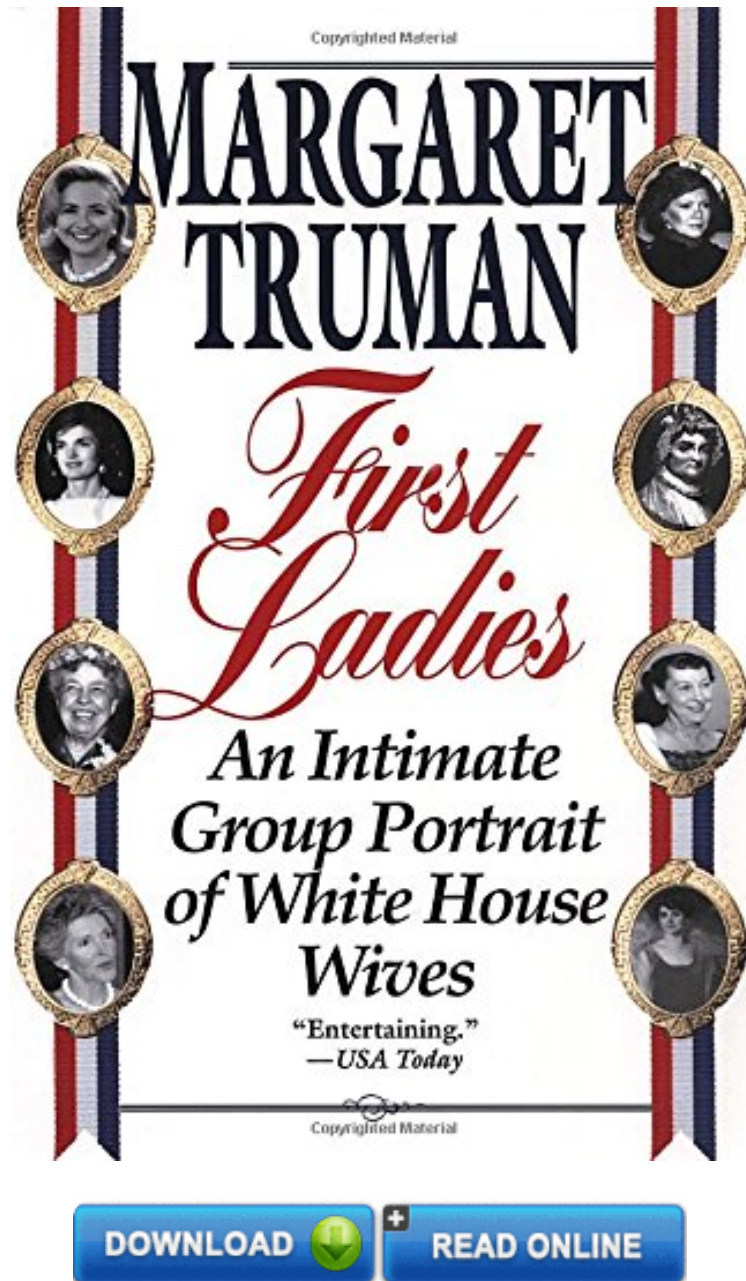


(Pdf free) First Ladies: An Intimate Group Portrait of White House Wives

First Ladies: An Intimate Group Portrait of White House Wives

Margaret Truman

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#515946 in Books Truman, Margaret 1996-08-27 1996-08-27Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.15 x .79 x 5.53l, .77 #File Name: 044922323X384 pagesWhitehouse wives | File size: 34.Mb

Margaret Truman : First Ladies: An Intimate Group Portrait of White House Wives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised First Ladies: An Intimate Group Portrait of White House Wives:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. View of the position of First Lady in a different light.By KarenAlthough this book was written almost 20 years ago, and by a woman who's father was once President, I found it

to be very insightful. Unlike most books about First Ladies, this book was not mini biographies. I would say this book was more about the unofficial office of the wives of our Presidents, that is now referred to as First Lady. The book tells how different First Ladies have perceived their role, and when about performing the tasks they saw as theirs. Margaret, the author, gives insight into the impact these few woman have had on americas history. I highly recommend this book, especially to those who love history.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. some of my favorite peopleBy Shirley BoyleFirst Ladies: An Intimate Group Portrait of White House WivesPurchased at .I am very interested in American History. My favorite section of it is the Men who have been our presidents their wives families. Margaret Truman was very knowledgeable in that aspect. She want there as a teenager left to go to college. Some of the families had very sad lives, in out of the White House.Some came from poor backgrounds others from wealthier backgrounds. Another words, from all parts of America from all over the country. All first ladies do not run or seek their jobs, they are there because of a husbands desire to be president of the USA. Some enjoy the job, and truly add their input, be it political, beautification of their surroundings or just a helpmate, such as Eleanor Roosevelt, who traveled the world, even during World War II, checking things that her husband was unable to do, because of his physical handicap.Some are very unhappy there stay in the background little is known of them. Others become famous in their own right not only enjoy their time there, but become well known for the rest of their lives. They are really fascinating people in their own right deserve to have their personal stories told, for future generations to admire. I like the little unknown trivia stories that is fascinating to read about, especially as related to the president, their wives children.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Enjoyable authorBy Moscow ID EnthusiastAlthough I've just started the book ... it is really a fun read. She's a good author, not dry at all. It's almost like she knew the first ladies personally ... and she absolutely could not have known Martha (Mrs George) Washington.

"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 MonitorWhether 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.

From Publishers WeeklyTruman's look at the nation's first ladies features capsule accounts of a selective number of women who have shared the White House with their husbands. She includes the obvious subjects such as Martha Washington, Dolley Madison, Mary Todd Lincoln, Eleanor Roosevelt and all the modern presidents' wives, along with lesser-known first ladies as Julia Grant and Julia Tyler. Although Truman, a mystery writer (*Murder in the White House*) provides a brief background on the women she profiles, she focuses, naturally enough, on their White House years and the roles they played in their husbands' administrations. And Truman attributes to the first ladies plenty of influence over their mates, asserting on numerous occasions that they have played major parts in changing the course of history (e.g., how Dolley Madison's courage helped her husband, and the country, recover from the War of 1812). But her light approach makes it difficult to tell whether she seriously believes her assertion that Rachel Jackson and Lou Hoover died of broken hearts because of the negative publicity about themselves and their husbands. Photos. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From Library JournalTruman writes about first ladies with the obvious advantage of an insider, having spent her young adulthood in the White House. Her book is a tribute to both her parents--her father urged a study of presidential wives, and her mother exemplified the role of a supportive partner. Rather than following a strict chronology and discussing every first lady, Truman draws comparisons and contrasts. Lady Bird Johnson is judged the most successful first lady; Florence Harding the least. Lucy Hayes's interest in improving the lives of the poor and Ellen Wilson's interest in slum clearance foreshadowed Eleanor Roosevelt's career. Truman concludes that first ladies should provide public support to the president but there is no single pattern to follow, and each lady needs to fill that role in her own way. Truman's work is the latest popular treatment of presidential wives, following surveys with the same title including Carl Sferrazza Anthony's two-volume set (LJ 8/90, 4/1/91) and Betty Boyd Caroli's soon-to-be updated book (LJ 9/1/87). Recommended for public libraries.Patricia A. Beaber, Trenton State Coll. Lib., N.J.Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.From BooklistReaders who like chatty, anecdotal history will relish this entertaining, thoughtful survey of 29 of the women who have held the "world's second toughest job." Former White House resident Truman--author of biographies of both her parents and a dozen Capitol crime mysteries--is well positioned to cover this subject, and her long marriage to former New York Times editor Clifton Daniel adds depth to her perspective on the role of the media in complicating the efforts of presidential

wives to fulfill their position's multiple roles. Truman blends historical research with the fruits of her family's direct contacts with every First Lady since Grace Coolidge; she acknowledges special assistance from Lady Bird Johnson, Betty Ford, Rosalynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, and Barbara Bush. Truman offers some interesting opinions: she defends the much-criticized Mary Todd Lincoln, viewing Florence Harding as a better candidate for "worst First Lady" ; Lady Bird Johnson, by contrast, was the "almost perfect First Lady." Truman is hardly a feminist, but her analysis does, on occasion, recognize issues feminist scholars have raised about the singularly anomalous position of the nation's presidential spouses. Lively popular history; expect requests. Mary Carroll