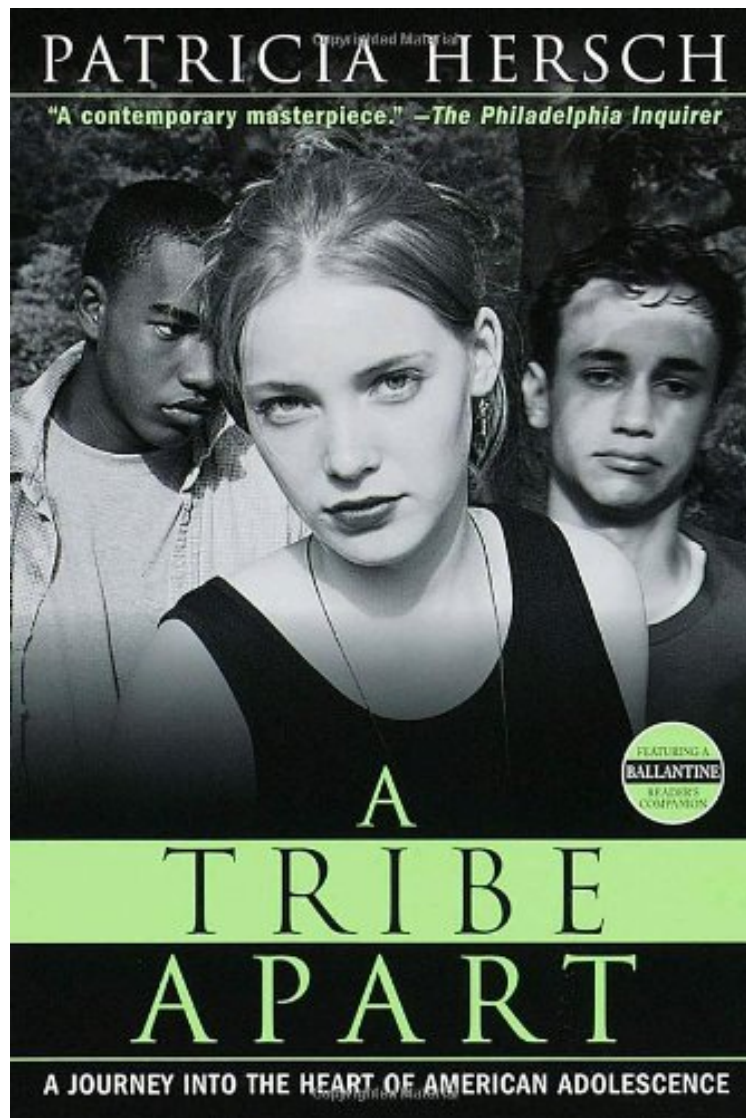


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A Tribe Apart: A Journey into the Heart of American Adolescence (Ballantine Reader's Circle)

Patricia Hersch

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Patricia Hersch : A Tribe Apart: A Journey into the Heart of American Adolescence (Ballantine Reader's Circle) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Tribe Apart: A Journey into the Heart of American Adolescence (Ballantine Reader's Circle):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Read this book for a classBy Chuck WhiteheadI read this book for a

class. It provides an interesting perspective on the life of teenagers. The book follows some students for a year in school. The author interviewed them for several years before writing this book. A Tribe Apart definitely gives you a different look at what life is like for a teenager. I would highly recommend reading this if you deal with adolescents it will help you get a better idea where they are coming from. After reading this book I bought a copy for every high school and junior high teacher that I know. I would have given the book a better rating but it is very slow and the writing style leaves a lot to be desired in my opinion. Like I said the info in the book is great but it is not conveyed in that great of a way. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Three Stars By Customer required for a class 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I bought this book for a class and I hated it. I barely made it though the first ... By Punk92 I bought this book for a class and I hated it. I barely made it though the first chapter. Would not recommend.

For three fascinating, disturbing years, writer Patricia Hersch journeyed inside a world that is as familiar as our own children and yet as alien as some exotic culture--the world of adolescence. As a silent, attentive partner, she followed eight teenagers in the typically American town of Reston, Virginia, listening to their stories, observing their rituals, watching them fulfill their dreams and enact their tragedies. What she found was that America's teens have fashioned a fully defined culture that adults neither see nor imagine--a culture of unprecedented freedom and baffling complexity, a culture with rules but no structure, values but no clear morality, codes but no consistency. Is it society itself that has created this separate teen community? Resigned to the attitude that adolescents simply live in "a tribe apart," adults have pulled away, relinquishing responsibility and supervision, allowing the unhealthy behaviors of teens to flourish. Ultimately, this rift between adults and teenagers robs both generations of meaningful connections. For everyone's world is made richer and more challenging by having adolescents in it.

.com Why do teenagers so often seem like a different species? Journalist Patricia Hersch gives a troubling answer in her fascinating, up-close-and-personal look at what it means to be a teen in today's American high schools. Rather than interviewing "high-risk" teens (those already swept up in a cycle of drug use, gang violence, or unintended pregnancy, for example), Hersch focuses her attention on "regular kids"--adolescents who are average achievers on academic and social levels. In light of this, *A Tribe Apart* is all the more startling to read: Hersch's investigative approach makes it impossible for parents to shrug off their responsibilities by saying "That's not my kid." This is your kid. Hersch offers readers a fly-on-the-wall perspective as she spends three years hanging out with eight youths, submerging herself in their environment. They struggle with all the things you might remember or expect from the teen years: figuring out relationships, establishing friendships, determining what's cool and uncool, experiencing sexual attraction. But these teens--and, as Hersch asserts, the majority of teens in America today--have much, much more piled on their plates. Having been left to their own devices by a preoccupied, self-involved, and "hands-off" generation of parents, adolescents have had to figure out their own system of ethics, morals, and values, and rely on each other for advice on such profound topics as abuse, dysfunctional parents, and sex (with all its accompanying ramifications). Adolescents are indeed "a tribe apart," but not by choice--adult society abandons them long before they ever get the chance to rebel against it. A wake-up call for all parents and teenagers, this essential book is also hopeful. Hersch urges us not to be afraid of teenagers--even if they have piercings and tattoos and strange hair--because what they really, truly want is a little guidance, attention, and love. --Brangien Davis From Library Journal The "generation gap" of the 1960s has widened into a much deeper chasm in the 1990s, according to Hersch, former contributing editor to *Psychology Today* and the mother of three adolescents. This reflects no simple youthful rebellion but an extreme estrangement between adults and teenagers owing to the rise of dual careers, divorce, and violent social change. Part anthology, part soap opera, this work by participant-observer Hersch provides case studies of eight teens from her own suburb near Washington, DC. The study covers events from the seventh through the 12th grades (1992-95). These are "regular" kids, a group balanced for race, gender, and ethnicity, yet their flirtations with promiscuity, drugs, and suicidal behavior could and did turn some lives tragic. Lots of details are reported, many ultimately unverifiable. However, the essence of the short descriptive chapters rings true. A powerful sense that issues are more complex for today's youth is well conveyed. Timely, well written, even enthralling though suggesting few solutions to the problems raised, this book is highly recommended for public libraries and education collections. --Antoinette Brinkman, SW Indiana Mental Health Ctr. Lib., Evansville Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist A journalist who writes frequently about teens, and the mother of three, Hersch, observing that "adolescents have become strangers . . . a tribe apart, remote, mysterious, vaguely threatening," decided to immerse herself in their world and report on her findings. She attended middle- and high-school classes in her hometown of Reston, Virginia, and became close enough with a number of youngsters to be welcomed into their homes, hangouts, and confidences. What she learned about adolescents, and their often disturbing experiences, dreams, and worries, is startling in terms of both its obviousness and its complexity. She reflects on adolescence as "a journey, a search for self in every dimension of being," and on the fact that young people ask all the big questions about life and long for guidance, truth, and respect from adults. "Values do not spring fully formed out of nowhere," Hersch writes, but are handed down, generation to generation,

patiently, responsibly, and lovingly, and in our contradictory, unbounded, high-risk world, they are more crucial than ever before. Donna Seaman