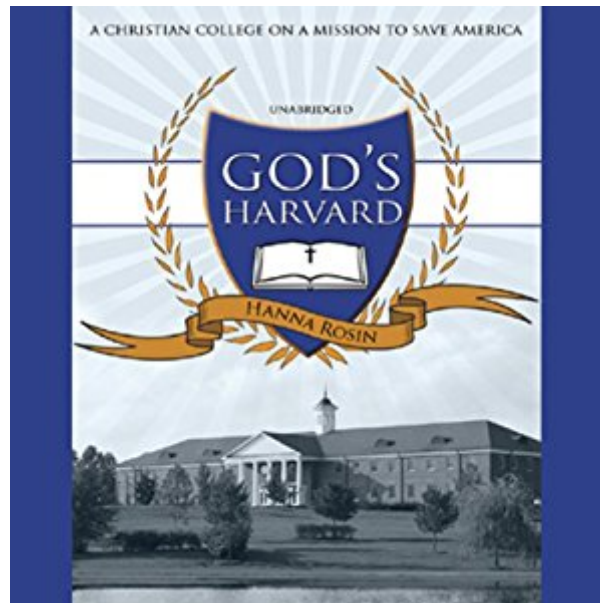




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God's Harvard: A Christian College On A Mission To Save America



Synopsis

Since 2000, America's most ambitious young evangelicals have been making their way to Patrick Henry College, a small Christian school just outside the nation's capital. Most of them are homeschoolers whose idealism and discipline put the average American teenager to shame. And God's Harvard grooms these students to be the elite of tomorrow, dispatching them to the front lines of politics, entertainment, and science, to wage the battle to take back a godless nation. Hanna Rosin spent a year and a half embedded at the college, following the students from the campus to the White House, Congress, conservative think tanks, Hollywood, and other centers of influence. Her account captures this nerve center of the evangelical movement at a moment of maximum influence and also of crisis, as it struggles to avoid the temptations of modern life and still remake the world in its own image. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

Rosin's recent book THE END OF MEN (2012) prompted me to order this book through . God's Harvard (2007) is a fast read, informative, and well-written. Rosin tackles the difficult topics of home-schooling, creationism vs. evolution, and the search for perfectionism in a most imperfect world through a new (2000) small Patrick Henry College, near Washington, D.C. The students are gearing toward careers in politics to promote their conservative Christian elite views. She spends much time with the college's founder Michael Farris, students, and faculty. The students have done

very well, most have been home-schooled, and some maxed their SATs. They must avoid the usual collegic distraction of alcohol and premarital sex. Five of the 16 faculty members at that time left or were fired as their views seemed too liberal. Rosin is an exceptional observer and reporter whose writing frequents the best of national periodicals. This paperback is worth the time and small cost with rapid delivery via .com.

I was fascinated by the depth of the faith these young people had and their determination to believe in all they had been taught without regards to the reality of politics and the tools of manipulation they learned along the way. I found the book both an eye-opener and a frightening exposé of the hard Christian right and the degree of their willful blindness to any other point of view.

Interesting, thorough work on Patrick Henry College and its students; would have benefited from some longer-term follow-up with older students, to see how their views have progressed

Rosin does a wonderful reporting job and writes eloquently on the culture she sought to understand. However, having worked at Patrick Henry College for a time, I found her examples too extreme and not typical of the students I met. She never gives a 'normal' example of students there, but instead focuses on the more peculiar types of students. This does make the book more entertaining to read. Her perception of the controversies among Christian circles is profound, and it would be helpful for Christians to read this book and see themselves from an outside perspective that is both respectful and insightful.

Ms. Rosin is a good writer and makes her book easy to digest. Unfortunately, I can tell you from personal experience that she does not give a complete picture. As the PHC graduate said in her comment, Ms. Rosin focuses on the things she can comprehend and dissect. This results in an unbalanced focus on the negative things (and there are negative things about PHC, just as there are with any school) while just glossing over or skipping the positive aspects altogether. It is very disappointing. I was hoping this book would be an honest, yet fair, look into the world of PHC, but it is not.

Several intertwined stories: *How several overly-religious, over-achieving youngsters cope with a new and unique overly-religious, over-achieving college. *How these students decide where to draw the line when it comes to participation in today's seductive secular culture - with the help of prayer, a

personal relationship with Jesus, and Patrick Henry College's conduct manual and "snitch" policy.*How an attorney, who made a career out of representing the interests of home-schooling parents, opened an evangelical college designed to put high achieving home-schoolers on a career path leading to politics. Student volunteers are given time off to assist the Republicans during each election cycle. A huge number of them get positions assisting Republican Congressmen and Senators in Washington DC during their off time. *How these kids have been taught since birth that God is on the side of the Republican Party. Patrick Henry College must tweak a continuous balancing act to maintain their offense and defense against secularism. Founder and President Michael Farris would like PHC to be part of the movement that would return the United States to be the God-fearing society it believes the founding fathers intended. This means an education that enhances a working knowledge of and working relationship with the enemy. That knowledge, at times, enhances the inadvertent defection of some of their brightest stars to the dark side. Robert Stacey, PhD, consistently was a role model and favored teacher at Patrick Henry. Among other things, he caused students to question whether, for example, Bush's every move had been the correct one, and whether, in truth, all the founding fathers were as religious as these home-schoolers had always been taught. Jennifer Gruenke, PhD, taught biology. She didn't believe in evolution but she taught it - on the basis that you have to know the correct theory in order to honestly oppose it. She also taught alternatives - intelligent design and even a 10,000 year old earth inhabited by a naked lady and a snake, as portrayed in Genesis. These instructors and several others are no longer at Patrick Henry. They resigned en masse when Farris tried to enforce a more Biblical code on their curriculum - caving in to complaints from home-schooling parents. Not my cup of tea, nor is it the author's, who is a journalist specializing in religion and is a non-practicing Jew. In the hands of other authors, this book could have been a scathing indictment of a Taliban-like fundamentalist sinkhole - or it could have presented PHC to be a sugar-coated nirvana-land, but she has done neither. For a year and a half she was granted freedom to the campus and to those who live and work there. She is open-mindedly empathetic, but realistic about them. It appears PHC will be a significant force in the future, influencing politics and culture wherever they think they can. This is a very interesting, timely book and I recommend it.

This uncommonly insightful book offers a lively, prodigiously enjoyable romp through the campus of Generation Joshua, the latest iteration of young evangelical soldiers who attempt to balance blind adherence to biblical scripture with worldly ambition and its associated temptations under the tutelage of the Patrick Henry College founder Farris and his professors. The majority of the

300-strong student body is home-schooled, and the smart but none-too-worldly students are instructed to repress normal teen-aged hormonal impulses to the extent that they frequently adopt 18th century courtship rituals (the women tend to emulate Jane Austen's characters). Chapter by chapter the author relates her sharp observations of the PHC students as they interact socially - and even, on occasion, mildly rebel - and strive to serve the Republican party through tireless campaigning. Ms. Rosin's reporting is unusually fair, and it is her skill in this regard that will cause some readers to sympathize with this new generation of fundamentalist Christians in their struggle to turn back the clock on progress. Other readers will simply be horrified.

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