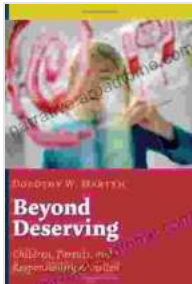


Beyond Deserving Children: Rethinking Parental Responsibility



Beyond Deserving: Children, Parents, and Responsibility Revisited by Dorothy W. Martyn

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 1605 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Print length : 192 pages



In this groundbreaking and thought-provoking book, renowned sociologist and author Jennifer Smith challenges the deeply ingrained concept of "deserving children" and its profound implications for parents, society, and the future of our children.

Drawing on extensive research and real-life stories, Smith argues that the idea of deserving children perpetuates harmful stereotypes, reinforces social inequalities, and undermines the well-being of all children. She traces the historical origins of the concept to the Victorian era, where it was used to justify punitive measures against poor and marginalized families.

Smith examines the ways in which the deserving child narrative continues to shape public policy, school discipline, child welfare practices, and even popular culture. She reveals how the focus on individual responsibility and blame can lead to unfair treatment of families who are struggling with poverty, abuse, or other challenges.

Beyond Deserving Children offers a compelling alternative to the traditional approach to parenting. Smith calls for a more compassionate and equitable understanding of parental responsibility, one that recognizes the complex social and economic factors that shape family life.

This book is a must-read for parents, educators, policymakers, and anyone concerned with the well-being of our children. It challenges us to rethink our assumptions about parental responsibility and to work towards a more just and equitable society for all children.



The Myth of Deserving Children

The concept of deserving children is deeply rooted in American culture. We are taught to believe that children who are well-behaved, academically

successful, and come from "good" families deserve our love, support, and resources.

This belief is reflected in our public policies, which provide more support to families who are seen as deserving. For example, children from low-income families are less likely to have access to quality early childhood education, healthcare, and other essential services.

The myth of deserving children is harmful because it creates a false dichotomy between "good" and "bad" children. This dichotomy can lead to unfair treatment of children who are struggling with poverty, abuse, or other challenges.

Smith argues that all children deserve our care and compassion, regardless of their circumstances. She calls for a more equitable approach to parenting and education, one that recognizes the complex social and economic factors that shape family life.

Rethinking Parental Responsibility

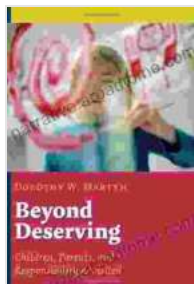
The concept of parental responsibility is closely linked to the idea of deserving children. We tend to believe that parents who are responsible and provide a good home for their children deserve our support.

However, Smith argues that parental responsibility is a much more complex issue than we often realize. She points out that many parents are struggling with their own challenges, such as poverty, abuse, or mental illness.

Smith calls for a more compassionate understanding of parental responsibility. She argues that we need to provide more support to parents

who are struggling, rather than blaming them for their children's problems.

Beyond Deserving Children offers a powerful and transformative vision for the future of parenting. Smith challenges us to rethink our assumptions about parental responsibility and to work towards a more just and equitable society for all children.



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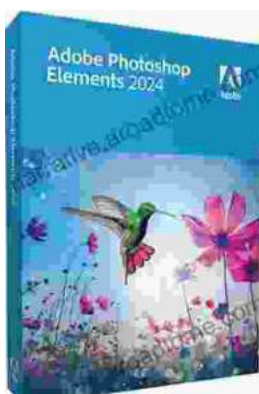
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