



Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy

Emily Bazelon

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NATIONAL BESTSELLER

Being a teenager has never been easy, but in recent years, with the rise of the Internet and social media, it has become exponentially more challenging. Bullying, once thought of as the province of queen bees and goons, has taken on new, complex, and insidious forms, as parents and educators know all too well.

No writer is better poised to explore this territory than Emily Bazelon, who has established herself as a leading voice on the social and legal aspects of teenage drama. In *Sticks and Stones*, she brings readers on a deeply researched, clear-eyed journey into the ever-shifting landscape of teenage meanness and its sometimes devastating consequences. The result is an indispensable book that takes us from school cafeterias to courtrooms to the offices of Facebook, the website where so much teenage life, good and bad, now unfolds.

Along the way, Bazelon defines what bullying is and, just as important, what it *is not*. She explores when intervention is essential and when kids should be given the freedom to fend for themselves. She also dispels persistent myths: that girls bully more than boys, that online and in-person bullying are entirely distinct, that bullying is a common cause of suicide, and that harsh criminal penalties are an effective deterrent. Above all, she believes that to deal with the problem, we must first understand it.

Blending keen journalistic and narrative skills, Bazelon explores different facets of bullying through the stories of three young people who found themselves caught in the thick of it. Thirteen-year-old Monique endured months of harassment and exclusion before her mother finally pulled her out of school. Jacob was threatened and physically attacked over his sexuality in eighth grade—and then sued to protect himself and change the culture of his school. Flannery was one of six teens who faced criminal charges after a fellow student's suicide was blamed on bullying and made international headlines. With grace and authority, Bazelon chronicles how these kids' predicaments escalated, to no one's benefit, into community-wide wars. Cutting through the noise, misinformation, and sensationalism, she takes us into schools that have succeeded in reducing bullying and examines their successful strategies. The result is a groundbreaking book that will help parents, educators, and teens themselves better understand what kids are going through today and what can be done to help them through it.

Contains a new discussion guide for classroom use and book groups.

Praise for *Sticks and Stones*

“Intelligent, rigorous . . . [Emily Bazelon] is a compassionate champion for justice in the domain of childhood's essential unfairness.”—**Andrew Solomon, *The New York Times Book Review***

“[Bazelon] does not stint on the psychological literature, but the result never feels dense with studies; it's immersive storytelling with a sturdy base of science underneath, and draws its authority and power from

both.”—*New York*

“A humane and closely reported exploration of the way that hurtful power relationships play out in the contemporary public-school setting . . . As a parent herself, [Bazelon] brings clear, kind analysis to complex and upsetting circumstances.”—*The Wall Street Journal*

“Bullying isn’t new. But our attempts to respond to it are, as Bazelon explains in her richly detailed, thought-provoking book. . . . Comprehensive in her reporting and balanced in her conclusions, Bazelon extracts from these stories useful lessons for young people, parents and principals alike.”—*The Washington Post*

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From reader reviews:

Antoinette Holdren:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because when you are reading a book especially book entitled Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in most aspect that maybe not known for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging just about every word written in a publication then become one form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get before. The Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy giving you an additional experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful details for your better life in this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a sport. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

Malcolm Lee:

Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy can be one of your starter books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary which could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to set every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy although doesn't forget the main level, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource info that maybe you can be among it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial considering.

Paula Royce:

Are you kind of busy person, only have 10 or even 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind proficiency or thinking skill also analytical thinking? Then you are experiencing problem with the book when compared with can satisfy your short time to read it because pretty much everything time you only find publication that need more time to be read. Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy can be your answer mainly because it can be read by you who have those short time problems.

Tonette Land:

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