance secured by old-fashioned values and verities. They believed (and preached, in their different traditions) that with discipline, hard work, encouragement (often delivered in an unconventional manner), and enough education at home, school, and church, a child could pursue almost any dream. In the case of their only daughter, Hillary Diane, born October 26, 1947, this would pay enormous dividends, sending her into the world beyond Park Ridge with a steadiness and sense of purpose that eluded her two younger brothers. But it came at a price: Hugh imposed a patriarchal unpleasantness and ritual authoritarianism on his household, mitigated only by the distinctly modern notion that Hillary would not be limited in opportunity or skills by the fact that she was a girl. Hugh Rodham, the son of Welsh immigrants, was sullen, tight-fisted, contrarian, and given to exaggeration about his own accomplishments. Appearances of a sort were important to him: he always drove a new Lincoln or Cadillac. But he wouldn’t hesitate to spit tobacco juice through an open window. He chewed his cud habitually, voted a straight Republican ticket, and was infuriatingly slow to praise his children. "He was rougher than a corncob and gruff as could be," an acquaintance once said. Nurturance and praise were left largely to his wife, whose intelligence and abilities he mocked and whose gentler nature he often trampled. "Don’t let the doorknob hit you in the ass on your way out," he frequently said at the dinner table when she’d get angry and threaten to leave. She never left, but some friends and relatives were perplexed at Dorothy’s decision to stay

married when her husband’s abuse seemed so unbearable. "She would never say, That’s it. I’ve had it," said Betsy Ebeling,* Hillary’s closest childhood friend, who witnessed many contentious scenes at the Rodham dinner table. Sometimes the doorknob remark would break the tension and everybody would laugh. But not always. By the time Hillary had reached her teens, her father seemed defined by his mean edges–he had almost no recognizable enthusiasms or pretense to lightness as he descended into continuous bullying, ill-humor, complaint, and dejection. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Which Hillary Clinton will prevail in this sprawling, muddled biography? Is she a "messianic" idealist or a ruthless pragmatist given to negative ad campaigns and vilifying opponents? A liberal feminist firebrand or a closet traditionalist and Washington prayer-group fixture? A Lady Macbeth, a First Soul-mate, or a stand-by-your-man marital martyr? Bernstein (All the President’s Men) gives us all these Hillary’s, foggily uniting them by reference to her "extraordinary capability for change and evolutionary development." (Then again, the Senate candidate who "told voters largely what they wanted to hear" seems much the same species as the Wellesley student-body president who "was more interested in...achieving victory than in taking a philosophical position.") Bernstein’s ill-balanced treatment puts "the Journey"-Hillary’s mystic term for her politico-conjugal relationship with Bill Clinton-at the center of the story, particularly her dominant, sometimes disastrous role in Bill’s scandal-plagued administration. Ever the investigative reporter, the author serves up chapters of eye-glazing Whitewater arcana and probes Hillary’s emotional turmoil as she defends Bill from bimbo eruptions, but flits through her entire post-impeachment career as a high-profile senator and leader of the Democratic party in a scant 19 pages. Bernstein provides a densely detailed road-map of Hillary’s life, but we get little sense of where the Journey has taken her. Photos. Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

A little hard to follow,...so much back and forth and so many characters but all was necessary. Interesting review and perspective

Because of the current run between Hillary and Trump, I felt compelled to have a better understanding of the woman my vote will be, I hope no longer grudgingly cast for.There are 8-9 years between the writing of this book and now. What has she learned since? Enough to engender confidence in her? I have more reading to do and not much time to do it!

Bery well written and researched. This seems to be a rather balanced treatment of a very controversial subject. The book gave me a much greater insight into events that have probably caused Hillary Clinton to be so secretive and to attract so much negative press coverage.

"A Woman in Charge" is the second full-length biography of Hillary Clinton that I have undertaken to read in order to educate myself prior to the 2016 election. It goes without saying that I wanted the most authoritative and unbiased information possible on the Democratic candidate prior to exercising my own franchise this voting season. This book is thorough, detailed, and well researched, but I found it more than a bit challenging to absorb and analyze. I found it helpful, and perhaps I will revisit it in more depth in the future.

This is the first biography of Hillary Clinton that I have read, and I read it because I wanted to "get to know" her before the election. I have to admit she wasn't my first choice for the Democratic nomination but after reading this book I feel comfortable supporting her. Bernstein delivers what I believe to be a mostly fair-handed portrait of Secretary Clinton, pointing out her flaws as well as the difficulty of the circumstances she faced as First Lady. While I find Bernstein's writing style far from inspiring and even sloppy at times he does convey Secretary Clinton as a woman who has often been isolated by her own choice when it comes to seeking support for policy initiatives. She has at times worked with an inner circle of supporters, who really seem to be the troops in the battle for change that she leads. It is clear from Bernstein's book that Secretary Clinton has made numerous mistakes in trying to achieve her political goals -- what politician hasn't -- but it is equally clear that over time she has learned from those mistakes as her approach to her election to the Senate exemplifies. I was not aware of the role her faith plays in her career. This seems to give her more depth than the general public might think in developing policy ideas. Will she make a perfect President? No, no one can. After reading "A Woman in Charge," though, I believe that she can make a very good President based on her past political experience and her ability to learn from the unsuccessful strategies she attempted in some of her previous political endeavors. The book was written nearly ten years ago and therefore does not address the current campaign for the presidency. Instead of the hatred Hillary Clinton's name seems to inspire these days, I think the woman deserves a chance to lead this country. She has certainly earned my respect.

Interesting. Even handed I thought. She is one tough woman.

I found the book very interesting. I don’t feel it was biased. You get the good, the bad and the ugly. I am sure there will be people who see it in their on eyes of their opinions of Hilary.

Balanced. Objective. Nothing after 2008.

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