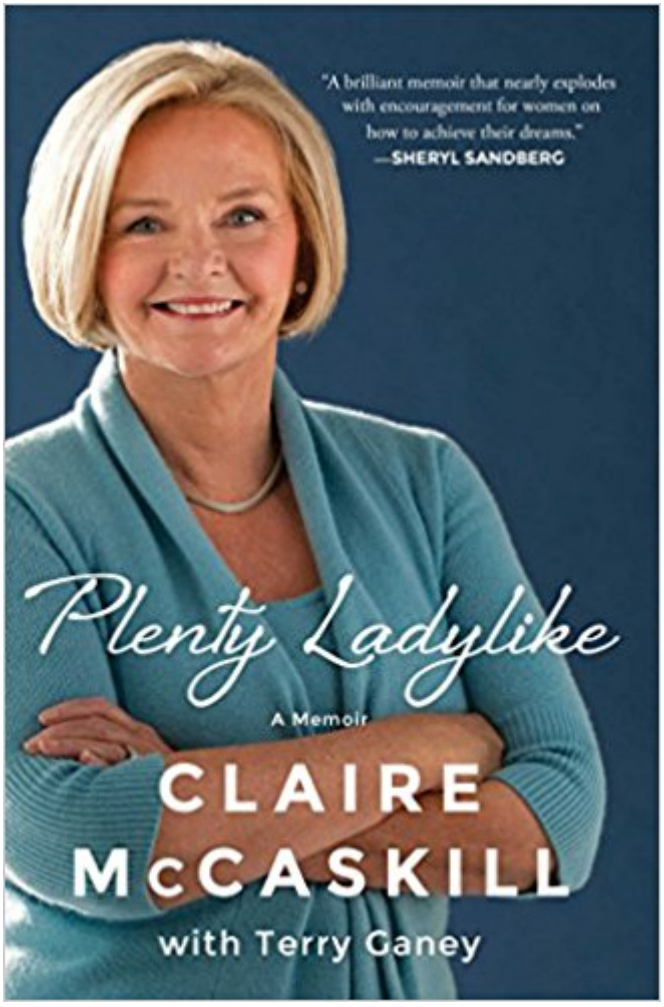
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Plenty Ladylike: A Memoir



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Synopsis

The senator from Missouri shares her Ã¢â ¬Å“straightforward, plainspoken, and at once deeply personal and thoroughly politicalÃ¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly) story of embracing her ambition, surviving sexism, making a family, losing a husband, outsmarting her enemiesÃ¢â ¬â •and finding joy along the way.Claire McCaskill grew up in a political family, but not at a time that welcomed women with big plans. She earned a law degree and paid her way through school by working as a waitress. By 1982 Claire had set her sights on the Missouri House of Representatives. That door was slammed in her face, but Claire always kept pushingÃ¢â ¬â •first as a prosecutor of arsonists and rapists and then all the way to the door of a cabal of Missouri politicians, who had secret meetings to block her legislation. In this candid, lively, and forthright memoir, Senator McCaskill describes her uphill battle to become who she is today, from her failed first marriage to a Kansas City car dealerÃ¢â ¬â •the father of her three childrenÃ¢â ¬â •to her current marriage to a Missouri businessman whom she describes as Ã¢â ¬Å“a life partner.Ã¢â ¬Â• She depicts her ups and downs with the Clintons, her long-shot reelection as senator after secretly helping to nominate a right-wing extremist as her opponent, and the fun of joining the growing bipartisan sisterhood in the Senate. Unconventional, unsparing in its honesty, full of sharp humor and practical wisdom, and rousing in its defense of female ambition, Ã¢â ¬Å“Plenty Ladylike is a powerful, unapologetic primer on the successful exercise of real power and what it takes to get it, keep it, and use it. This is a brilliant memoir that nearly explodes with encouragement for women on how to achieve their dreamsÃ¢â ¬Â• (Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook COO and author of Lean In).

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Women

Customer Reviews

"Senator McCaskill is a role model for women who aspire to win on their own terms. Plenty Ladylike is a powerful, unapologetic primer on the successful exercise of real power and what it takes to get it, keep it, and use it.Ã Â This is a brilliant memoir that nearly explodes with encouragement for women on how to achieve their dreams." (Sheryl Sandberg, Facebook COO and author of Lean In)Ã¢â ¬Å“Plenty Ladylike reclaims hard work, boldness, and tenacity as essential ladylike qualities. ClaireÃ¢â ¬â„¢s successes, from demanding taxpayersÃ¢â ¬â„¢ dollars are used effectively to passing new protections for victims of sexual assault, make clear that women should run for and demand a seat at the table.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Donna Brazile, Vice Chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee)"Honest and fearless, Claire McCaskill is one of the most authentic and compelling people I have met in public life. In this candid memoir, she recalls a journey of struggle and triumph that underscores the unique challenges women face in a male-dominated arena. It's a great story." (David Axelrod, former Senior Advisor to the President)"Claire McCaskillÃ¢â ¬â„¢s trademark invincibility was forged in childhood--inspired by exceptional parents, powered by a bone-deep self-confidence, and driven by a defiant rejection of any gender stereotyping that might stand in her way. In her electrifying and bracingly honest memoir, Plenty Ladylike, McCaskill reveals how her tireless ambition and steely spirit fueled the fascinating upward trajectory of her life. I was spellbound by McCaskillÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story, and I know that women everywhere will cheer along with me at her march into the pages of history." (Marlo Thomas, actress and author of Free to Be...You and Me)"Claire is known by her colleagues for her courage, leadership, and resolve. Plenty Ladylike is an honest and heartfelt look into how she became the first woman from the state of Missouri elected to serve in the United States Senate. Her story is both instructional and inspirational for all people committed to the unfinished business of America: making our nation a place of liberty and justice for all, no matter your race, religion, or gender." (Cory Booker, US Senator) "Claire McCaskill has always been a fighter for what she believes in, and a powerful advocate for women." (Ellen Malcolm, Founder of EMILY's List)Ã¢â ¬Å“McCaskillÃ¢â ¬â„¢s memoir is straightforward, plainspoken, and at once deeply personal and thoroughly political.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Publishers Weekly)"A highly readable, relatively fast moving and surprisingly frank political autobiography." (Kansas City Star)"Vivid detail. . . . What will strike a reader is not only her candidness when talking about the challenges of working with the men she has grown up with in politics but also her willingness to go where few politicians do and

talk about deeply emotional parts of her life like her divorce, finding love again and the death of her mom, Betty Anne. . . . ItÃ¢â ¬â„¢s plenty clear [Plenty Ladylike] is not just another politicianÃ¢â ¬â„¢s book. . . . Amid stories of the tough road traveled by women in politics, Plenty Ladylike offers a narrative of encouragement for them to do it anyway." (The Joplin Globe)Ã¢â ¬Å“A quietly charming, inspiring memoir.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Kirkus Reviews)"Regardless of the readerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s political bent, it would be hard not to appreciate McCaskillÃ¢â ¬â„¢s feisty ascent through what had been a male-dominated political realm. Her tale . . . rings true to her persona as an ambitious, plain-spoken leader who wins her way, without apology." (St. Louis Post-Dispatch)"A crisp read. . . . It seldom slows down." (St. Joseph News-Press)Ã¢â ¬Å“An eye-opening read with perspective on the continual evolution of American politics.Ã¢â ¬Â• (Biographile.com)

In 2006 Claire McCaskill was the first woman from Missouri elected as a United States senator and continues to serve in that position today. She has a BA and a JD from the University of Missouri and worked for the Jackson County prosecutorÃ¢â ¬â„¢s office before she was elected to her first state legislature position in the Missouri House in 1982. She lives in St. Louis with her husband and blended family of seven children and nine grandchildren. Plenty Ladylike is her first book.

I enjoyed this book very much. It’s a fast read that comes across like a series of transcribed discussions with the senator. Although it’s a political memoir, McCaskill directs much of it to female readers who are looking for role models, particularly those interested in entering political life. McCaskill is a shrewd and tough politician whose experiences will give any fledgling electee, male or female, a vivid sense of what is really involved in 21st-century American politics. She deserves credit for sticking to her beliefs and being clear about her priorities, rare qualities in American political life today. She comes across here much like she does in her media persona: straightforward, no-nonsense, maybe occasionally a little blunt, and very, very Missouri.It’s worth the price of the book just to read about how McCaskill maneuvered Todd Akin into being the candidate for the 2012 Republican nominee for her senate seat. That was some brilliant, exciting politics, and yeah, maybe it was just a tiny bit mucky. My only complaint is that she could have been more reflective in this book. McCaskill writes interestingly about her 2004 loss to Roy Blunt in the MO governor’s race, and there ponders at length her image, her political strategies, what she considers important in campaigning, and her gauge of Missouri’s political landscape. I would have enjoyed more passages like this. That said, the book is still a page turner and far better than a lot of the puffy political memoirs out there.

This year, for the first time in my life, I switched from Republican to Independent because I see the GOP being taken over by religious zealots! They can't separate church and state. They treat women the same way their Muslim counterparts do in the Middle East. They control Congress the way segregationist did in the 60's and it will take another civil rights movement to dislodge them. That civil rights movement will come from women and the men who love them. Thanks senator for sharing your story!

I saw an interview about this book and was so excited to read it, but it's a bit shallow. I know it's a memoir, but it just skims over things that seemed like rather important points in her life. Readable in one sitting (if you don't have kids or dogs lol).

This would be a great book for anyone interested in public office. It shares a lot of details about the nitty gritty of campaigning and strategies used that got Senator McCaskill elected. Any reader from Missouri will also feel a kinship with her and will be able to draw connections from what she writes about and what you remember happening or seeing on the news when you were younger. All-in-all a great, quick read.

I saw McCaskill interviewed on tv and was impressed with her manner, so decided to get the book. I knew little about her, I'm not from Missouri, but none of that mattered. If you keep up with or are somewhat interested in politics, you will enjoy this look into how the political process works. It's a very balanced, reflective memoir.

A very inspiring and wonderful autobiography. Senator McCaskill is incredible.

Absolutely fantastic! A great politician. Open, honest, engaging. Please, don't step away from politics! If not in the senate, then as the head of education (it's all $$) or some group who knows how to find missing money. I knew nothing about you, but you have my confidence and my vote!

Bright. remarkable woman with sense of humor and courage and the guts to get it done. Brings home the reality of the hard work women must do today despite the gains we have made in politics and public office and the workplace. Wonderful to know she is a presence in Washington with values that women and men can champion.

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