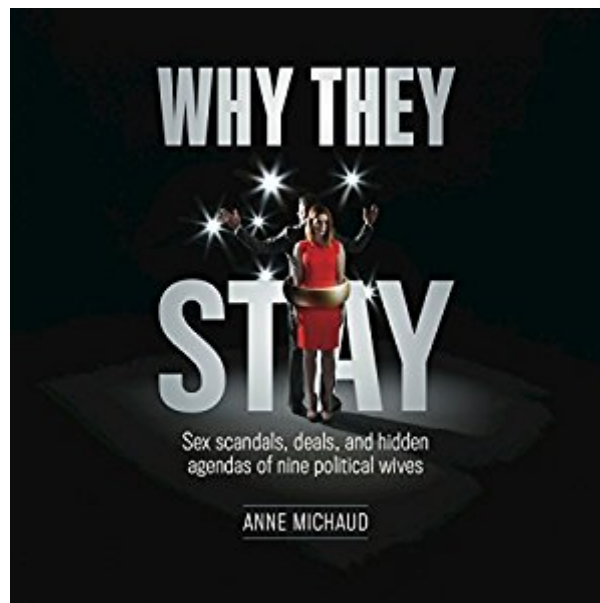




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Why They Stay: Sex Scandals, Deals, And Hidden Agendas Of Nine Political Wives



Synopsis

Why They Stay explores the reasoning and motivation of wives who stay with their politician-husbands after they cheat. Hillary Clinton couldn't have known in 1998 how her husband's high-profile philandering would play out. Would he be rehabilitated in the public eye? She took the gamble. Had she left the marriage, today she might be the spurned wife of a retired politician instead of the first American woman to run for president on a major party ticket. Looking back on the path chosen by the nine political wives profiled in this book, we have the evidence to see a pattern as old as the dynastic maneuverings of England's medieval queens. The women married to the "royalty" of our times, politicians, make similar cold calculations in order to hold onto their "thrones" and their family's history-making potential. After covering politicians for decades, acclaimed columnist Anne Michaud switched her gaze to the women behind the cheating men. Drawing from multiple sources that span the Roosevelts' marriage to the more recent scandal involving Hillary Clinton's closest aide Huma Abedin (wife of sexter Anthony Weiner), *Why They Stay: Sex Scandals, Deals, and Hidden Agendas of Nine Political Wives* argues that when it comes to the "power behind the throne", women in the limelight weigh the risks and rewards. They remain loyal to their men, because of complex, often unconscious forces. From mapping a path to power to laudable notions of holding the family together, Michaud examines the uniquely challenging Faustian bargains that political wives grapple with, even as the public spotlight illuminates their every move.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

What a well-written, well-researched, entertaining book "Why They Stay" is! I never really understood why wives of philandering politicians chose to "stand by their man," especially when the humiliating and deeply disrespectful behavior was repetitive. Author Anne Michaud has done a great deal of research into the backgrounds of both the politicians and their aggrieved wives to draw compelling conclusions as to why this is so. She is a gifted writer who is able to take a lot of information and sift through it so that we are given the shiniest nuggets of fascinating details to contemplate. And her writing style is superb! I could not put the book down. Whatever you've heard or read about Jackie and JFK, Hillary and Bill, Huma and Anthony or any of the other political couples Ms. Michaud analyzes in her book, you will learn so much more. It's fascinating and titillating, but it doesn't overreach and devolve into smarmy gossip to pull you in. The fact that it's balanced, smart, informative and honest is plenty enough to make it an extremely engaging read.

The line that this book reminded me of comes from Scott Fitzgerald: "Let me tell you about the very rich. They are different from you and me." This may or may not have been true in his day, and it may or may not be true today. I don't have enough experience of that world to be sure. A world that I know better is that of politics and - to some extent - political families. And here it certainly holds. The artifice, the deceit, the mirages and the power games are all well described in this very well-researched book. It is certainly a must read for anyone from outside a political dynasty who is thinking of marrying into one! For the rest of us, it lifts the curtain on the real drivers of "political couples" - especially the wives, of course - and the trade-offs that come with such proximity to power and the hunger for it. Any of your remaining political naivety - if such a thing is still possible in the 21st century - should be well and truly crushed out of you after a few chapters. Maintaining a lifestyle, keeping up appearances, protecting the family and creating the legacy: these are the key objectives of the "White Queens" described by Anne Michaud. My favourite point was that one thing that keeps the wives of adulterous politicians from leaving is the fact that they are so used to reading nonsense about their husbands in the papers that it often takes a long time before they start to believe that the ones about philandering might actually be true! For this reader, I could have dispensed with some of the family details about some of the couples in question, but other readers may buy the book precisely to find out whether what was in the media at the time was true or not. So, overall: nice job!

Having grown up professionally in the world of politics, it was refreshing to read a book on a topic like this that neither sensationalizes nor pretends to hold all the answers. Just well-researched,

objective and interesting insights from a knowledgeable writer with no political agenda. Especially in today's world when politics and government don't always make sense, it's good to have a thoughtful, substantive and easy-to-read book that helps answer a question you know so many of us have asked.

Well written and fascinating. The behind the scenes stories of 9 political wives and why they stay with their cheating husbands. Includes gripping take on Huma Abedin and Hillary Clinton.

Anne Michaud has written the book of the year. So much political and scandalous intrigue. This is Real Political Housewives of the United States. Not a reality show, a realty. What a page turner. Now, we have some answers to why they stay. A true and well-researched unraveling of the most high profile political marriages of our lifetime. Highly recommend this book.

The author has covered many male politicians in her career, and now she turns her attention to the wives of politicians who have stood by their men in spite of infidelities and scandals. The book is well-researched and well written. But if you're looking for salacious details or gossip, you've come to the wrong place. The book is exactly what it says it is: it is an accounting of each woman and what her possible motives are for having stood by her man. One thing I found particularly interesting was the conjecture that the women see themselves not as an appendage to a powerful man, but as half of a team. In this instance, the woman chooses the mission of the team over herself. When a woman sees the team's potential for good, she can stand up to the disapproval of others for her choice to stay with her husband. Women included in this book are Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Kennedy, Valerie Hobson, Marion Stein, Hillary Clinton, Hilda Wall, Wendy Vitter, Huma Abedin, and Gila Katsav.

In WHY THEY STAY Anne Michaud has brought us an intriguing and well written analysis of nine political marriages and the wives and husbands who lived these relationships....Michaud gives us the unique background of the underlying family histories that shaped these political marriages...As an experienced journalist, the author has done extensive research to support her comparisons, contrasts and conclusions about what motivates and sustains these marriages...To see what motivates these couples is fascinating as well as disturbing.....But I recommend you read the book, part history, part sociology, and decide for yourself...

Anne Michaud has written a fascinating book about a topic I've been intrigued by for a long time. Her book is really well written and extremely thoroughly researched. I couldn't put it down. I especially enjoyed reading about Hillary Clinton and the in depth look at her relationship with her husband. This is one not to miss!

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