



## Settle for More

*Megyn Kelly*

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## Settle for More Megyn Kelly

Anchor of the number one news show on cable, *The Kelly File*, Fox News Channel's Megyn Kelly writes her much anticipated book, a revealing and surprising memoir detailing her rise as one of the most respected journalists working today. From the values and lessons that have shaped her career, to her time at the center of the chaotic 2016 Republican presidential primary, this book offers an inside look at an uncompromising woman's journey to the top of the news business.

In the two and half years since her show *The Kelly File* premiered on the Fox News Channel, Megyn Kelly has cemented her reputation as one of the most respected and hardest hitting journalists in America. Tackling issues from both sides of the aisle, live in prime time five nights a week, Kelly has embraced difficult questions?fearlessly pressing for answers as she redefines the face of news for her more than two million nightly viewers.

Now in her debut book, Kelly goes behind the scenes of the stories and the storms that have made her one of the most talked about public figures in America. From growing up in a tough love family where she had to earn her praise, to her father's sudden, tragic death while she was still in high school, to the news stories that launched her journalism career, Kelly traces the values and experiences?both good and bad?that landed her in the anchor chair.

With the same bold and brave voice that has won her fans across the political divide, she opens up about the controversy that made her a household name, telling her side of Donald Trump's feud with her, while sharing never-before-heard details about the infamous first Republican debate, its challenging aftermath, and how she persevered through it all, winning widespread admiration while maintaining her professionalism. Speaking candidly about the career-changing decision that led her to "settle for more"?a motto she credits with leading her to a better life at home and at work?Kelly also discusses how she approaches gender in the workplace, demonstrating how her success is rooted in Steve Martin's old adage: "Be so good they can't ignore you."

Throughout her meteoric career, Megyn Kelly has been a source of fascination and speculation. Men and women, Republicans and Democrats, viewers of Fox News and the network's most diehard detractors have all sought to understand what she stands for and what matters to her. With this deeply personal account of her life, she answers critics and fans alike. At once humorous, uplifting, and revealing, *Settle for More* offers unparalleled insight into one of the most charismatic and intriguing television personalities in a generation, and will be one of the most talked about books from an influential voice unlike any other.

## Settle for More Details

Date : Published November 15th 2016 by HarperCollins Publishers

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Author : Megyn Kelly

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# From Reader Review Settle for More for online ebook

## Rebecca McNutt says

This one was interesting but a little too sensationalist for me. Kelly's words of self-esteem are definitely worth reading but I found her personality to be rather over-the-top and it can be difficult to take her words seriously at times.

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## Jean says

I decided to read this book after listening to an interview with Kelly discussing her new book. The other trigger to read it was the shame and disgust I felt when I learned Amazon had to take down hundreds of fake negative reviews about this book. I just had to find out what was causing so much hatred. Amazon said that reviewers had not purchased nor read the book.

I had not heard of Kelly until she was attacked by Trump after she asked him a question he did not like during the campaign. Kelly has a dramatic opening of the book telling about the threats and harassment she received from Trump in the four days leading up to the first televised presidential debates. She tells about her asking the question to Trump about his calling women names and says that everyone then became aware of his attacks on her, but she survived. Kelly tells about her early life and becoming an attorney then going into journalism. I found her encounter with Mr. Ailes interesting in light of all the charges about him. The ending of the book does go into the details about Trump's harassment of her. She told of the vindictive harassment by Trump and his followers. The hate mail, emails and twitter she received and the death threats. People trying to get into her home and following her and her family around. Fox had to hire body guards to protect herself and family. She never responded to any of the attacks by Trump or his followers. This went on for almost a year before she met with Trump face to face to negotiate an ending to the bullying.

Kelly does an excellent job narrating her own book. It is great to hear the words directly from the author.

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## Kate Elizabeth says

2.5? ish?

I was excited to read this because I haven't known what to think about Megyn Kelly. On the one hand, I admire her ambition, her confidence, and the fact that she never backed down when Donald Trump was attacking her (and sending his minions to also attack her). On the other hand, she worked for Fox News, which I consider a harmful company, and I was unsure whether I could trust or respect her as a journalist, especially since she'll now be at NBC (if not the ideological opposite of Fox, certainly at least somewhere on the other side of the political spectrum). Her memoir, I thought, could help me figure that out.

So. I guess it did. The short review is that I won't be watching Megyn Kelly on NBC, I don't respect her as a journalist, and her memoir is fairly off-putting.

THE LONG REVIEW IS THIS.

Oh...the long review.

The book begins with the infamous presidential debate that sparked the feud between Kelly and Trump, but it segues pretty quickly into stories from her childhood, adolescence and young adulthood. Her family sounds fun (I especially like her mom and her Nana), but the overarching theme of the book is clear almost immediately, and that theme is: Megyn Kelly Is Awesome!

Among the things we learn:

- Megyn Kelly was super popular but got bullied really badly for one year in seventh grade. Megyn Kelly is not sure why she was bullied so much, but it stopped abruptly and she resumed her reign of popularity.
- Megyn Kelly is super smart.
- Megyn Kelly really likes to use the phrase "to this day."
- Megyn Kelly was the smartest law student her law professors had ever seen!

After graduation she works as a lawyer for ~9 years, then realizes that her life is unfulfilled and she should go into broadcast journalism. She starts a sort of de-facto internship, learning how to do the news, and almost immediately lands a full-time gig at a network affiliate in DC. She's there for like five seconds (literally, a few months) before landing a reporting job with Fox News covering the Supreme Court.

Credit where credit is due: that's impressive. It's an incredibly fast rise to the ranks of high-profile news.

Buuuuut.

Kelly maintains throughout the book that she is a serious journalist, y'all! She says this with a mostly straight face even while using phrases like "mainstream media" (to dismiss any criticism she gets for being on Fox News, of course). She maintains this viewpoint even after saying she gets "paid to be devil's advocate" (not a thing that journalists do or say). She insists throughout the book that she's politically neutral - but a politically neutral independent journalist would never ever ever ever willingly go to Fox News given their ideological viewpoint and their damaging narrative. (At least, none that I know.) Some of her reports, she said, were electrifying and standout and some of the most important moments in recent presidential elections (specifically, when she walked down the hall to the Fox control room to see if Karl Rove understood math). It just seems...weird and delusional.

(Example: "As a news anchor, I would never take a position favoring or opposing entitlements. I get paid to play devil's advocate. This is my job; it's pretty straightforward." Literally in the same quote she's saying two different things. I can't.)

And that's kind of my whole thing. I can admire Kelly's hustle, but I can't admire her so-called journalism. And I dunno if I can admire her as a person, given these outtakes:

"I told her I am not a feminist. Sheryl (Sandberg), one of the preeminent female role models in America, passed no judgment on my feelings about that term. An example for our younger generation, some of whom openly booed me on Stephen Colbert's Late Show for saying I do not consider myself a feminist. I almost scolded the young women then and there. Is there no room for ambivalence about that term? We need more room in the sisterhood tent, not less...My problem with the word 'feminist' is that it's exclusionary and alienating. I look at a lot of the self-titled feminists in this country and think, 'If that's the club we're talking about, I don't want in.' ... I also reject the feminist messaging that treats gender issues as a zero-sum game - that assumes that to empower women, we must castrate men ... as the mother of two boys and the wife of a

loving supportive man, I object."

This passage really makes me want to bang my head on the keyboard. This view of feminism is so incorrect and so very wrong and so damaging, and Kelly could have tried to educate her damn self about it before putting this crap in her book for millions of people to read. Especially since other statements she makes - particularly in the final chapters about her experiences being sexually harassed by Roger Ailes - MAKE IT PRETTY DAMN CLEAR THAT SHE IS, ACTUALLY, A FEMINIST. (Although: perhaps none of this should be surprising, as Kelly mentions late in the book that she's met and really likes Taylor Swift. I could write a whole other opus on why Taylor Swift sucks, and her co-opting feminism for when it benefits her and discarding it the rest of the time is a prominent reason, so yeah. The company you keep, and all that.)

Her misunderstanding of this point spreads throughout her life. She cites a handful of instances where she was dismissed or mistreated because of her gender, then responds to each of them by saying, "But it didn't bother me. Weird!" She sort of acknowledges that she is where she is in large part because she is white and blond and attractive, but she also shrugs off that privilege, noting that hard work is the key and anyone who works really hard can do anything and you can combat workplace discrimination by just working hard and eventually your boss will notice, even if you are a woman, because hard work speaks for itself. That's a nice story, but real life is not that simple. Hard work is important, but we start from - and can end up in - very different places depending on our gender, race, ethnicity and physical appearance. Should it be that way? No. Does it happen to every woman? Certainly not. But if it doesn't happen to you, does that mean it doesn't exist? NO.

She also makes 'safe spaces' and trigger warnings a punchline. That's fine - it's a trendy thing to make fun of and I understand the ridicule - but this is, again, not something a serious independent journalist would do. And in some instances, the digs are just odd. For example:

"Thatcher came along twenty-seven months after Yardley. I call him my walking cupcake. Not like the cupcakes on our nation's campuses who need safe spaces. Like a walking ball of sweetness."

Ok?

I'm not sorry that I read this - it was informative and helpful, in that I now know I don't need to turn to Kelly for news or opinions - but it does make me kind of sad. Kelly is a force, and with a little education, she could be a powerful voice for women. As is, I'm not sure she really understands most of us.

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## **Susan Becraft says**

### **I expected more, but settled for less.**

A memoir written by a 45-year-old woman with potentially half her life ahead is almost destined to disappoint me. Megyn Kelly's book was no exception. Because I had previously read of her rise from childhood to lawyer to lofty position at the Fox News Channel, I admittedly purchased "Settle for More" for the inside scoop on Ms. Kelly's run-ins with Donald Trump and Roger Ailes.

Despite her stardom at FNC, I found Ms. Kelly's life and, by extension, her story to be unremarkable. In comparing her life to the first part of mine and some of my accomplished friends, I discovered more similarities than differences. A generally happy childhood, a good education and a compulsive work ethic

defined me into my fifties. Not interested in journalism, I took my chance with a small group of young engineers and started a high tech company that was eventually purchased by IBM for \$2.35B.

But I digress. After slogging through page after mind-numbing page, I finally reached the chapters about Trump and Ailes. Because much of this content had already been revealed by reviewers and Ms. Kelly herself on the talk show circuit, I was underwhelmed yet again.

Despite mediocre writing throughout the book, I did draw conclusions on Ms. Kelly's famous dust-ups. What surprised me most in her chapters about Donald Trump was that she seemed surprised by his behavior. In several biographies (including a book that won the Pulitzer Prize), he is described as a thin-skinned bully. He describes himself as a fierce counter puncher. When she asked her now-famous first provocative and excellent question, my immediate thought was, "Game on!" Trump lived up to his billing; he was vicious, as were many of his supporters. I cannot imagine being the recipient of such hate. Even she had to admit, though, that her program's ratings rose, although I hope she would have chosen steady viewership rather than vitriol and threats. During this period, I admired her strength; many a lesser would have caved. I sensed that she had little support from certain other FNC stars, which appalled me when it happened (Bill O'Reilly, are your ears ringing...wink, wink?).

My admiration for Megyn Kelly took a nosedive when she met with Trump and subsequently featured him on her program. Along with most of America, I looked forward to the interview with her aggressor. She exuded pride and cockiness in the book about what I thought was a terrible interview. What happened to hardball Kelly? Did she succumb to this nasty force of nature, yet boast in her book about a great coup? After the hell he had put her through, I could not wrap my arms around an odd love fest. For the record, I do not like Donald Trump, but I tried my best to be objective.

My respect for Ms. Kelly plummeted when she wrote about Roger Ailes. I continually wondered why her career was more important than working for a sexual predator. Her not-so-subtle dig at Gretchen Carlson showed a nasty side of Megyn Kelly, which surprised me. In my opinion, Ms. Carlson showed great courage by going public. Why Ms. Kelly showed no support for her was mystifying. She had to know that there was truth behind Gretchen Carlson's allegations, yet she remained silent. Troubling.

Once an avid fan of The Kelly File (the only program I watched on FNC), I no longer watch. This decision had NOTHING to do with politics. Rather it was her change in style. Her decision to be more of herself was most likely a healthy choice, but gone are her excellent interviews with guests from all political persuasions. In place of interesting and educational discussions, she has adapted a giggly, girlish persona. One of her finest hours occurred when she went live to Dallas during the riots and murders of the four police officers. This was truly breaking, horrific news. Megyn Kelly rose to the occasion with no time to prepare. She not only provided riveting and skillful reporting, but she showed a human side I had not seen before. This book might not have been her shining moment, but I will never forget the night I spent with Megyn Kelly in Dallas. I want that highly talented, skillful woman back.

Having read other reviews on Amazon, I echo the words of reviewers who have chastised those who have judged "Settle for More" solely on FNC's conservative, pro-Trump stance. Megyn Kelly is much more than Fox News. Please judge the book on its merits.

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**Wayne says**

Settle for More - While very touching in parts and honesty a major theme, a major drawback is the need to constantly have her ego stroked, either by herself or have others sing her praises. And her admission that she "became good at reading powerful people and managing their egos" and her "knowing how to handle men in positions of authority was easily one of the most valuable" skills she learned. In other words, she was good at manipulating men to get what she wanted. And yet we are told throughout her book that her accomplishments were due to her "hard work" That is hogwash. Her meteoric rise in journalism was in large part due to the HUGE, (she admits it) help she was given along the way i.e Meredith, Bond Lee, Bill Lord and let's face it, being in the right place at the right time. While she does bear her innermost feelings, you can clearly gather that being attractive gave her real advantages, being smart enabled her to build on those advantages and being good at "managing men of authority" is a skill she admits was used often and honed to help her get where she is.

I think those who reviewed her book could have done a better job. While putting a positive spin on things, her credibility suffers from her overblown descriptions of her marriage and assigning adult like values and attributes to her children that are beyond their tender years. Her relationship with Trump helped her considerably. She endured his insults and parlayed them to her advantage. Kudos to her for that. The thing with Ailes is troubling. She stayed with Fox long enough to have him help her rise up the ladder and then turned on him - not admirable. Why did she stay if she is so strong as she tells readers. Was this blind ambition? And she shows pretentiousness by her telling readers of the many party invites and the famous people she knows while claiming she is not affected by the attention she has received.

In all, not a bad read. Egoistic, somewhat hypocritical, touching in parts about her father but repetitive here. Dynamic and introspective, the book enables readers to gain insight to the world of high power law firms and journalism. Not bad but not a Bill O'Reilly quality book - she has sights set on him.

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## **Scott Rhee says**

I admit: I was somewhat shocked at how much I liked this book and, upon finishing it, how much I respected Megyn Kelly. Not that I had any particularly noxious preconceptions about Kelly. I actually knew very little about her other than that she is an anchorwoman on FOX News and that she recently found herself in the line of fire of Donald Trump's irrational vitriol and knee-jerk sense of victimhood. Prior to reading this, I'd say that I had respect for her simply based on the few exchanges I saw between her and Trump during the candidate debates and in subsequent interviews. Kelly was not afraid to ask Trump tough questions, and she did not seem to lower herself to his immature level or be visibly affected by his lewd, inappropriate responses. She kept it classy at all times. Reading her book merely confirmed and bolstered my respect for her.

Kelly's memoir, "Settle For More" is immensely readable, enjoyable, and inspiring, especially to young women navigating their way through a world still dominated by annoyingly sexist men. Far from being a male-bashing feminist manifesto, however, Kelly's book lets women know that there are plenty of good men in the world---many of them in positions of power---but that domineering, sexist, and predatory men will always try to bring a strong woman down. Her inspiring message to women is to never play victim, never give up, and always strive to settle for more. It is, indeed, her mantra. Hence, the title.

It is, perhaps, no coincidence that Kelly is friends with Sheryl Sandberg, the COO of Facebook and author of "Lean In", a contemporary feminist tract for women in the corporate world. Kelly's book reads like a more

user-friendly and accessible version of “Lean In”.

Kelly writes joyously of her middle-class upbringing with her fun, liberal parents. Her late father was a college professor who loved to play guitar (a hobby she picked up in honor of him) and had a particular fondness for John Denver. Her mother was a nurse with a biting wit. Her parents instilled in her a strong work ethic and the sense that no one is entitled to anything in life, one has to work hard for everything.

This Kelly family philosophy took root in her from an early age. It’s what got her good grades in high school and college, and it’s what enabled her to move up in a law firm as an attorney, a job that she loved. For a time.

Unfortunately, ridiculously long hours, a tremendous workload, and no chance to spend time with friends, family, or her husband at the time eventually took its toll. She decided on a divorce from both her husband and her job at roughly the same time in her life. When an opportunity arose to jump into journalism---a field that she had been interested in since high school but didn’t pursue---she took it for the change of pace.

Being a Kelly, she took to journalism like gangbusters, eventually moving up to being a TV anchorperson. Her intelligence, poise, and spunk (and, to be fair, extremely good looks) quickly netted her a job on the fairly-new FOX News network.

She writes positively of her FOX News family, especially Bill O’Reilly and Roger Ailes, whom she credits for giving her some extremely useful advice starting out.

Her relationship with Ailes, however, took an ugly turn when she started noticing that he was making sexually explicit comments and even attempting to make unwanted sexual advances on her, none of which were reciprocated, of course. Strangely enough, Ailes never threatened her job or made any repercussions after her rebuffs so she quietly swept them under the carpet and filed it under “he’s just a dirty old man from a different generation of men”.

When other female FOX News employees, however, started complaining, publicly, Kelly made the decision to go public with her own experiences.

The experience with Ailes was, sadly, not her only run-in with predatory sexual behavior from men in her life. For several years, Kelly had a stalker that made her, and her family’s, life a living hell. Going to bed with two armed guards patrolling the perimeter of her house every night became a norm.

Then there was Trump, who targeted her after she pursued him on a line of questioning he didn’t like during the first candidate debates. Ironically (or not), the question that kicked over his hornet’s nest was about his history of berating, degrading, and insulting women.

This was a topic, thankfully, Kelly never stopped pursuing.

Kelly never resorts to a “woe is me” attitude in her book. Not that she doesn’t write about the difficulty, fear, and depression that she understandably felt during her experiences with her stalker, Trump, or Ailes. She just never let all of that define her. She’s not a victim. She’s a fighter. Albeit one with a strong support group that she credits lovingly any chance she gets: her husband, Doug, her three children, her mother and siblings, and the many friends and fans that she has acquired over the years.

“Settle For More” is an excellent book about a strong woman standing up against social injustices toward

women in, and out of, the workplace. Needless to say, it's probably not a book many Trump supporters will be reading or endorsing. All the more reason to read it.

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## **Charlene says**

Everyone who wants to understand Trump should read this book.

The reason this book gets a full 5 star rating from me despite the fact that Kelly remains largely unaware of her privilege is because her take on Trump (and to a lesser extent Roger Ailes) was worth at least 5 stars. I am so very glad I broke down and finally read this. I only wish I had done it sooner. When starting this book, I didn't imagine I would be taking as many notes as I do when I read a science book, but I have notes that are pages longer than many of those notes.

### **Minor Criticisms:**

Kelly thinks that if she can face adversity -- father died while in high school, went through a divorce (not because she was abused, but because they just grew apart) -- and push through it, so can anyone. In reality, she was brought up in a nice but modest neighborhood and house in NY and went to a school that fully prepared her for college. She started at or ahead of the starting line. Since she began on or ahead of this line, the adversity she faced, both early on and later after she was successful (being targeted by Trump) allowed her to persevere and become stronger. She likened her experiences to working out. When you work out, muscles tear and then become stronger when repaired. Meanwhile many young women are in neighborhoods that are run down, have no job availability for parents to make a modest income, schools are run down and often lack textbooks and teachers, making them ill prepared for success in college-- even if they do get lucky and finally get a scholarship to help pay for their education. These people are starved for food, culture, education, and stability. The lack of stability on every level does not help promote stable family situations. The constant presence of police in those neighborhoods, largely aimed at controlling rather than helping, those citizens, does not help either. They start behind the starting line. Using her workout analogy, since they start behind the line, it would be like someone with a neuromuscular disorder who can not do weight bearing or weight lifting exercise working out and ripping muscles that do not repair. They just keep getting ripped and the person keeps getting weaker, never building new, healthy muscle.

Jon Stewart said she championed only the things that affect her. Even though she could not self-reflect and recognize this, is absolutely true. She wants to fight for maternity leave because she personally had kids and knows what it's like to not want to leave them. She wants to champion women in sexual harassment cases because she personally faced sexual harassment at the hands of the very powerful Roger Ailes. She seems to gain empathy for things she has personally gone through but continues to lack a fundamental understanding of what it's like for people who have gone through far more adverse circumstances than she has. She really needs to read the book, *Mistakes Were Made but Not by Me*, so that she might better understand the limitations of her own biased thinking. She is a hardworking powerful woman. There is no question about how hard she has worked. But does she really think that if every woman worked as hard as her (even those growing up in the projects), they could be where she is now? I know women who have 3 jobs and take care of their kids without a nanny. They *\*have\** worked as hard as she has. The really great opportunities are just that, great. But, they are rare and wonderful, and mostly unattainable for many, no matter how hard they work.

At times, to make her point about liberals, she cherry-picked various extremists to represent liberals. She

attacked academia by cherry-picking college professors who are as extreme and unrepresentative of ordinary college professors as possible. This was anecdotal evidence that was generalized. She should know better than that.

#### Heaps of Praise:

Megyn Kelly *\*really\** understands how Trump operates. Intricately detailing her jaw-dropping year, Kelly recounted actions that are now all too familiar to anyone watching the news these days. Long before he became president, Trump began trying to control the media. Kelly shared with her reader a long and disturbing list of shockingly unethical behaviors that went on between Trump and journalists and higher-ups in new outlets. If you want an inside view, this book will give it to you. Trump did everything he could to ensure people never asked him questions that made him look bad. Offering his public praise (say what you will, Trump really is a ratings machine! So, public praise from him means exposure to the masses), offering trips, gifts, and even apartments. If that failed, he publicly attacked anyone who didn't cover him favorably (can you say dictator?). As Kelly put it, many journalists were so afraid of Trump, they would go to Trump beforehand and say, "I have to ask you this tough question in order to seem fair. Kelly emphatically offered, "You don't act the part of an independent objective host and secretly rehearse your exchanges with the candidate, ever!" She called it, "Absolutely a breach of ethics" and said it's very easy to tell which hosts were doing this because Trump is famous for punching back but with these "pregame attacks" he never hit back.

Prior to running for president, Trump called Kelly for months, sent her cars and invitations, acted like a fan. She never used the word psychopath but anyone who has studied psychology knows that they first try to charm and make you think it's about you, but it is always about them. If charming does not work, they threaten. That is Trump's MO, every time. He could not get Kelly to go along with his dictator brand of Press and he soon turned to threats. Any journalist or news outlet that did not comply with his brand of journalism (Similar to Putin and Kim Jong-un "praise and flattery only" policy) Trump would take every action available to him to attack these journalists and news outlets. (I am waiting for him to get mad at Fox to such a degree than he tries to censor them as well. Might not ever happen, but it's interesting to think about).

Prior to the first republican debate, Trump, having gotten nowhere with Kelly, called her bosses, called everyone he could. This is just like him asking Comey to back off and then asking Coats and Rogers to ask Comey to back off. Deja-vu. Her bosses, including Ailes, refused Trump's requests, but someone did feed him questions from the debate (remember how mad he got when it was rumored Hill got some questions beforehand? Hypocrite). He asked that she not ask him that first question (he even knew the order in which the questions would be asked). After she *\*did her job\** and asked a reasonable question, he attacked her relentlessly for a very long time. She received death threats, had people come to her home, and had no peace from Trump supporters out for blood. At no time in history has a president ever attacked a journalist like this for asking them a tough question. Trump brought brought Bill's sexual assault accusers to a debate, but Kelly asking a question was out of line? It's all just so unreal; it feels as if we are all being punked.

A good portion of this book is about her many interactions with trump and they are essential to read. Even if you followed it in the news, I can assure you, no account is as clear as this one. This book is a must read.

Kelly also did a great job of covering her experience of sexual assault with Ailes. When she came forward, she was at the top of her game. She only had something to lose and absolutely nothing to gain. That is what gave her such street cred at the time. Unlike the other women, most of whom lacked any real power and were on their way up the ladder, Kelly was powerful and her words meant the difference between those women being taken seriously or them being blamed. Ailes is definitely a fan of "Grab them by the pussy." No

wonder he and Trump got along so well. They view the world in the same way.

No matter the things I didn't care for in this book, it was simply outstanding.

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### **Rachel says**

Can't believe a string of people expressed hate by giving this book one star ratings without reading. I just signed onto good reads after a friend recommended, and now I will take the stars much less seriously as anyone can express "hate" through their stars without having actually read the book. Really? This site is a beautiful and a wonderful use of technology to join people over a common cause...reading books which humans took time, energy, and giant chunks of their lives to write, and yet their work is "up for grabs" by potential haters. It's a shame-I feel like good reads should be able to weed out this kind of nonsense.

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### **Robert Miller says**

Early in this memoir, Megyn Kelly writes, "I was chief telemarketer," referring to her brief stint as a phone worker at a "1-800 number" entity while a college student. She was excellent at this job, she exclaims, and would later hone and parlay (if this was possible) the skills learned there into the art of "deposing powerful, high-rolling clients in cases where millions of dollars were at stake." This self-appraisal pervades the book from her days as a "popular" high school student, an award-winning law student (I was "the highest-scoring candidate they'd ever had"), apparent superstar lawyer (she would have made partner but for her decision to pursue "journalism"), being a perfect mother, with perfect children, perfect husband (although on the effeminate side, he once demonstrated a willingness to rough up an older gentlemen who had verbally attacked Megyn after a tennis match her hubby lost), to her ratings-winning performances as a Fox News reporter and anchor. To hear Ms. Kelly tell it, there is not much that she doesn't excel at, and in many ways, the book seems like a 20-hour-plus infomercial on Megyn Kelly's greatness.

There are some redeeming paragraphs in the book. Kelly recognizes the woes of alcoholism and drug abuse and how addiction affects family members. The discussion of her father's early death and the impact that his passing had on her is touching. She appears, at times, genuinely sentimental, caring, and has a humorous and visionary side. But mostly, Megyn Kelly is for Megyn Kelly. The book reads well, but this does not save it.

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### **Taylor Knight says**

I'm not a really a fan of Megyn Kelly to say the least but I was given a copy of her book and I was curious about it. I do admire how she can hold her own in a very sexist industry and she works really hard, which I appreciate. I have recently started reading more non-fiction books and I really enjoy memoirs so I was ready to be blown away from tales of Megyn's career.

However, Settle for More is mostly about her childhood and there's not a lot of behind the scenes stories from her career or dirt on those she's interviewed or worked with.

There is a good chunk of chapters on Donald Trump and even though I wasn't surprised by the stories Megyn has of him, I thought it was interesting.

Overall, I thought this book was interesting even though I wasn't totally into all of her childhood stories (if you're a fan of Megyn, you'll probably love that aspect of the book) and the first half was a bit boring. Settle for More hasn't changed my thoughts on Megyn Kelly but I do respect all her hard work and for being a boss lady in corporate politics. That's not easy and she's achieved lots of success. If you're a fan of Megyn, this is definitely worth a read. If you're a woman looking to make a career in politics, I think this is worth reading as well.

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## **Allison Hiltz says**

Originally reviewed at The Book Wheel.

Megyn Kelly – how much do you know about her? If you're like me, the answer is not much except for the fact that she hosts her own show on Fox News and that Donald Trump released his rage on her during the presidential election. The attacks she was subjected to leaves many of us extending our sympathies to her, but before you feel too bad for her, know that she doesn't play the victim card. Instead, she is choosing to use the experience to lift her upward and onward, and the lessons within her memoir, *Settle for More* are ones that all of us need to hear.

Contrary to popular opinion, Kelly did not grow up with money. She came from humble beginnings in upstate New York and had a very happy childhood. There were no trophies for participating, which served her well later in life, but her parents were loving and taught her that the most important thing she can be in life is herself, even if that meant she wasn't extraordinary. In fact, her own mother never expected her to be so successful, which she knows because her family has always subscribed to the "radical honesty program" and told her so. Nonetheless, her mother now brags about her in her own hilarious ways and it's clear they have a great relationship, made even stronger by the early death of her father, whom Kelly was very close to. Picking up on her mother's self-deprecating humor, *Settle for More* is Kelly's life story, from her childhood to her first job to her marriages and, of course, Donald Trump. She shares how she was bullied in middle school and how that impacted her path forward in life, as did her father's death, even reading from her journal entries throughout her childhood and adulthood. Threaded within the story are the lessons she has learned, many of which are applicable to every single woman in the workplace, from handling men in power to persevering in the face of incredible obstacles. From stalkers to sexual harassment, Kelly has fought through the pain and found herself on the other side every single time and while the wounds Trump inflicted are still raw, she knows she will come out okay. Because at the end of the day, what matters most is that she knows who she is and has family and friends to support her – the rest doesn't matter.

What's most telling in this book is that Kelly came up short many times in life but chose to find another way (not to mention sometimes suffers from imposter syndrome). When she didn't make it into journalism school, she chose another major that still landed her in journalism. When she didn't make the law review, she wrote herself in. When the internship she had didn't offer her a job, she found a better one. Over and over, she stumbled but she got back up and kept moving forward. There's a valuable lesson for all of us in this, especially because getting up again can be so difficult, but Kelly reminds us that there's always another way.

It's also clear that Kelly is kindhearted. She speaks fondly of her college boyfriend and the impact he had on her confidence in herself, and the same goes for her stepfather and, yes, even Donald Trump and Roger Ailes. Despite all of the hate and rhetoric, she chooses to see the good in others, as well as the positive influence even the most horrendous experiences can have on a person. She condemns our obsession with public shamings, acknowledging that there is a difference between professional and personal failings and we

shouldn't assume to know anything about someone's person life.

But the most important thing in Kelly's life, more so than her career, is her children. She is a devoted mother who wants her children to thrive in a world where they are free to be themselves. For her, life is divided into before and after by her step into motherhood and she discusses the difficulties of being a working mother. She does, however, believe that there are biological differences between men and women with regard to parenting, and while I don't have strong feelings on this particular subject, I did take issue with the section in which she details why she is decidedly not a feminist.

Kelly doesn't think of herself as a feminist because she believes men play an important role in women's lives. She believes you get opportunities through "performance not persistence" and while there's a truth to this, sexism is alive and well. What's interesting about her claim is that her actions prove otherwise. She pushed for better wages for herself, advocates for paid maternity leave, and fights against sexism in her own ways. She condemns our culture of victim blaming and sexism. She even discusses the pressures of women doing it all, arguing that women have more guilt leaving their children to go to work but ignores the fact that this could be socially constructed (but does recognize that sexism, itself, is). So while her actions scream feminist, her words suggest otherwise.

Throughout the book, Kelly maintains that she is apolitical, and while she works for Fox, she has no problem arguing for paid maternity leave and calling out poor behavior on both sides of the aisle. She even discusses a conversation she had with Jon Stewart, where she called him to task for a piece he did on her that read much more into her comments than was perhaps warranted. She clearly enjoys and appreciates her time at Fox but recognizes that her status grants her more freedom and flexibility than others, which became apparent when she came forward about Ailes' sexual harassment – something lower level women have done anonymously because they don't have the status to keep their jobs.

As for Trump, there's a long section about him and rightfully so. She shares her early experiences with him (positive) and their final conversation before he stopped his relentless attacks, but also the toll it took on both her and her family. She describes how she knew when she hit rock bottom and, once again, decided to get up and move forward, anyway. She gives her husband a lot of credit for getting her through it, and it's clear that she loves him dearly and found her perfect match (which is no easy feat considering their first kiss was seen by armed guards because she was being stalked by an ex-felon).

Her "Year of Trump" is clearly the most harrowing for her and she doesn't hold back on her opinions of him and his actions, asserting that he went after her because she had power. She also calls out the media, alleging that there were many anchors that either prepped Trump for tough questions on their shows or accepted what can only amount to bribes for him. She outlines how much free media coverage he received. She describes her final meeting with him like a hostage meeting her taker, where the perpetrator finally sees his victim as a human. That said, she is uncomfortable with the attention she is paid and role she played in the election and refuses to see herself as a victim. But through all of it, it was the "Gut her" tweet that got to her the most – it was so pointed and vitriolic.

By the end of the book, what is abundantly clear is that Kelly is human. She has feelings, she has failed, and she has triumphed in the face of adversity. She laughs at people when they trip, she gets sick, and she worries about her looks. But more importantly, she is a survivor. She survived watching her dreams almost slipping away from her. She survived Roger Ailes. She survived Trump. Part of this is because of her upbringing, but also because she reminds herself that bad times are temporary and others have it worse off. And more importantly, she knows who she is and will always Settle for More.

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## Louise says

Kelly writes about her growth as a person and professional. She shows the loving family and the childhood experiences that shaped her. Throughout she shows her determination, ability to see the big picture, an understanding of her standing wherever she is and the influence of her mother's wisdom and humor.

Kelly had a normal middle class start in life but two experiences tore at the solid framework her parents provided. One was being bullied and excluded at school and the other was having cross words with her father hours before his sudden death. Throughout the book, she revisits these experiences so you can see how they shaped her.

She knows where Albany Law School stands in the big world, but she was accepted there and could afford it. She didn't make law review "on grades" (90%) so she put in the extra work to get there. Unlike most interns she was not offered a position at the firm where she interned, and being embarrassed, she admits to lying that she turned down their offer. Just like overcoming the bullying and the miss "on grades" she forges ahead and gets a clearly better job. You have to love her spunk.

She shows the grind of working towards partner, the lack of time, the pressure and the toll on her marriage. There are memorable anecdotes about life in a top legal firm and how she came to pursue a career in journalism.

Her pre-2016 years at Fox are not as well examined as her earlier years. A lot is left unsaid. For instance, she tells how Arlen Specter took her to his office and that she had to text Major Garrett to figure out what to do. I doubt that she was that naïve nor that Specter was her only romancer; my guess is that there are others who are still alive and Kelly is discrete when it counts. (More is hinted at when she writes of something that occurred in a job she had as a teen... but maybe it was some other time.)

Her legal experience put her light years ahead of her journalism colleagues and her pay was a come down. She was assigned to the legal beat which at Fox means covering Anna Nicole Smith and the Duke University rape case. She does not sneer at this, then or now in this book. This gives her screen time and builds her audience (my perspective, not hers) which builds her career at Fox. Later she adds more cred (again, my perspective, not hers) denying that she is a feminist, drilling Bill Ayers and Ward Churchill in interviews, etc. ("Santa Claus is white" which she doesn't mention), and she pays her dues (again, my perspective, not hers) by appearing weekly with Bill O'Reilly and at times with Sean Hannity even after she is a star with her own show. She is wise to do this, as we see in the future.

When she gets to her "Year of Trump" her writing comes back into stride. Her experience gives insight into Trump's character and the dynamic at Fox. As presented here, Ailes, O'Reilly, Hume, and Hannity, are not enamored of Trump and are supportive of Kelly. They need Trump for ratings. As long as she kept her ratings (which never wavered) she was safe at Fox... but not safe from the "fans" Trump unleashed. Fox provided security as they did when she had a stalker in her earlier in her career. It must have been horrible.

While the section on the fall of Roger Ailes is short, you can glean a lot about Fox's organizational culture. Careers can be destroyed by a hint of displeasure with Fox or Ailes. There is surveillance. Kelly describes her own experience, how menacing it was and what it took to say no, after which there were no problems. She, probably like other women, thought they were to only one so harassed. No one would breathe a word of

criticism until the Gretchen Carleson lawsuit. There is a brief outline of how this unfolded.

While there is a lot here for those who follow the news, this can also be a “reality based” inspirational book for teens. It shows that when you fail at things or are unhappy, it's not the end of things and if you apply yourself, it can be the start of something better. There is a lot of humanity and self-awareness in the writing. I love the can-do attitude the writing exudes. I came away with a lot of respect for Megyn Kelly.

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### **Anthony says**

Excellent read about a very tough, but fair journalist and what lead to her becoming one of the most trusted US journalists of our time. The book is so well written that it almost reads like a thriller at times. Definitely a page turner. I very much enjoyed learning how Kelly managed to move from a modest upbringing to hosting one of the most watched news shows in the US. I am almost as impressed by this book as I am by the journalism I have come to expect from Kelly. Highly recommended read! The author appears to be very open about her experiences which enables the reader to get a really interesting insight into the life of one of the most prominent US journalists of our time. A journalist that played a key role in reporting on the latest US elections with a degree of integrity that is almost unmatched. I have rarely ever witnessed such a strong person on TV or generally in public life. Writing such an open and unmasked book about so very personal life experiences shows even more what Kelly is made of and how little she fears criticism...

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### **Marianne K says**

Not owning a TV, I don't watch Megyn Kelly. I picked up this book at my library wanting to hear her side of things I'd read about online during this election cycle. Wow, all I can say is Megyn Kelly really likes Megyn Kelly! Such admiration! Such fawning! Such adoration! You'd be hard pressed to find a more devoted fan! I learned how Megyn was the Best at everything she did. She is the best at her job, has the best husband (who gave up his career to be a stay at home dad even), and three of the best fear-less outgoing I'm-going-to-set-the-world-on-fire kids!

This was a dull read and along with the repetitive nature of her self-aggrandizement, an unenjoyable read. I was left not liking Megyn Kelly much.

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### **Kathryn says**

What a force to be reckoned with as a mother, wife, daughter, sibling, friend and a news journalist. She shows young women what it takes to be successful in all aspects of a woman's life. She is tolerant when she knows it's best and speaks up and takes action once she has given it serious thought. I admire her and think she is someone I would like to know.

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