Roger Simon posts on why Hillary Clinton is bombing.

Which leads me to the deeper reason the country is sleeping through Hillary's book and it's not just because it's hugely over long and therefore a totally un-green waste of paper and trees (although that's true). Most people know she's basically dishonest, a prevaricator. Even liberals, though they won't readily admit it, know this. Who can forget her blaming her husband's compulsive philandering on the "great, right-wing conspiracy"? If they only had such power. Or the dim-witted claims of being under fire when she hadn't been (at least Geraldo makes a show of ducking) and, more recently, the banshee-cry of "What difference does it make?" concerning the deaths of our people in Benghazi? The Benghazi lies are actually exponential. (I'm not even going to go back to Whitewater, the miracle quick killing on the stock market, the mysterious Rose Law Firm bill and all the rest.)

But is the cause of this lying ideological — the ends even roughly justifying the means? In truth, I think not. Years ago, as a college girl, she may have had an attraction for Saul Alinsky, but in the intervening time that has been overwhelmed and, for the most part, forgotten in a welter of blind, unremitting ambition of the financial and power sort. Hillary's not a socialist, not a Marxist, not a capitalist, not a libertarian, not anything. There's nothing authentic about her, no there there. It's hard to know what Hillary believes anymore. She's so disingenuous she probably fools herself. No wonder she got so upset when being questioned about her "evolving" position on gay marriage. She undoubtedly was having trouble remembering what she had said when and why. It's all situational. No one can — not even she — remember what she did as secretary of State except fly around on planes.

Now for the feel good story of the year, <u>Edward Klein's</u> new book outlines the jealous feud between the two leading Dem families.

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Hillary Clinton has talked herself into another corner. <u>Rich Lowry</u> has the first part of the story.

We haven't learned much new about Hillary Clinton on her book tour except that she mistakes herself for a version of Norma Rae.

First, during an interview in her well-appointed Washington, D.C., home with ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer, she said she and Bill left the White House "dead broke," although they always made better potential subjects for Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous than for Let Us Now Praise Famous Men.

Next, in an interview with the Guardian, she seemed to suggest that she and Bill aren't among the "truly well off," and said that no one could possibly resent their wealth since they earned it "through dint of hard work."

And so they did — the hard work of building political careers for themselves, and then, when the time came, profiting massively off them. As Hillary put it in her walk-back of the "dead broke" remark, she and Bill had different "phases" in their lives. One phase involved climbing into the White House and incurring stupendous legal bills in fending off various scandals. The other has involved getting showered with money. ...

John Hayward has more on the Guardian interview.

Hillary Clinton keeps doubling down on her claims to be "dead broke" after leaving the White House – one of the biggest unforced errors ever committed at the early stages of a run for the White House. She becomes more of a laughingstock every time she tries to "clarify" those comments, but her ego – and her crude sense of how she needs to control the narrative and keep herself from getting painted into the dreaded "out-of-touch rich elitist" corner – won't allow her to let it drop.

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America's glaring income inequality is certain to be a central bone of contention in the 2016 presidential election. But with her huge personal wealth, how could Clinton possibly hope to be credible on this issue when people see her as part of the problem, not its solution?

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You've got to love that spiteful, envious little dig she throws in about not naming names. Classic Hillary, and a big part of the reason why I continue to doubt she's even going to be the Democrat nominee in 2016, no matter what conventional wisdom says. She's just plain off-putting. ...

Roger L. Simon Why People Zone Out on Hillary

Hillary Clinton — the woman assumed to be the next Democratic Party presidential nominee and quite possibly the next president — is evidently a big snooze. According to <u>Mediate</u>, her interviews to promote her book on CNN and Fox had underwhelming numbers. In the case of Greta Van Susteren's show, she sent people fleeing midway. More importantly, her book itself is a sales disappointment and, I would wager, even more disappointing if you could ascertain how many who did buy it read actually past page 15. I wouldn't be surprised if it was in single digits.

No, I haven't read it and don't intend to. Almost all books by contemporary politicians are intellectually vacuous, ghostwritten exercises in self-promotion or, as in the case of Barack Obama, a straight out pack of lies. Who would spend their valuable reading time on that with the thousands of great books, past and present, available? I haven't even made my way through half of <u>Dorothy</u> <u>Sayers</u>.

Which leads me to the deeper reason the country is sleeping through Hillary's book and it's not just because it's hugely over long and therefore a totally un-green waste of paper and trees (although that's true). Most people know she's basically dishonest, a prevaricator. Even liberals, though they won't readily admit it, know this. Who can forget her blaming her husband's compulsive philandering on the "great, right-wing conspiracy"? If they only had such power. Or the dim-witted claims of being under fire when she hadn't been (at least Geraldo makes a show of ducking) and, more recently, the banshee-cry of "What difference does it make?" concerning the deaths of our people in Benghazi? The Benghazi lies are actually exponential. (I'm not even going to go back to Whitewater, the miracle quick killing on the stock market, the mysterious Rose Law Firm bill and all the rest.)

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intervening time that has been overwhelmed and, for the most part, forgotten in a welter of blind, unremitting ambition of the financial and power sort. Hillary's not a socialist, not a Marxist, not a capitalist, not a libertarian, not anything. There's nothing authentic about her, no there there. It's hard to know what Hillary believes anymore. She's so disingenuous she probably fools herself. No wonder she got so upset when being questioned about her "evolving" position on gay marriage. She undoubtedly was having trouble remembering what she had said when and why. It's all situational. No one can — not even she — remember what she did as secretary of State except fly around on planes.

So Hillary is a nowhere woman, trying to replace a nowhere man, which is saying something given Obama's recent poll numbers. And no one wants to pay attention to a nowhere woman who has been a serial liar. It's stupefying. The natural reaction of most people, even many who will support her anyway, is to tune out — and they have. We've zoned out on Hillary. She's not even a subject of glamorous interest anymore. Who cares whom she really sleeps with or how she relates to Bill? It's all one big snooze, less important than the Kardashians and they, apparently, are on the way out.

But boring as she is, Hillary still very well might be POTUS. And that will be a truly sad day for this country. Imagine, if you will, Inaugural Day 2017 with Hillary Clinton being sworn in to the presidency. A few time-warped pseudo-feminists will be excited because she's a woman. (How sexist is that!) But the rest of us, I submit, will be numb, even the Democrats who voted for her because most of them will have done it without much enthusiasm or, at best, because it helps them keep their government jobs. After eight years of Obama, we get Hillary. Yikes!

NY Post Inside the jealous feud between the Obamas and 'Hildebeest' Clintons By Edward Klein



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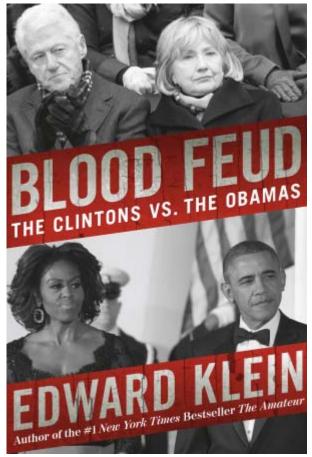
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'Michelle could be president'

The animosity came to a head in the run-up to the 2012 election, when Obama's inner circle insisted he needed the former president's support to win. Obama finally telephoned Bill Clinton in September 2011 and invited him out for a round of golf.

"I'm not going to enjoy this," Bill told Hillary when they gathered with a group of friends and political associates at Whitehaven, their neo-Georgian home on Embassy Row in Washington, DC.



"Blood Feud" by Edward Klein

"I've had two successors since I left the White House — Bush and Obama — and I've heard more from Bush, asking for my advice, than I've heard from Obama. I have no relationship with the president — none whatsoever," Clinton said.

"I really can't stand the way Obama always seems to be hectoring when he talks to me," Clinton added, according to someone who was present at the gathering and spoke on the condition of anonymity. "Sometimes we just stare at each other. It's pretty damn awkward. Now we both have favors to ask each other, and it's going to be very unpleasant. But I've got to get this guy to owe me and to be on our side."

During the golf game, Clinton didn't waste any time reminding Obama that as president he had presided over eight years of prosperity, while Obama had been unable to dig the country out of the longest financial doldrums since the Great Depression.

"Bill got into it right away," said a Clinton family friend. "He told Obama, 'Hillary and I are gearing up for a run in 2016.' He said Hillary would be 'the most qualified, most experienced candidate, perhaps in history.' His reference to Hillary's experience made Obama wince, since it was clearly a shot at his lack of experience when he ran for president.

"And so Bill continued to talk about Hillary's qualifications ... and the coming campaign in 2016. But Barack didn't bite. He changed the subject several times. Then suddenly, Barack said something that took Bill by complete surprise. He said, 'You know, Michelle would make a great presidential candidate, too.'

"Bill was speechless. Was Barack comparing Michelle's qualifications to Hillary's? Bill said that if he hadn't been on a mission to strike a deal with Barack, he might have stormed off the golf course then and there."

Blackberry snub

Bill Clinton would go on to campaign for Obama in 2012, but he felt betrayed when the president seemed to waver when it came to a 2016 endorsement of Hillary. Obama attempted to smooth things over with a joint "60 Minutes" interview with Hillary, and later a private dinner for the two couples at the White House.

'I hate that man Obama more than any man I've ever met, more than any man who ever lived.'

- Bill Clinton in 'Blood Feud'

And so, on March1, 2013 — the very day that the \$85billion in budget cuts known as the "sequester" went into effect — the Clintons slipped unnoticed into the White House and sat down for dinner with the Obamas in the Residence.

Typically, once Obama decided to do something (for example, the surge in Afghanistan), he immediately had second thoughts, and his behavior during dinner degenerated from moody to grumpy to bad-tempered.

After the obligatory greetings and small talk about family, Obama asked Bill what he thought about the sequester: Would it turn out to be a political plus for him? Bill went into a long — and boring — lecture about the issue.

To change the subject, Hillary asked Michelle if it was true, as she had heard, that the first lady was thinking about running for the Senate from Illinois.

Michelle said that she was warming to the idea, though she had yet to make up her mind.

Bill shot Hillary a look of incredulity.

Bill then moved the conversation to Obama's vaunted 2012 campaign organization. He told Obama that it would be a good idea to fold the organization, along with all its digital and social-media bells and whistles, into the Democratic National Committee.

Obama's only response was a disparaging smile.



President Barack Obama acts cordial with former President Clinton but it's all for show, according to the new book "Blood Feud," by journalist Edward Klein.

"You have to use your organization to aid the candidate in 2016," Bill pressed Obama.

"Really?" Obama replied in a tone of undisguised sarcasm.

The two men went back and forth over the subject of where the money for Obama's campaign organization had come from and how to allocate funds for the 2016 presidential election. Bill raised his voice. So did Obama.

As Bill Clinton went on about his managerial experience, Obama began playing with his Blackberry under the table, making it plain that he wasn't paying attention to anything Clinton had to say. He

was intentionally snubbing Clinton. Others around the table noticed Obama thumbing his Blackberry, and the atmosphere turned even colder than before.

Hillary changed the subject again.

"Are you glad you won't have to campaign again?" she asked Obama. "You don't seem to enjoy it."

"For a guy who doesn't like it," Obama replied tartly, "I've done pretty well."

"Well," Bill said, adding his two cents, "I was glad to pitch in and help get you re-elected."

There was another long pause. Finally, Obama turned to Bill and said, sotto voce, "Thanks."

After the dinner, and once the Clintons had been ushered out of the family quarters, Obama shook his head and said, "That's why I never invite that guy over."

Obama's mini-me

Lately, Bill Clinton has become convinced that Obama won't endorse Hillary in 2016. During a gathering at Whitehaven, guests overheard Bill talking to his daughter Chelsea about whether the president would back Joe Biden.

"Recently, I've been hearing a different scenario from state committeemen," Clinton said. "They say he's looking for a candidate who's just like him. Someone relatively unknown. Someone with a fresh face.

"He's convinced himself he's been a brilliant president, and wants to clone himself — to find his Mini-Me.

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Excerpted from "Blood Feud: The Clintons vs. the Obamas" by Edward Klein. Out this week from Regnery Publishing.

National Review <u>The Struggles of Hillary</u> *The ordinary American just doesn't know what it's like.* by Rich Lowry

We haven't learned much new about Hillary Clinton on her book tour except that she mistakes herself for a version of Norma Rae.

First, during an interview in her well-appointed Washington, D.C., home with ABC News anchor Diane Sawyer, she said she and Bill left the White House "dead broke," although they always made better potential subjects for *Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous* than for *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*.

Next, in an interview with the *Guardian*, she seemed to suggest that she and Bill aren't among the "truly well off," and said that no one could possibly resent their wealth since they earned it "through dint of hard work."

And so they did — the hard work of building political careers for themselves, and then, when the time came, profiting massively off them. As Hillary put it in her walk-back of the "dead broke" remark, she and Bill had different "phases" in their lives. One phase involved climbing into the White House and incurring stupendous legal bills in fending off various scandals. The other has involved getting showered with money.

Most people can't understand the nature of the hard work with which the Clintons are constantly building their fortune.

They don't know what it's like to write a calculatedly tedious book for an almost \$14 million advance.

They don't know what it's like to get up every morning and take a private jet to an event where adoring fans line up for a book-signing (only one copy per person, and no posed photographs, please).

They don't know what it's like to run from speech to speech, collecting as much as \$200,000 per gig.

They don't know what it's like to be married to a man who earns \$700,000 for one speech in Nigeria.

They don't know what it's like to have a daughter who gets paid \$600,000 by NBC News for a not particularly taxing job.

They don't know what it's like to be so connected that even your hangers-on can get rich.

This is the life of labor the Clintons have chosen, and if it is arduous, it has its rewards. Between 2000 and 2008, the couple made roughly \$110 million in income. They own two homes, one (in Washington) valued at \$5 million, and another (in New York state) valued at \$1.8 million. Last summer, they rented an \$11 million mansion in the Hamptons. Such is their wealth that they are using complicated tax maneuvers to limit their exposure to the estate tax.

No one will necessarily hold this bonanza against Hillary, unless she minimizes it in a tone-deaf attempt to make herself out as an average working gal, as she has during the past couple of weeks. The country has a long history of successful wealthy Democratic politicians (FDR, JFK), but a more recent example of an unsuccessful wealthy Democratic politician (John Kerry), who suffered from the perception that he was an out-of-touch elitist.

Hillary's expressed cluelessness about how truly well off she is, and why, risks putting her in the Kerry category. As Daniel Drezner of the *Washington Post* points out, her attitude surely reflects class divisions within the top 1 percent. If you hang out with celebrities and billionaires long enough, you will feel positively middle class even as you pull down millions of dollars per year.

Her cash windfall also will make the Democratic war on inequality at least a little more awkward, although she's no different from other Democratic scourges of inequality who almost always sop up as much money as possible as soon as they're out of government. For liberals, to paraphrase

an old Ronald Reagan quip, fair reward for hard work and talent is when *you* get rich; a crisis in income inequality is when *someone else* does.

But Hillary would know nothing about these gradations within the upper stratosphere of wealth. She's working too hard just to make ends meet.

Human Events Hillary Clinton: \$100 million isn't enough to make me 'truly well off' by John Hayward



Hillary Clinton keeps doubling down on her claims to be "dead broke" after leaving the White House – one of the biggest unforced errors ever committed at the early stages of a run for the White House. She becomes more of a laughingstock every time she tries to "clarify" those comments, but her ego – and her crude sense of how she needs to control the narrative and keep herself from getting painted into the dreaded "out-of-touch rich elitist" corner – won't allow her to let it drop.

The latest lawn full of rakes awaited her in a generally friendly interview from the <u>UK *Guardian*</u>, which includes this sparkling gem of insight: "You quickly sense that Hillary Clinton, supreme operator that she has become, is all about control, all about guarding the presentation of her own image that is arguably the politician's most important challenge in the age of social media and 24-hour cable television." The actual story of the past few weeks is Clinton's astounding ineptitude at controlling her image, to the point that even <u>MSNBC</u> and CNN panels are laughing at her on-camera.

This is the passage from the interview that brightened CNN's morning with giggles:

And money? What about money? Bill and Hillary have reportedly made more than \$100m since they left the White House in 2001. Yet that didn't stop Hillary complaining to Diane Sawyer on ABC News that the couple had emerged from highest office "dead broke", a comment that ranks for its tone deafness alongside John McCain's admission in the 2008 presidential election that he couldn't remember how many houses he owned.

America's glaring income inequality is certain to be a central bone of contention in the 2016 presidential election. But with her huge personal wealth, how could Clinton possibly hope to be credible on this issue when people see her as part of the problem, not its solution?

"But they don't see me as part of the problem," she protests, "because we pay ordinary income tax, unlike a lot of people who are truly well off, not to name names; and we've done it through dint of hard work," she says, letting off another burst of laughter. If past form is any guide, she must be finding my question painful.

You've got to love that spiteful, envious little dig she throws in about not naming names. Classic Hillary, and a big part of the reason why I continue to doubt she's even going to be the Democrat nominee in 2016, no matter what conventional wisdom says. She's just plain *off-putting*. Her supporters can't see it because of their blind loyalty to Bill Clinton, and to the image of Hillary as the super-genius feminist mother-goddess they've been fed for years, but after a few more reminders of how she plays to average Americans, they're going to get nervous about her electability. Hillaryism is Obamaism without the threadbare velvet glove and faded Hopenchange smiley-face.

But let's leave politics, image, and charges of hypocrisy aside for a moment, and dispassionately consider the merits of what she's saying. She's trying to make a distinction between being incomerich and asset-rich – that's why she whined about how she and Bill "pay ordinary income tax, unlike a lot of people who are truly well-off."

She's underestimating public ire about exactly *how* she and Bill earn all that income: it's a very prettied-up version of political graft. She gets paid a fortune to give boring speeches on topics where she has far less to offer than many cheaper speakers would, because the people shoveling \$200,000 per appearance into her bank account wish to curry favor with the Clintons and the Democrat power structure. She and her husband also get paid exorbitant sums of money for books they don't write, and which nobody reads, for the same reason. Hillary's new book, "Hard Choices," is already dropping off the bestseller lists, only a week after its debut. It's debatable to characterize 60,000 units sold as a "bomb".... until you remember that Hillary got paid millions for it. And nobody's even *trying* to pretend that Chelsea Clinton was worth her phenomenal salary as a "journalist" for NBC News, where she's paid \$600k per year for a no-show job. (She's currently on a "month-to-month" contract where she gets paid *fifty thousand dollars a month...* and she hasn't been on the air for over four months.)

At this moment of dwindling public confidence in our gigantic but hopelessly inept government, with mounting anger about the way taxpayer money is mishandled by politicians who never stop badgering us to pay even *more*, people who raked in \$100 million based on their political connections are not in a good place to boast about how they earned it all "through dint of hard work."

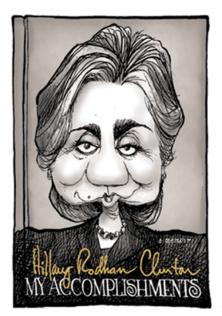
Another problem facing Hillary is that she picked a poor moment to spotlight the difference between income and asset wealth, because the Obama years have been extremely kind to the latter. She's looking to follow a far-Left President whose policies made "income inequality" *worse,* and made it especially rough for people trying to succeed by investing modest holdings and make a profit with hard work and entrepreneurial risk.

Also... remember this memorable quote from Barack Obama? "You didn't build that... someone else made that happen..." A core belief of Obamanomics is that *nobody* gets rich by dint of hard work; wealth accumulation is *theft* to these people. Hillary's big speaking fees come from corporate interests that liberal dogma portrays as robber barons. We're supposed to applaud Hillary for piling up \$100 million through "hard work" giving speeches and signing off on ghost-written books, but we're suppose to *hate* someone who amassed \$100 million by risking their capital and creating products that satisfied consumer demand? Every capitalism-defending liberty-loving conservative candidate should relish the notion of having that discussion with Hillary Clinton during presidential debates. Who, exactly, shall determine which \$100 million fortunes were fairly "earned," and which are filthy piles of ill-gotten loot that should be redistributed as quickly as possible?

Speaking of redistribution, the Clintons have used <u>every legal and accounting technique under the</u> <u>sun</u> to protect their wealth from taxation. There's nothing illegal about what they've done... but that doesn't stop Clinton's Party soulmates and ideological fellow-travelers from savagely attacking everyone *else* who practices "tax avoidance" strategies. Not so long ago, the Left was making a deliberate effort to conflate "tax avoidance" (the use of entirely legal means to shelter money) and illegal tax-*dodging* in the public mind. Why haven't the Clintons led by example, and refused to use these dastardly techniques to prevent our wise and virtuous government from re-distributing their income to the truly deserving?

Oh, and to answer Mrs. Clinton's point about how \$100 million isn't enough to qualify her as "welloff": sorry, but your Party has a *very specific* definition of what "well-off" means, and it's far less than what you pulled in during your *leanest* year. Specifically, it is iron-clad Democrat Party dogma that \$250,000 per year qualifies a married couple as "rich," and in fact makes them "millionaires" who should be paying more in taxes. That's not one casual comment from an Obama speech I'm harping on – it was repeated hundreds of times during every tax-hike drama over the past six years.

Hillary Clinton, and other members of the political aristocracy, are eternally jealous of the wealth they experience while hobnobbing with their big-money supporters. I have no doubt that she sincerely thinks she's as well-off as she *should* be... as rich as she *deserves* to be. Under leftwing ideology, the Ruling Class is entitled to a posh lifestyle, enjoying the material rewards their high-developed social conscience, academic achievements, and brilliant leadership entitle them to. The idea that such rewards are currently in the grip of money-grubbing *capitalists* infuriates them. That would be a tough message for someone as tin-eared as Mrs. Clinton to sell voters, even if her ideology hadn't spent the past six years failing at everything it tried, from "stimulus plans" to health care.



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