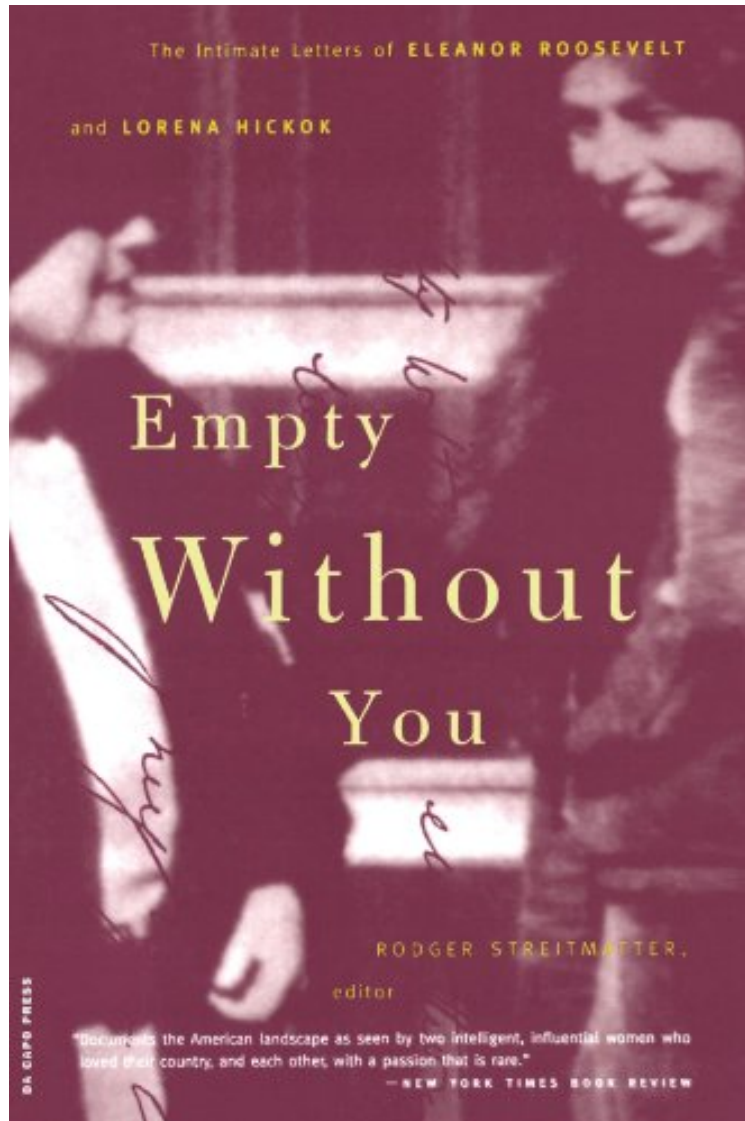


[Download ebook] Empty Without You: The Intimate Letters Of Eleanor Roosevelt And Lorena Hickok

Empty Without You: The Intimate Letters Of Eleanor Roosevelt And Lorena Hickok

Rodger Streitmatter

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Rodger Streitmatter : Empty Without You: The Intimate Letters Of Eleanor Roosevelt And Lorena Hickok before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Empty Without You: The Intimate Letters Of Eleanor Roosevelt And Lorena Hickok:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. GiftBy KCI purchased this as a gift for my wife. She loved it and would continually make me stop what I was doing so she could tell me about something in the book. At some point, when time permits, I will read it as well.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyed this bookBy chattyEnjoyed this book, but toward the end it became a little repetitive. Good insight into the strength and character of Eleanor Roosevelt.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I'm glad Eleanor had someone she could trust and talk toBy Ann MargaretI'm glad Eleanor had someone she could trust and talk to. I think Ms. Hickok didn't get the credit she deserved in history for helping Eleanor have a clear picture of what matters to American people. Especially at that time. So what if they were lovers. I can see where she would be quite lonely.

In 1978, more than 3,500 letters written over a thirty-year friendship between Eleanor Roosevelt and Lorena Hickok were discovered by archivists. Although the most explicit letters had been burned (Lorena told Eleanor's daughter, "Your mother wasn't always so very discreet in her letters to me"), the find was still electrifying enough to create controversy about the nature of the women's relationship. Historian Rodger Streitmatter has transcribed and annotated more than 300 of those letterspublished here for the first timeand put them within the context of the lives of these two extraordinary women, allowing us to understand the role of this remarkable friendship in Roosevelt's transformation into a crusading First Lady.

.com In June 1932, pioneering newswoman Lorena Hickok was assigned to FDR's presidential campaign by the Associated Press. To her surprise, she found Eleanor Roosevelt taking special notice of her. As their friendship grew, Hickok's devotion to the future first lady so overcame her scruples that she sent drafts of her articles to the head of Roosevelt's campaign for approval. After the election, the women began the passionate correspondence--cheerful and diary-like on Eleanor's side, and stormy on Lorena's--presented here. As suggestive as these letters seemed when they came to light in 1978, they don't demonstrate conclusively whether the women had a sexual affair, only that they became, for three or four years, each other's "dearest." They kissed and caressed each other and dreamt of a life together away from Washington. What is more significant is that these years marked Eleanor Roosevelt's transformation from a supportive wife to an independent political force, and the letters show Hickok's advice and encouragement to be essential to that transformation. Only with Hickok's support did the first lady gain confidence for her remarkable achievements in race relations and expanded roles for women. Good footnotes supplement the text, but the bland introductory notes can be skipped in favor of the women's story in their own words. --Regina MarlerFrom Publishers WeeklyHaving fought her way to the top of the news room, AP reporter Lorena Hickok refused to write women's page pieces on Eleanor Roosevelt when she was assigned to cover FDR's campaign for governor of New York in 1928. By the time FDR ran for president, his wife had become one of his most trusted political advisers, and it was inevitable that she and Hickok ("Hick") would meet. Their fascinating correspondence is a testimonial not only to a passionate (and at one time undoubtedly physical) relationship, but to both women's remarkable intelligence and humanity. Eleanor's letters record much: her daily routine; her role as mother; her love for Hick; and her unabashed views on politics, racism, poverty, war and women's roles. Eleanor redefined the role of first lady from model housewife to political adviser and, with Hick's help, she wrote articles and eventually her own syndicated column. For her part, Hick, fearing conflict of interest, gave up her job at AP and took a position in the Roosevelt administration as a relief investigator. But she missed reporting, and the long hours of travel also undermined her confidence in her relationship with Eleanor. The letters speak of botched attempts at privacy, disrupted plans and endless apologies from Eleanor, but their relationship endured, evolving from one of lovers to one of devoted friends. The editorial comments are minimal (mostly constrained to prologue, epilogue and notes highlighting the fairly obvious passages indicating a physical relationship). Still, on its own this collection provides not only a heart-wrenching and personal look at a friendship but also a unique view of a turbulent time in American history. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalEleanor Roosevelt defined the role of activist First Lady. Lorena Hickok was the preeminent female journalist of the 1930s and became the top political reporter for the Associated Press. Together they shared a caring, passionate relationship for 30 years. Streitmatter, author of *Unspeakable: The Rise of the Gay and Lesbian Press* (LJ 11/15/95), here collects 300 of the more than 3500 letters Roosevelt and Hickok wrote to each other from 1933 until Eleanor's death in 1962. These skillfully annotated letters provide an intriguing portrait of two dynamic women devoted to each other, who may or may not have shared a lesbian relationship. The most fascinating letters are Hickok's reports to Eleanor about the human struggles during the Depression that she wrote while serving as chief investigator for the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Sadly, many of the letters show an unraveling of their relationship, largely caused by Hickok's public rages and mental and physical deterioration. These often enchanting letters illuminate a to-the-death friendship, just as *Closest Companion* (LJ 4/1/95) does for Franklin Roosevelt and his confidante Margaret Suckley. Recommended for larger public and women's studies collections.?Karl Helicher, Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.