



Hillary has also managed to have a marriage, a child, and a career. For me, the great contribution of feminism has been the notion of choice. And what Mrs. Clinton has vindicated over and over in her life is the notion that you do have choices, and that even if you make them and they turn out to be wrong, you can step back and go somewhere else.

Hillary Clinton has led a life of great accomplishment. She was one of few women staffers on the Senate Watergate Committee. She began Arkansas programs that taught poor women how to be good parents. She encouraged legislation that changed adoption and foster care in this country. This is a woman whose commencement speech at Wellesley College was quoted in *Life*.

Hillary Clinton's experiences are also useful for us to understand where women are at the present moment. Let me talk about the issue of her marriage. In New York I frequently hear people say, "I like her a great deal, but she stays with that disgusting man. How could she do it? There must be something wrong with her."

But what she might respond is, "How do you know what's inside of my marriage, and how do you know what my relationship is to this man?" There are some places in politicians' lives where you don't enter. And we must give Hillary Clinton credit and respect for the choices she makes.

I asked a young African-American woman who works for me, who is a third-generation welfare recipient, "Tatiana, what do you think of Hillary Clinton?"

"Well," she said, "I like her a lot."

And I said, "Why is that?"

She said, "Well, because she does brave, hard things, and she's not afraid to go out there and speak up, and I think she cares about people like me, and I think she cares about her daughter."

I said, "Do you really mean that?"

She said, "Yes. But I wish she were black."

I asked, "So, is she your hero?"

She thought to herself and said, "I guess so."

For me, heroes are people who are not larger than life. They're human beings who step out with a measure of grace, take pain. They're people who risk themselves to magnify our voices.

So as Tatiana said, Hillary is her hero, and I'll tell you, she's mine.

PHYLLIS SCHLAFLY: Hillary Rodham Clinton is not an interesting person. She hasn't accomplished anything of note in business or profession or politics. Her speeches are a bore. And she isn't even a likeable person.

But of course she is a feminist heroine, because she saw to it that her husband never betrayed the feminist political agenda (though he betrayed everybody else, including Hillary). For that, the feminists can thank Hillary, which is why she is their favorite.

Hillary's most famous soundbites were calculated to reassure the feminists that she is their soul sister. On that famous "60 Minutes" interview when she covered for Bill Clinton in his liaison with Gennifer Flowers, Hillary stated defiantly, "I'm not some little woman standing by her man like Tammy Wynette." Even as she was assuming the role of long-suffering wife in denial, Hillary was broadcasting a feminist message.

During the year we suffered through the Monica soap opera, Hillary proved in spades that she was exactly what she denied being: “some little woman standing by her man.” That wasn’t feminist behavior. But apparently the end justified the means. The goal was to keep Bill Clinton from being ousted from office.

Hillary’s personality and ideology came through even more clearly during the 1992 campaign when she responded to a reporter’s question about conflicts of interest between her law firm and Governor Bill Clinton’s office. She replied, “I suppose I could have stayed home and baked cookies and had teas.” That was perfectly descriptive of the feminist worldview, which is based on a cultural and economic putdown of devoted mothers and homemakers.

Hillary’s views on marriage were spelled out back in 1974 in an article she wrote for the *Harvard Educational Review*: “The basic rationale for depriving people of rights in a dependency relationship [i.e., wives and children] is that certain individuals are incapable or undeserving of the right to take care of themselves and consequently need social institutions specifically designed to safeguard their position. Along with the family, past and present examples of such arrangements include marriage, slavery, and the Indian reservation system.”

That’s vintage 1970s feminism, the ideology which teaches that non-employed wives are second-class citizens, that marriage leaves women as servants bogged down in dirty diapers and dirty dishes, and that women need out-of-the-home careers to have real fulfillment.

Hillary displayed this same mindset when she sounded off on her notion that children should be raised and regulated by the “village” rather than by their own mothers, who are presumably not educated enough to do anything more stimulating than baking cookies.

So, a feminist heroine Hillary truly is, but a feminist role model she is not. In fact she is (pardon the expression) just a housewife. She is the topic of today’s discussion only because she is the wife of President Bill Clinton. She made her money and built her so-called career the old-fashioned way: She married it.

Hillary tried hard to pretend she was a feminist career woman. Campaigning with Bill in 1992, they both promised us a “co-presidency.” As she put it, “If you vote for my husband, you get me; it’s a two-for-one, blue plate special.”

Hillary started her adult life sputtering the campus drivel of the 1960s. In her graduation speech at Wellesley College in 1969, Hillary Rodham said she was searching for “more immediate, ecstatic, and penetrating modes of living,” so that she could come “to terms with our humanness” and “talk about reality, authentic reality, inauthentic reality.”

She still had not come to terms with reality by the time she made a speech, as First Lady, at the University of Texas on April 6,

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1993. Hillary’s rambling discourse there sounded like an all-night bull session in a co-ed college dorm. “We are in a crisis of meaning,” she declaimed. “What do our governmental institutions mean? What do our lives in today’s world mean? ...What does it mean in today’s world...to be human?”

We’re inclined to respond, “Speak for yourself, Hillary.” Lacking meaning in life is an individual, not a societal, problem. Most of us have no trouble finding meaning in our lives, and it would seem she should have been able to as well before moving into the White House.

Despite her inability to cope with life’s meaning, Hillary has never outgrown the adolescent arrogance of the campus radicals of the 1960s and the bra-burning feminists of the 1970s. That’s the arrogance that led her in 1993 to try to redesign and take over the \$850 billion U.S. health care industry.

After Hillary assumed control of the health care issue, we saw typical feminist behavior in action. She accepted deference and chivalry from the middle-aged Congressmen who refrained from asking her any tough questions, and then she used her First Lady’s authority to flout the law. The lawsuit filed by the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons proved that she deliberately violated federal law by running her Health Care Task Force and Working Group in secret, in order to conceal the identities of persons who had provable conflicts of interest. If she hadn’t had the First Lady’s skirts to hide behind, she would have followed Webster Hubbell and others out of Washington.

When the Monica scandal broke, Hillary affected the role of victim while at the same time she was quarterbacking the coverup, manning the battle stations, and manufacturing the spin about a “vast right-wing conspiracy.” In feminist lingo, she became a “macho feminist.”

Macho feminism was first modeled in the movie *Thelma and Louise*. And maybe the ending of that film was prophetic, when Thelma and Louise got in their automobile and drove off a cliff to their death. That was their supreme act of women’s liberation, because they made the decision themselves: No man told them to commit suicide.

Maybe New York will be Hillary’s cliff, just as it was Geraldine Ferraro’s. If so, hers will be an act of authentic macho feminism: No man told her to run.

LAURA INGRAHAM: I don’t think Hillary Clinton is evil, I just think she is wrong—on everything from family politics to gun control to teachers’ unions.

Certainly she is not a good role model for women. Her personal life has turned into a bizarre, sad relationship where both husband and wife depend in desperate and unhealthy ways on each other at different times of their lives. If you walked around Washington and asked mothers of all political persuasions whether her life and her choices are ones they’d want for