



# The Reviews Are In

## *Hillary Clinton's Latest Memoir Lands In Bookstores With A Thud*

### CLINTON'S NEW BOOK IS "DESTROYED BY CRITICS" FOR BEING A "NEWSLESS SNORE" AND LACKING DEPTH

**Business Insider** Headline: "Hillary Clinton's Book Is Being Destroyed By Critics" (Colin Campbell, "Hillary Clinton's Book Is Being Destroyed By Critics," [Business Insider](#), 6/9/14)

- **Clinton's New Memoir Has Been "Savaged By Critics For Being Overly Cautious And, As A Result, Uninteresting."** "Democratic presidential front-runner Hillary Clinton's new memoir 'Hard Choices' officially launches Tuesday morning, but it's already being savaged by critics for being overly cautious and, as a result, uninteresting." (Colin Campbell, "Hillary Clinton's Book Is Being Destroyed By Critics," [Business Insider](#), 6/9/14)

**Politico's Mike Allen: Clinton's Memoir Is A "Newsless Snore."** "WELCOME TO HILLARY WEEK! TRUTH BOMB 1: 'Hard Choices' is a newsless snore, written so carefully not to offend that it will fuel the notion that politics infuses every part of her life. In this book, like in 'The Lego Movie' theme song, everyone is awesome!" (Mike Allen, [Politico Playbook](#), 6/9/14)

- **Allen: "In This Book, Like In 'The Lego Movie' Theme Song, Everyone Is Awesome!"** "WELCOME TO HILLARY WEEK! TRUTH BOMB 1: 'Hard Choices' is a newsless snore, written so carefully not to offend that it will fuel the notion that politics infuses every part of her life. In this book, like in 'The Lego Movie' theme song, everyone is awesome!" (Mike Allen, [Politico Playbook](#), 6/9/14)

**CBS News' John Dickerson: "Clinton's Account Is The Low-Salt, Low-Fat, Low-Calorie Offering With Vanilla Pudding As The Dessert. She Goes On At Great Length, But Not Great Depth."** (John Dickerson, "Hillary Clinton's 'Hard Choices': New Book Plays It Safe," [CBS News](#), 6/6/14)

- **Dickerson: "Parents Who Read It Will Startle No Sleeping Children Reacting To Its Admissions, And Nothing In It Would Seem To Imperil Clinton's Future Presidential Chances..."** "This book, which is not scheduled to launch until June 10, but which clever elves from CBS This Morning found in a bookstore, is a risk-free telling of Clinton's world travels. Parents who read it will startle no sleeping children reacting to its admissions, and nothing in it would seem to imperil Clinton's future presidential chances—though Vladimir Putin, whom she calls 'thin skinned,' might be grumpy if they ever have a bilateral meeting together." (John Dickerson, "Hillary Clinton's 'Hard Choices': New Book Plays It Safe," [CBS News](#), 6/6/14)

- **“But What She Does Not Tell Us What She Learned From Blowing Any Of The Hard Choices.”** (John Dickerson, “Hillary Clinton’s ‘Hard Choices’: New Book Plays It Safe,” [CBS News](#), 6/6/14)

***The Washington Post’s David Ignatius: “In ‘Hard Choices,’ Hillary Clinton Is Seen As Hesitant To Take Big Risks”*** (David Ignatius, Op-Ed, “In ‘Hard Choices,’ Hillary Clinton Is Seen As Hesitant To Take Big Risks,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/9/14)

- **“[I]n These Many Hundreds Of Pages, There Are Very Few Deals Concluded, Agreements Signed, Policies Brought To Fruition.”** “One criticism of Clinton has been that while she was a good ‘representational’ diplomat (willing to be a ‘punching bag,’ she says, if that would help America), she was not as good in the ‘transactional’ part of the job. And it’s true — in these many hundreds of pages, there are very few deals concluded, agreements signed, policies brought to fruition.” (David Ignatius, Op-Ed, “In ‘Hard Choices,’ Hillary Clinton Is Seen As Hesitant To Take Big Risks,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/9/14)
- **There Are Times When “The Reader Feels He Is Being ‘Spun’ Rather Than Enlightened.”** “Perhaps that’s inevitable for an autobiographer who is considering running for president, but there are times when the reader feels he is being ‘spun’ rather than enlightened.” (David Ignatius, Op-Ed, “In ‘Hard Choices,’ Hillary Clinton Is Seen As Hesitant To Take Big Risks,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/9/14)
- **“The Tedious Opening And Closing Sections Of The Book Make Clear That She’s Well-Stocked With Campaign Bromides.”** (David Ignatius, Op-Ed, “In ‘Hard Choices,’ Hillary Clinton Is Seen As Hesitant To Take Big Risks,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/9/14)

***The New York Times’ Michiko Kakutani: “There Is Little News In The Book.”*** (Michiko Kakutani, “Hillary Clinton’s Book ‘Hard Choices’ Portrays A Tested Policy Wonk,” [The New York Times](#), 6/7/14)

- **“‘Hard Choices,’ Like Mrs. Clinton’s Tenure At The State Department, Does Not Evince A Grand, Overarching Foreign Policy Vision, As Henry A. Kissinger’s 1994 Book ‘Diplomacy’ Did.”** (Michiko Kakutani, “Hillary Clinton’s Book ‘Hard Choices’ Portrays A Tested Policy Wonk,” [The New York Times](#), 6/7/14)

***Time’s Joe Klein: “Hard Choices Is, Like Almost Everything Else Clinton, A Campaign.”*** (Joe Klein, “The Myth Of Inevitability,” [Time](#), 6/4/14)

***The Washington Post’s Chris Cillizza: “‘Hard Choices’ Is A Campaign Book.”*** “‘Hard Choices’ is a campaign book. Clinton’s memoir of her time as secretary of state is not the sort of tell-all, speak-truth-to-power memoir that an elected or appointed official writes when her time in office (or running for office) is over.” (Chris Cillizza, “Let’s Be Honest: Hillary Clinton Is Running For President,” [The Washington Post](#), 6/9/14)

***National Journal Headline: “Hillary Clinton Steers Clear Of Keystone Pipeline In New Book”*** (Alex Seitz-Wald, “Hillary Clinton Steers Clear Of Keystone Pipeline In New Book,” [National Journal](#), 6/9/14)

- **“Keystone Is Nowhere In The Detailed Index Of The Book...”** “Keystone is nowhere in the detailed index of the book, *Hard Choices*, a memoir of her time as secretary of State, which comes out Tuesday. And the pipeline goes unmentioned in a chapter devoted to climate change and second one on jobs and energy, according to sections obtained by the National Journal. Because the pipeline, which would run from Alberta, Canada to refineries on the Gulf Coast, crosses an international border, Clinton’s State Department had purview over its approval.” (Alex Seitz-Wald, “Hillary Clinton Steers Clear Of Keystone Pipeline In New Book,” [National Journal](#), 6/9/14)

***The Washington Post’s Dan Balz, On Questions Left By *Hard Choices*: “There Are Many For Clinton To Answer Over The Next Few Weeks...”*** “There are many for Clinton to answer over the next few weeks, on policies toward Russia, Syria, the Middle East; on what she thinks about the president’s recent foreign policy speech that was criticized from the right and the left; on whether the policies of her husband are best to deal with the problems of today.” (Dan Balz, “Clinton’s Book Sets Foundation For 2016 Run,” [The Washington](#)

[Post](#), 6/7/14)

## AND CLINTON'S BOOK TOUR IS ALREADY OFF TO A ROCKY START

**"It Looks Like Hillary Clinton Just Made The First Gaffe Of Her New Book Tour, Which Is Widely Perceived To Be A Proxy For Her Still Unannounced Presidential Campaign."** (Colin Campbell, "Hillary Clinton Just Made The First Gaffe Of Her 2016 Campaign Rollout," [Business Insider](#), 6/9/14)

- **In A "Seemingly Tone Deaf Remark," Clinton Recalled "How She 'Struggled' To Purchase 'Houses.'"** "During an ABC news interview scheduled to air Monday night, Clinton recalled how she 'struggled' to purchase 'houses' after she and her husband, former President Bill Clinton, left the White House. Both Clintons have embarked on a lucrative speaking career since then, reportedly earning over \$100 million in speaking fees alone and the conservative media quickly jumped on the seemingly tone deaf remark." (Colin Campbell, "Hillary Clinton Just Made The First Gaffe Of Her 2016 Campaign Rollout," [Business Insider](#), 6/9/14)
- **Clinton's Comments Were A "Rare Slip-Up" That Highlighted "Just How Wealthy She And Her Husband have Become Since Leaving The White House."** "It seemed like a rare slip-up by Clinton that highlighted just how wealthy she and her husband have become since leaving the White House, and an odd contrast to her recent embrace of her party's resurgent populist wing's worries about income inequality." (Zeke J. Miller, "Clinton Defends Paid Speeches: We Were 'Dead Broke'," [Time](#), 6/9/14)

**During Her ABC Interview, Clinton Deflected Blame After Being Confronted On If There Was More She Could Have Done In Benghazi.** "In an ABC interview airing on Monday night, Clinton said she was 'ultimately responsible for my people's safety.' But pressed on whether there was more she could have done, Clinton said there were limits." (Mario Trujillo, "Clinton: Benghazi Criticism A Reason To Run," [The Hill](#), 6/9/14)

- **"Clinton Was Pressed By ABC News' Diane Sawyer On The Matter" And Claimed She Was "Not Equipped To Sit And Look At Blueprints."** "The issue has added resonance given Clinton's book tour, possible presidential campaign, and her acceptance of responsibility, but not blame for the denied security requests. In her first major interview for the book, Clinton was pressed by ABC News' Diane Sawyer on the matter. 'Is there anything you personally should have been doing to make it safer?' Sawyer asked. 'What I did was give very direct instructions (to) the people who have the expertise and experience in security,' Clinton said. 'I'm not equipped to sit and look at blueprints, to determine where the blast walls need to be or where the reinforcements need to be. That's why we hire people who have that expertise.'" (Jake Tapper, "In Benghazi Chapter, Clinton Says Marines Were In Tripoli," [CNN](#), 6/9/14)