

## Women Without Kids: The Revolutionary Rise of an Unsung Sisterhood

**Ruby Warrington**

Sounds True (Mar 28, 2023)

Hardcover \$28.99 (208pp)

978-1-68364-927-4

Part memoir, part feminist manifesto, Ruby Warrington's *Women Without Kids* concerns the reality of being childless today.

After years of fielding the question of when she'd have kids, Warrington started digging into the social norms that dictate the pipeline from girlhood to puberty and motherhood. Her book addresses the crux of the matter from cultural and environmental lenses; it examines each angle of motherhood and childlessness alongside current and historical touchpoints on the subject. It discusses the "Motherhood Spectrum," the line that childbearing people land on from "affirmative yes" to "affirmative no," with a list of questions to determine an individual's own position. It shows how origin stories—and the generational trauma of mothers along one's family tree—influence the decision of whether to have children. And it dives into evolving ideas of gender, sexual, and reproductive identities, showing how recent revolutions helped people to eschew the common notion of a mother. Its final, most powerful point is that of legacy: children aren't all that we leave behind.

Each chapter opens with quotes from childless women and nonbinary people around the world who answered Warrington's survey about their decisions on motherhood. Some never wanted children, while others had the decision made for them by biology or circumstance. Warrington shares her own story, too, discussing her divorced parents, her disabled younger brother, and the realities of climate change. And mixed throughout the chapters are thought-provoking questions, such as "Which choices, big and small, have you made for your life that have influenced your reproductive outcomes?" to guide people in making their own decisions about motherhood.

*Women Without Kids* is a feminist exploration of being child-free, treating that decision as one of empowerment.

ASHLEY HOLSTROM (March / April 2023)

*Disclosure: This article is not an endorsement, but a review. The publisher of this book provided free copies of the book to have their book reviewed by a professional reviewer. No fee was paid by the publisher for this review. Foreword Reviews only recommends books that we love. Foreword Magazine, Inc. is disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.*