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Have you ever wondered about the lives of the Presidential wives? Much attention has been focused on the Presidents, often ignoring the women who accompany them to the White House. Now it's time we turn the spotlight on the First Ladies, whose lives give fascinating insight into the history of our country. In this trivia lover's paradise, no stone is left unturned. You will learn which First Ladies lived the longest, which were the best educated, which had the most children, and which

were on the other end of the spectrum. You will also discover which women married their way into the White House, which causes and projects the First Ladies pursued, and so much more. Other family members, including Presidential children, are also described by the numbers; there is even a section on Presidential pets. Brimming with lists, anecdotes, and more, *Ranking the First Ladies* is a treasure trove for history lovers of all stripes. From Martha Washington to Michelle Obama, 46 illustrations portray the nation's First Ladies and official hostesses in this informative coloring book. Many of the First Ladies are depicted in their inaugural gowns." Tells the story of Florence Harding's rise from young unwed mother to First Lady and reveals her influence behind Harding's ascent to America's most scandal-ridden presidency and her role in his death. The drama of her life is set against the stage of the White House in the Jazz Age, and involves exciting elements such as mistresses, blackmail, poisoning, and opium addicts. Includes bandw photos. Annotation copyrighted by Book News, Inc., Portland, OR

A novel about the extraordinary partnership between First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and civil rights activist Mary McLeod Bethune—a forbidden friendship that changed the world, from the New York Times bestselling authors of *The Personal Librarian*. The daughter of formerly enslaved parents, Mary McLeod Bethune refuses to back down as white supremacists attempt to thwart her work. She marches on as an activist and an educator, and as her reputation grows, she becomes a celebrity, renowned in the Black community, revered by titans of business, and recognized by U.S. Presidents. Eleanor Roosevelt herself is awestruck and eager to make her acquaintance. Upon meeting, Mary and Eleanor

bond over their shared belief in women's rights and the power of education, and Mary quickly becomes a friend to the sheltered Eleanor, helping her better understand the plight of Black Americans. When Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected president, the two women begin to collaborate more closely, particularly as Eleanor moves toward her own agenda separate and apart from FDR, a consequence of the devastating discovery of her husband's secret love affair. Eleanor becomes a controversial First Lady for her outspokenness, particularly on civil rights. And when she receives death threats because of her strong ties to Mary, it only fuels the women's desire to fortify their alliance and further the work they have started, fighting for justice and equality. Told from two perspectives, this is the story of two different, yet equally formidable, passionate, and committed women, and the way in which — hand in hand — Mary and Eleanor forged a singular friendship as they helped form the foundation for the modern civil rights movement. Traces the development of the First Lady's role from obscurity into an influential force in politics, complete with office, staff and budgetary resources to rival those of key presidential advisors. The author also explores the paradoxes surrounding activism in the office. This newly updated collection of biographies showcases all the secrets, scandals, and trivia from America's first ladies. Whether she's a leading lady, loyal spouse, or lightning rod for scandal, the First Lady of the United States has always been in the spotlight—and in 2017 that was truer than ever. This revised and expanded edition from Quirk's best-selling Secret Lives series features outrageous and uncensored profiles of the women of the White House, from Martha Washington to Melania Trump, it comes

complete with hundreds of little-known, politically incorrect, and downright wacko facts. Did you know that . . . □ Dolley Madison loved to chew tobacco □ Mary Todd Lincoln conducted séances on a regular basis □ Eleanor Roosevelt and Ellen Wilson both carried guns □ Jacqueline Kennedy spent \$121,000 on her wardrobe in a single year □ Betty Ford liked to chat on CB radios—her handle was “First Mama” And much, much more. One secret could bring down the government when the President's memorable affair becomes a nightmare he longs to forget in this page-turner from James Patterson that will keep you up reading all night long. Sally Grissom is a top Secret Service agent in charge of the Presidential Protection team. She knows that something is amiss when she's summoned to a private meeting with the President and his Chief of Staff without any witnesses. But she couldn't have predicted that she'd be forced to take on an investigation surrounding the mysterious disappearance of the First Lady -- with strict orders to keep it a secret. The First Lady's absence comes in the wake of the scandalous, public revelation of the president's affair, so at first it seems as though she is simply cutting off all contact as she recuperates at a horse farm in Virginia. What begins as an innocent respite quickly turns into a twisted case when the White House receives a ransom note along with the First Lady's finger. Bringing together the work of notable historians, political scientists, and sociologists, *The Presidential Companion: Readings on the First Ladies* offers a collection of essays that demonstrate the political relevance of first ladies throughout U.S. history and the dramatic expansion of their power during the twentieth century. With a foreword by Hillary Clinton's former chief of staff, Melanne Verveer, this anthology

fills a gap in scholarship about the position of first lady and reveals the political acumen and activism of a number of the holders of this unofficial executive office. Publisher Description Simple and gourmet presidential dishes are pictured and described, with information on the domestic activities of each family In this chapter book filled with fun facts and historical trivia about first ladies, civic-minded young readers learn just how important it is to "Remember the ladies!" and all they have done for America. A perfect way to start a conversation about the White House and the people who live there with young readers. Did you know that Mary Todd Lincoln hated slavery and helped to end it in America? Or that Edith Wilson helped decode secret messages during World War I? How about that Sarah Polk didn't let anyone dance in the White House while she was first lady? It's true! In addition to being hostesses, advocates, ambassadors, activists, patriots, and role models, each first lady put her own stamp on the White House--and on our country. In this fun-filled, fact-filled book, you can find out just what made each first lady unique and why they were so important. As it turns out, first ladies are a pretty big deal after all! This entertaining, fact-filled book, perfect for fans of the Who Was series and Rad American Women from A-Z, is a great entry point to discussing all aspects of the White House with children. With full-color illustrations throughout and a timeline of first ladies and additional reading resources at the end, this book is a perfect introduction to the amazing first ladies throughout American history. How the three inaugural First Ladies defined the role for future generations, and carved a space for women in America America's first First Ladies—Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, and Dolley

Madison had the challenging task of playing a pivotal role in defining the nature of the American presidency to a fledgling nation and to the world. In *First Ladies of the Republic*, Jeanne Abrams breaks new ground by examining their lives as a group. From their visions for the future of the burgeoning new nation and its political structure, to ideas about family life and matrimony, these three women had a profound influence on one another's views as they created the new role of presidential spouse. Martha, Abigail and Dolley walked the fine line between bringing dignity to their lives as presidential wives, and supporting their husbands' presidential agendas, while at the same time, distancing themselves from the behavior, customs and ceremonies that reflected the courtly styles of European royalty that were inimical to the values of the new republic. In the face of personal challenges, public scrutiny, and sometimes vocal criticism, they worked to project a persona that inspired approval and confidence, and helped burnish their husbands' presidential reputations. The position of First Lady was not officially authorized or defined, and the place of women in society was more restricted than it is today. These capable and path-breaking women not only shaped their own roles as prominent Americans and "First Ladies," but also defined a role for women in public and private life in America. Children's Book Guild Nonfiction Award-winner Kathleen Krull is an expert at bringing history to life in her engaging titles and series, including *Women Who Broke the Rules*, *Lives of . . .*, *Giants of Science*, and *A Kid's Guide to America's Bill of Rights*. This time, she introduces readers to the women of the White House in *A Kid's Guide to America's First Ladies!* The book includes a section introducing kids to Melania Trump.

Find out what our country's First Ladies thought, did, and advocated for as they moved into the White House. Why did the Patriots love Martha Washington? What causes did Eleanor Roosevelt support and lead? What did Jacqueline Kennedy do to establish her legacy long after she left the White House? How did Hillary Clinton turn her role as First Lady into a political career of her own? Packed with anecdotes and sidebars, a timeline of the advancement of women's rights, and humorous illustrations and portraits, Kathleen Krull's introduction to the First Ladies of the United States brings vividly to life the women to hold the role as they paved the way for American women in times of change. Behind every great man, you'll find an equally great woman. This is especially true of American presidents and their first ladies. You're invited to the White House to meet some of the most dynamic couples in history, including James & Dolley Madison, Abraham & Mary Todd Lincoln, Franklin & Eleanor Roosevelt, and John & Jackie Kennedy.- The Timeline of U.S. Presidents and First Ladies is filled with fascinating stories and personal details that bring American history to life.- Meet all of the U.S. Presidents and their First Ladies--from George and Martha Washington, to Barack and Michelle Obama.- This unique book features more than 200 historical and archival prints, paintings, and photographs, including a wealth of rarely seen candid photos of presidents enjoying their favorite pastimes.- Get to know U.S. presidents and their families like never before--including presidential pets like William Taft's pet cow, Pauline!- Uncover the fascinating stories behind the presidents, such as the assassinations and near misses that shook up the nation, and presidential "firsts and lasts."- Bonus feature! This unique

history book also includes a gate-fold timeline that profiles every president and first lady since George and Martha Washington. The chart includes portraits, biographies, highlights of service, and inspiring quotations. The first biography of Pat Nixon in 25 years. Moves beyond the over-simplified appraisals of this oft-misunderstood first lady. Offers a far more complex interpretation than the standard "Plastic Pat" caricature and depicts a complicated, conflicted, but ultimately effective first lady who balanced public responsibilities and private pain.

Washington. The widow Washington ; Martha Dandridge ; Married lady ; Mistress of Mount Vernon ; Revolutionary war ; First lady ; Slaves in the president's house ; Home again -- Jefferson. Martha Wayles ; Mistress of Monticello I ; War in Virginia ; Birth and death at Monticello ; Patsy Jefferson and Sally Hemings ; First lady ; Mistress of Monticello II ; The Hemingses ; Death of Thomas Jefferson -- Madison. Dolley Payne ; Mrs. Madison ; First lady ; Mistress of Montpelier ; Decline of Montpelier ; The widow Madison ; Sale of Montpelier ; In Washington ; Death of Dolley Madison -- Epilogue inside and outside Gives a brief biography of twelve First Ladies from 1920 to 1989 and describes the major communication activities of the First Lady and the factors that influenced the First Lady's performance as a public communicator. This volume explores more than two centuries of literature on the First Ladies, from Martha Washington to Michelle Obama, providing the first historiographical overview of these important women in U.S. history. Underlines the growing scholarly appreciation of the First Ladies and the evolution of the position since the 18th century Explores the impact of these women not only on White House



responsibilities, but on elections, presidential policies, social causes, and in shaping their husbands' legacies. Brings the First Ladies into crisp historiographical focus, assessing how these women and their contributions have been perceived both in popular literature and scholarly debate. Provides concise biographical treatments for each First Lady. As we move toward the year 2000, Americans continue to debate the job of First Lady. How much power does the position actually hold? How publicly should that power be wielded? *First Ladies* tells the story of this curious institution and the evolution of these women's role from ceremonial backdrop to substantive world figure. This expanded edition brings us up to the present, examining the legacies of our three most recent First Ladies: Nancy Reagan, credited with raising the job to that of "Associate President"; Barbara Bush, who took a more traditional approach); and Hillary Rodham Clinton, widely billed as the person responsible for changing the job completely. Covering all thirty-nine women from Martha Washington to our current First Lady and including the daughters, daughters-in-law, and sisters of presidents who sometimes served as First Ladies, Betty Boyd Caroli explores the background, marriage, and accomplishments and failures in office of each woman. This remarkably diverse lot included Abigail Adams, whose "remember the ladies" became a twentieth-century feminist refrain; Edith Wilson, who alone controlled access to the President when he suffered a stroke; Jane Pierce, who prayed her husband would lose the election; Helen Taft, who insisted on living in the White House, although her husband would have preferred a judgeship; and Pat Nixon, who perfected what some have called "the robot image." They ranged in age from

early 20's to late 60's; some received superb educations for their time, while others had little or no schooling. Including the courageous and adventurous, the emotionally unstable, the ambitious, and the reserved, these women often did not fit the traditional expectations of a presidential helpmate. Depicting how these women used the "magic wand" given to them, Caroli reveals not only how each First Lady changed the role, but also how the role changed in response to American culture. Because of their position, these women left remarkably complete records, and their stories offer us an insider's view not only of their lives but also of the history of American women in general. A look inside the personal life of every first lady in American history, based on original interviews with major historians C-SPAN's yearlong history series, *First Ladies: Influence and Image*, featured interviews with more than fifty preeminent historians and biographers. In this informative book, these experts paint intimate portraits of all forty-five first ladies—their lives, ambitions, and unique partnerships with their presidential spouses. Susan Swain and the C-SPAN team elicit the details that made these women who they were: how Martha Washington intentionally set the standards followed by first ladies for the next century; how Edith Wilson was complicit in the cover-up when President Wilson became incapacitated after a stroke; and how Mamie Eisenhower used the new medium of television to reinforce her, and her husband's, positive public images. This book provides an up-close historical look at these fascinating women who survived the scrutiny of the White House, sometimes at great personal cost, while supporting their families and famous husbands—and sometimes changing history. Complete with illustrations and

essential biographical details, it is an illuminating, entertaining, and ultimately inspiring read. Betty Boyd Caroli's engrossing and informative *First Ladies* is both a captivating read and an essential resource for anyone interested in the role of America's First Ladies. Caroli observes the role as it has shifted and evolved from ceremonial backdrop to substantive world figure. This expanded and updated fifth edition presents Caroli's keen political analysis and astute observations of recent developments in First Lady history, including Melania Trump's reluctance to take on the mantle and former First Lady Hillary Clinton's recent run for president. Caroli here contributes a new preface and updated chapters. Covering all forty-five women from Martha Washington to Melania and Ivanka Trump and including the daughters, daughters-in-law, and sisters of presidents who served as First Ladies, Caroli explores each woman's background, marriage, and accomplishments and failures in office. This remarkable lot included Abigail Adams, whose "remember the ladies" became a twentieth-century feminist refrain; Jane Pierce, who prayed her husband would lose the election; Helen Taft, who insisted on living in the White House, although her husband would have preferred a judgeship; Eleanor Roosevelt, who epitomized the politically involved First Lady; and Pat Nixon, who perfected what some have called "the robot image." They ranged in age from early 20s to late 60s; some received superb educations for their time, while others had little or no schooling. Including the courageous and adventurous, the ambitious, and the reserved, these women often did not fit the traditional expectations of a presidential helpmate. *First Ladies* is an engaging portrait of how each First Lady changed the role and how the role

changed in response to American culture. These women left remarkably complete records, and their stories offer us a window through which to view not only this particular sorority of women, but also the role of American woman in general. Eleven dolls modeling 32 costumes celebrate a half century of lovely First Ladies. Shimmering inaugural gowns, classic day wear, and casual outfits for everyone, including Mamie Eisenhower, Jackie Kennedy, Ladybird Johnson, Pat Nixon, Betty Ford, Rosalynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, and Michelle Obama. The revised and updated edition, including all-new information on Michelle Obama, Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, and Betty Ford America's first ladies have captured the hearts of the citizens of our country ever since its humble beginnings. This newly updated edition of *The First Ladies Fact Book* is a comprehensive, fascinating, and intimate look at the life of each first lady from Martha Washington to Michelle Obama. Each profile includes a portrait, key biographical information, and several additional photographs. Among the topics covered are childhood and upbringing, early marriage years, the path to the White House, hobbies, career, style of dress, and decorating preferences. Find out which first lady: had the most children □ served as a delegate to the United Nations □ was accused of looting the White House □ was a professional dancer □ or never cooked a meal. Packed with information and surprising facts, *The First Ladies Fact Book* combines the breadth of a textbook with the intimacy of a biography. And don't forget to pick-up the companion title, *The President's Fact Book -- Revised and Updated* (978-1-57912-889-0), also available by Black Dog & Leventhal. □[A] gossipy, but surprisingly deep, look at the

women who help and sometimes overshadow their powerful husbands. — USA Today From the #1 New York Times bestselling author of the groundbreaking backstairs look at the White House, *The Residence*, comes an intimate, news-making look at the true modern power brokers at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue: the First Ladies, from Jackie Kennedy to Michelle Obama. One of the most underestimated—and challenging—positions in the world, the First Lady of the United States must be many things: an inspiring leader with a forward-thinking agenda of her own; a savvy politician, skilled at navigating the treacherous rapids of Washington; a wife and mother operating under constant scrutiny; and an able CEO responsible for the smooth operation of countless services and special events at the White House. Now, as she did in her smash #1 bestseller *The Residence*, former White House correspondent Kate Andersen Brower draws on a wide array of untapped, candid sources—from residence staff and social secretaries to friends and political advisers—to tell the stories of the ten remarkable women who have defined that role since 1960. Brower offers new insights into this privileged group of remarkable women, including Jacqueline Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, Patricia Nixon, Betty Ford, Rosalynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, Barbara Bush, Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, and Michelle Obama. The stories she shares range from the heartwarming to the shocking and tragic, exploring everything from the first ladies' political crusades to their rivalries with Washington figures; from their friendships with other first ladies to their public and private relationships with their husbands. She also offers insight as to what Melania Trump might hope to accomplish as First Lady. Candid and illuminating, this first

group biography of the modern first ladies provides a revealing look at life upstairs and downstairs at the world's most powerful address. Turning to primary sources others have overlooked, Sibley challenges the clichés about Florence Harding's time in the national spotlight. She describes her support for racial equality, lobbying for better treatment for veterans and female prisoners and her lifelong interest in preventing animal cruelty. The little-known story of remarkable First Lady Sarah Polk—a brilliant master of the art of high politics and a crucial but unrecognized figure in the history of American feminism. While the Women's Rights convention was taking place at Seneca Falls in 1848, First Lady Sarah Childress Polk was wielding influence unprecedented for a woman in Washington, D.C. Yet, while history remembers the women of the convention, it has all but forgotten Sarah Polk. Now, in her riveting biography, Amy S. Greenberg brings Sarah's story into vivid focus. We see Sarah as the daughter of a frontiersman who raised her to discuss politics and business with men; we see the savvy and charm she brandished in order to help her brilliant but unlikeable husband, James K. Polk, ascend to the White House. We watch as she exercises truly extraordinary power as First Lady: quietly manipulating elected officials, shaping foreign policy, and directing a campaign in support of America's expansionist war against Mexico. And we meet many of the enslaved men and women whose difficult labor made Sarah's political success possible. Sarah Polk's life spanned nearly the entirety of the nineteenth-century. But her own legacy, which profoundly transformed the South, continues to endure. Comprehensive, nuanced, and brimming with invaluable insight, *Lady First* is a

revelation of our twelfth First Lady's complex but essential part in American feminism. This volume presents thirty-nine interpretive biographical essays on all first ladies, from Martha Washington to America's newest First Lady, Laura Bush. This new edition contains updated material on all the living First Ladies and updated bibliographies for each entry, as well as a portrait of the newest First Lady. "Chef Matthew Wendel provides a first-hand account of his years working for President George W. Bush and his family at Camp David and at their Texas home on Prairie Chapel Ranch. He offers a collection of recipes, photographs, stories, and memories of daily life as senior advance representative in the Office of Presidential Advance and as the personal chef and personal assistant to the president. Included with recipes of the author's signature hot cinnamon rolls and fried chicken are the Bush family's favorite dishes, meals that world leaders were served, and a behind-the-scenes look at how he prepared for head of state visits and shopped for the first family. Wendel's account reveals a unique window into the hard work, detail, and protocol involved in working for the first family and reveals how the president welcomed world leaders using both his home and the power of sharing a meal in an intimate setting as a bridge-building diplomatic tool. Smoked beef tenderloin, stacked enchiladas, hot rolls, soups, and plenty of fresh salads were staples for the Bushes, but cheeseburgers became a tradition for their luncheons with world leaders at Prairie Chapel Ranch. Providing wholesome, delicious, comforting food to guests was their way of saying "Welcome. We're glad you are here." -- Amazon.com. No home in America celebrates Christmas quite like the White House. Whether adorned with hand-made

ornaments or thoughtful crafts, the White House has warmly welcomed celebrities, dignitaries, and hardworking Americans and epitomized the Christmas spirit. And behind each holiday celebration is a First Lady who lends her own style and grace to the festivities. *Christmas With the First Ladies* is a look at the holiday magic that happens at the White House, capturing the Christmas decorating history and techniques from Jackie Kennedy through Michelle Obama. Each first lady's design aesthetic is profiled, such as Lady Bird Johnson's themes of home and family to help heal the nation after John F. Kennedy's death; Nancy Reagan's interest in renewing a child-like sense of wonder; and Laura Bush's "Red, White, and Blue" Christmas for a nation banding together. With anecdotes and intimate photos of the presidential families during the holiday season, as well as personal craft and recipes used by the first ladies, *Christmas With the First Ladies* is the perfect centerpiece for holiday gatherings!

In this New York Times bestseller, the White House chief usher for nearly three decades offers a behind-the-scenes look at America's first families. J. B. West, chief usher of the White House, directed the operations and maintenance of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue—and coordinated its daily life—at the request of the president and his family. He directed state functions; planned parties, weddings and funerals, gardens and playgrounds, and extensive renovations; and, with a large staff, supervised every activity in the presidential home. For twenty-eight years, first as assistant to the chief usher, then as chief usher, he witnessed national crises and triumphs, and interacted daily with six consecutive presidents and first ladies, as well as their parents, children and grandchildren, and houseguests—including friends,



relatives, and heads of state. J. B. West, whom Jackie Kennedy called "one of the most extraordinary men I have ever met," provides an absorbing, one-of-a-kind history of life among the first ladies. Alive with anecdotes ranging from Eleanor Roosevelt's fascinating political strategies to Jackie Kennedy's tragic loss and the personal struggles of Pat Nixon, *Upstairs at the White House* is a rich account of a slice of American history that usually remains behind closed doors. Admire the nationally famous collection of first ladies' gowns and learn about the contributions made by the women who wore them. The Smithsonian First Ladies Collection is a beautifully illustrated book inspired by one of the most popular attractions at the Smithsonian: the first ladies exhibit at the National Museum of American History. This striking book showcases the treasures from first ladies throughout history, ranging from Martha Washington's silk dress and dressing mirror to Michelle Obama's 2009 inaugural gown and jewelry. These and many other unforgettable objects--including gowns, tableware, and invitations from beloved first ladies such as Mamie Eisenhower, Jacqueline Kennedy, Barbara Bush, Hilary Clinton, and more--tell the story of the first ladies as public and private figures. They illustrate how these women, thrust into an influential and visible role by happenstance of marriage, adapted themselves and the role of first lady by taking on responsibilities as campaigners, hostesses, and policy advocates. The Smithsonian First Ladies Collection features many treasures not on view at the exhibit. Complete with an insider's look at the acquisition, conservation, and exhibition of the pieces as well as a timeline of all forty-six first ladies, this is a must-have for anyone fascinated by these incredible women.

and their roles in American culture and political life. Unelected, but expected to act as befits her "office," the first lady has what Pat Nixon called "the hardest unpaid job in the world." Michelle Obama championed military families with the program Joining Forces. Four decades earlier Pat Nixon traveled to Africa as the nation's official representative. And nearly four decades before that, Lou Hoover took to the airwaves to solicit women's help in unemployment relief. Each first lady has, in her way, been intimately linked with the roles, rights, and responsibilities of American women. Pursuing this connection, *First Ladies and American Women* reveals how each first lady from Lou Henry Hoover to Michelle Obama has reflected and responded to trends that marked and unified her time. Jill Abraham Hummer divides her narrative into three distinct epochs. In the first, stretching from Lou Hoover to Jacqueline Kennedy, we see the advent of women's involvement in politics following women's suffrage, as well as pressures on family stability during depression, war, and postwar uncertainty. Next comes the second wave of the feminist movement, from Lady Bird Johnson's tenure through Rosalyn Carter's, when equality and the politics of the personal issues prevailed. And finally we enter the charged political and partisan environment over women's rights and the politics of motherhood in the wake of the conservative backlash against feminism after 1980, from Nancy Reagan to Michelle Obama. Throughout, Hummer explores how background, personality, ambitions, and her relationship to the president shaped each first lady's response to women in society and to the broader political context in which each administration functioned—and how, in turn, these singular responses reflect the changing role of women in

American society over nearly a century. On the morning of William Howard Taft's inauguration, Nellie Taft publicly expressed that theirs would be a joint presidency by shattering precedent and demanding that she ride alongside her husband down Pennsylvania Avenue, a tradition previously held for the outgoing president. In an era before Eleanor Roosevelt, this progressive First Lady was an advocate for higher education and partial suffrage for women, and initiated legislation to improve working conditions for federal employees. She smoked, drank, and gambled without regard to societal judgment, and she freely broke racial and class boundaries. Drawing from previously unpublished diaries, a lifetime of love letters between Will and Nellie, and detailed family correspondence and recollections, critically acclaimed presidential family historian Carl Sferrazza Anthony develops a riveting portrait of Nellie Taft as one of the strongest links in the series of women -- from Abigail Adams to Hillary Rodham Clinton -- often critically declared "copresidents." Examines the parts played by the wives and other relatives who filled the role of first lady, and describes how they profoundly impacted each president's administration and political fate. At home or at the podium, the First Lady is uniquely poised to serve as advisor, confidant, and campaigner, with the power to shape American political and social conversation. At first blush, First Ladies Michelle Obama and Melania Trump appear categorically different from each other; however, as women rising from humble origins to pursue their ambitions and support their husbands, the two have more in common than one might think. In *Melania and Michelle: First Ladies in a New Era*, author Tammy R. Vigil provides a compelling account of our modern

first ladies, exploring how each woman has crafted her public image and used her platform to influence the country, while also serving as a paragon of fashion and American womanhood. Both women face constant scrutiny and comparison--from their degrees of political activism to their cookie recipes--and have garnered support as well as criticism. From their full lives pre-nomination to their attitudes while occupying the White House, Vigil builds careful and thoughtful portraits of Melania Trump and Michelle Obama that provide a new appreciation for how these women, and the first ladies that came before them, have shaped our country. For every president, there has been a first lady, sometimes two. Who were these women? How has the job of First Lady (unpaid and unelected) changed over time? The Smart About format proves just right for covering history in an easy, appealing way. Brief biographies and portraits of wives, sisters, daughters, nieces, and other relatives of Presidents who have served as White House hostesses, from Martha Washington to Hillary Clinton. Profiles the women who have served in the role of First Lady. Illustrated with portraits from the White House Collection. Designed as a companion to Salem's American Presidents this volume contains 46 comprehensive essays on every First Lady through Laura Bush. Articles are between 5 and 12 pages in length and arranged in chronological order by administration.

“Fascinating . . . First Ladies is a wonderfully generous look at the women who, often against their wishes, took on what Truman calls “the world's second toughest job.””  
The Christian Science Monitor  
Whether they envision their role as protector, partner, advisor, or scold, First Ladies find themselves in a job that is impossible to define, and just as difficult to perform. Now

Margaret Truman, daughter of President Harry Truman and an acclaimed novelist and biographer in her own right, explores the fascinating position of First Lady throughout history and up to the present day. With her unique perspective as the daughter of a First Lady, Ms. Truman reveals the truth behind some of the most misunderstood and forgotten First Ladies of our history, as well as the most famous and beloved. In recounting the charm and courage of Dolley Madison, the brazen ambition of Florence Harding, the calm, good sense of Grace Coolidge, the genius of Eleanor Roosevelt, the mysterious femininity of Jackie Kennedy, and the fierce protectiveness of Nancy Reagan, among others, Margaret Truman has assembled an honest yet affectionate portrait of our nation's First Ladies—one that freely acknowledges their virtues and their flaws.

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