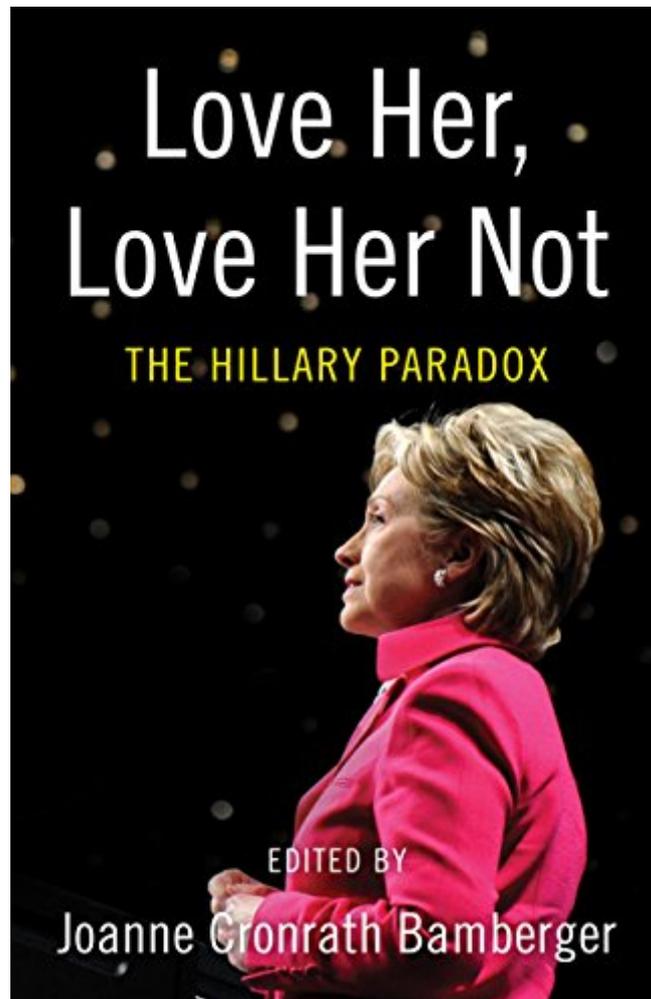


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Love Her, Love Her Not: The Hillary Paradox



Synopsis

Hillary Clinton's name is on everyone's lips almost every day as we are knee deep in the 2016 presidential election. But as we know from the 2008 presidential campaign, and its outcome, Clinton evokes extreme and varied emotions among voters in a way no other candidate in recent memory has. But why? Does she have to be likable? Do baby boomers have too much history with her? Why do Gen X-ers admire her? Can we "forgive her" for not being perfect? Is she doomed because women project their own insecurities onto her? Can she use a "family agenda" to be elected? Can she thread the needle between a softer, gentler Hillary and a tough commander in chief Hillary? *Love Her, Love Her Not: The Hillary Paradox* delves into the nuances of our complicated feelings about one of the most powerful women ever in American politics. In this timely collection, editor/author Joanne Cronrath Bamberger provides the narrative framework through which to view the history that's led us to this moment in time--the moment when voters must decide whether they can forgive Hillary Clinton for not being the perfect candidate or the perfect woman and finally elect our first woman president -- then hands to stage to a unique and diverse group of writers of all ages, walks of life, and political affiliations, while also weighing in with her own essay, "I Don't Need Hillary Clinton to Be Perfect." Timely and fresh, *Love Her, Love Her Not* will provoke new conversations and push political and cultural dialogue in the US to a new level.

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Customer Reviews

Hillary Clinton is a person. I know this because I met her with six other 9/11 widows at a session of Congress held in New York in 2002. She seemed to me a person with whom I'd want to have a beer. Hillary Clinton is also an industry, an icon, a past FLOTUS, a would-be POTUS, a former Senator, a once-time Secretary of State; a focus for our dreams or our mindless rage. Or our ambivalence. The last is captured brilliantly in a group of thoughtful, balanced essays that make up "Love Her, Love Her Not: The Hillary Paradox," edited by Joanne Bamberger. The essays appeal to the unsure in all of us. They succeed in taking apart and scrutinizing those aspects of Hillary Clinton that have always been discussed, like her propensity for pants suits or her age, and those that don't get as much attention, like the faith that drives her. Some of the pieces are humorous; some are deadly serious. Some of the writers know Clinton better than others. While no one resorts to mindless vitriol, we get a reasoned examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the person and the myth. Bamberger titles her own essay "I Don't Need Hillary Clinton to be Perfect." I don't think I do, but I appreciate receiving permission to accept the conflicts I may feel about the woman who may well become our next President.

Joanne Conrath Bamberger did a great job pulling together this collection on Hillary Clinton. It gives insight into a woman who has been the target of an orchestrated smear campaign for decades. Others are now seeing that Hillary is not only accomplished, but human -- what some of us have known for a very long time. Love Her, Love Her Not ... my response is Love Her!

I love the idea of this book and I congratulate Joanne Conrath Bamberger for pulling it off. Hillary Clinton has always been seen as an enigma--is she or isn't she aloof, trustworthy, interested in anyone but herself? The writers in this book took their tasks seriously (but still had fun), and whatever their feelings about her as a politician and a candidate, they each saw her as a human being. (That alone is refreshing!) I loved reading the different takes, the different opinions from some of my favorite women, as well as by writers new to me. An easy, fascinating read. I definitely recommend it, especially now, when Hillary Clinton is running for the highest job in the land.

I am about to do something I've never done before: Leave a comment for a book I haven't finished yet. The reason I am doing it is because I'm so excited about recommending it, I didn't want to wait any longer. (I'm most of the way through; I highly doubt I'll come across anything that will change my impression so far.) This is a timely and essential book, like a concordance for the current election year. Reading these essays gives me the feeling of having a conversation with an array of friends with different views and observations about the woman who could be president. This is important, because the media shines a harsh and unrelenting glare on Hillary Clinton's, well--everything, from her clothing to her hair to her "crimes" to her speaking voice, it is often difficult to stay focused on the person and her message. I am enjoying each and every essay because I'm able to take in the information and process it with my own understanding of the woman and the candidate. Joanne Bamberger did a wonderful job of curating these essays into a easily read and thought provoking book. Her introduction leads us seamlessly into the first essay (about pantsuits!) and each essay after flows straightforwardly into the next. This is a Hillary Clinton primer, a reintroduction to what she's done and to what she probably can do.

In these times of many candidates and complicated issues, this collection of essays is organized in a way that makes it easy to reflect and dissect the candidate, Hillary Clinton. This book is so clever- in style and content. Each essay gives me more to think about- and wondering how I strayed so far from my "independent thinking" and "feminist" roots. Joanne Bamberger has done a great job of presenting many views and aspects of Hillary and allowing me, the reader, to form and shape my own opinions and positions as I continue to tangle with the decision as to which candidate(s) to support. I came away, most of all, as seeing Hillary Clinton as a woman who has been part of the politic of the United States for a long time and that there are many aspects of the candidates that are "ruling" my decision- some of which are probably not the best guides. I only wish that there were books like this for each of the current candidates as I now feel the need to untangle each of their webs.

The essays in this book are written by women whose assessments of Hillary Clinton are based on thoughtful reflection on her, her history, and vision, In other words, her life-long efforts on behalf of women and children, the poor and under-served. What made this a 'helpful read' for me was that the authors were not 'over reactive nor defensive; neither 'smitten nor brutally dismissive' of her. Instead, most concluded Hillary's actions and accomplishments were likely to be far more predictive

of her than media mantras describing her as untrustworthy. Their anticipation of Hillary is not 'she will be perfect' but that she will work hard, be compassionate, inclusive and mature extending the scope of the "American experiment"!

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