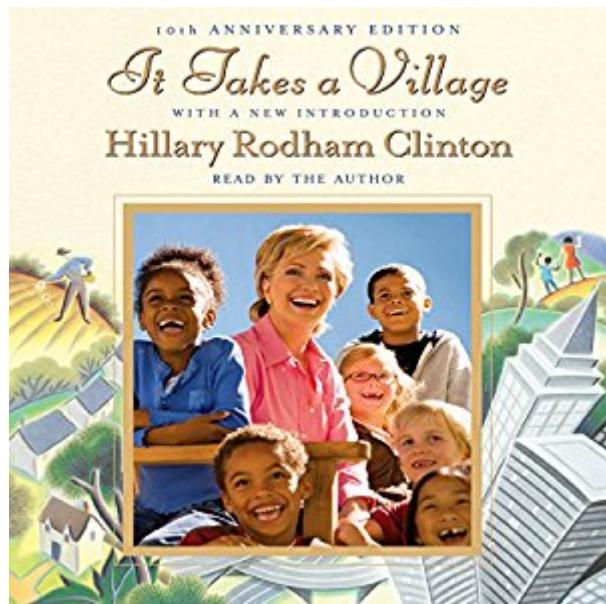


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# It Takes A Village



## **Synopsis**

2016 Democratic Nominee for President of the United States In celebration of the tenth anniversary of *It Takes a Village*, this splendid edition includes photographs and a new Introduction by Hillary Rodham Clinton. A decade ago, then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton chronicled her quest—both deeply personal and, in the truest sense, public—to help make our society into the kind of village that enables children to become smart, able, resilient adults. *It Takes a Village* is “a textbook for caring....Filled with truths that are worth a read, and a reread” (The Dallas Morning News). For more than thirty-five years, Senator Clinton has made children her passion and her cause. Her long experience—not only through her roles as mother, daughter, sister, and wife but also as advocate, legal expert, and public servant—has strengthened her conviction that how children develop and what they need to succeed are inextricably entwined with the society in which they live and how well it sustains and supports its families and individuals. In other words, it takes a village to raise a child. In her new Introduction, Senator Clinton reflects on how our village has changed over the last decade—from the impact of the Internet to new research in early child development and education. She discusses issues of increasing concern—security, the environment, the national debt—and looks at where we have made progress and where there is still work to be done. *It Takes a Village* has become a classic. As relevant as ever, this anniversary edition makes it abundantly clear that the choices we make today about how we raise our children and how we support families will determine how our nation will face the challenges of this century. --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

good

Well received by the recipient

As a conservative, I was so surprised with Mrs. Clinton's old fashion values that I had to do a quick check of her formative years - to find she was president of the Young Republicans at Wellesley College! I've heard plenty of reviews for *It Takes a Village* that assume she is advocating parents relinquish their children to government programming, but was pleasantly surprised to find the opposite. As in my own writing, she explains the importance of two dedicated and married parents in a child's life, however, if parents are not able or willing to care for their children, Clinton calls for the support of others willing to take their place, other family members, mentors, teachers, foster and adoptive parents. In fact, even the perfect home-life benefits from a community concerned about our children. The Village is not state run schools. The Village is parents, extended family, neighbors, caretakers and those in government who claim to protect children, something we as a community were better at a couple generations ago she admits. Unlike the current authoritarian Common Core agenda, Hillary Clinton repeatedly advocates "National goals with local controls," school choice and charter schools. Her book is not an essay to advance more government, but that we better utilize the programs which were intended to support families and children. She points out how well intentioned programs are failing; allowing easy divorces, judges taking children away from adoptive parents, schools that graduate students who cannot compete and a healthcare system that is upside down. She points out, and statistics support, that our country already pays for national healthcare, more than ANY country that does provide free healthcare. In fact we even pay for healthcare in other countries, but are not receiving the care we have paid for here. I appreciate her discussion of "the Forgotten Half," Americans who do not go to college and would benefit from more trade-skills and support of shop classes in high school. Although parents and teacher, both liberal and conservative will enjoy this articulate book if they can get past prejudice, I believe it was intended for her fellow politicians and voting citizens and I recommend they do read it. Clinton was a long time legal advocate for families and children and states that is our country's most important political endeavor. If she becomes president, I do hope that she stands by that statement and

makes our children THE top priority. I did not buy the book, but picked it up at the public library, a resource I highly recommend.

The book looks gently used as promised. I'm very pleased.

When this book first came out I bought into the conservative hype that is was nothing but liberal tripe. But then, with Hillary running for president and doing well, I decided to read it for myself. Yea, you read that right. I adopted an opinion before reading the book. What I found was a down to earth, practical read that encourages governments, communities and homes to value children. It offers some great advice. I recommend it highly.

I have heard about this book over the years but did not get around to reading it until 2016. People made fun of the book without reading it and I sensed they were mistaken, but without reading it myself I could not mount a convincing argument. In this book Clinton talks about raising children. In the introduction she states, "Parents bear the first and primary responsibility for their sons and daughters." She goes on to say how she was blessed with a hardworking father and a devoted mother, and also with "caring neighbors, attentive doctors, challenging public schools, and an economy that supported my father's job." And this is what most of the book is about, securing these advantages for all children. It is not socialist or anything like that. It is about helping children and families. In some ways, Clinton comes across as a bit old-fashioned, saying that "it would be great if we could get kids to postpone any decision about sex until they are over twenty-one." But she is also practical, admitting that kids are confronted with sex every time they turn around, so sex education is necessary even though "we should do everything in our power to discourage sexual activity and encourage abstinence." By the way, she also mentions religious faith and how it helped her. Elsewhere she mentions abortion, which she would like to see less of even though she has been painted as the pro-choice candidate. She mentions that "one and a half million abortions are performed in America each year. It is a national shame that many Americans are more thoughtful about planning their weekend entertainment than they are about planning their families.. sensible family planning here and around the world would decrease the demand for legal and illegal abortions saving maternal and infant lives." She even mentions how divorce can be hard on children. Later she discusses the importance of guidance and limits on the behavior of young people. There is more to this book but I mention these issues because they are controversial right now and people fail to understand that Clinton is clear-thinking and cares a lot about children. I am only awarding

four stars because the book is now 20 years old and somewhat dated. When it was written, many children in the USA did not have health insurance and some space is devoted to the sad problems that this caused. Now more of them do, and hopefully this will continue, although the greed of insurers and some companies providing health services may drive the price of insurance into an unaffordable range. There are also some places where the book dragged a little, at least for me. I don't have young children any more, plus my attention span for reading is shorter than it used to be. But overall, it is a good treatise on improving the lives of children.

This isn't a book by some left-wing nut-job. This is a very practical and middle of the road book. I listened to the audio cd.....read by Clinton. Well, she's not the best reader. Her voice tends to go a little robotic. I mean, there are people that do this for a living.....hire them. But, the message and reasoning in this book I found to be quite good. Highly recommended. And, if you're someone who loves or hates it just based on the author; then feel free to keep your thoughts to yourself. If you're able to forget who wrote it, I bet the VAST majority of people would actually agree with the things said within.

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