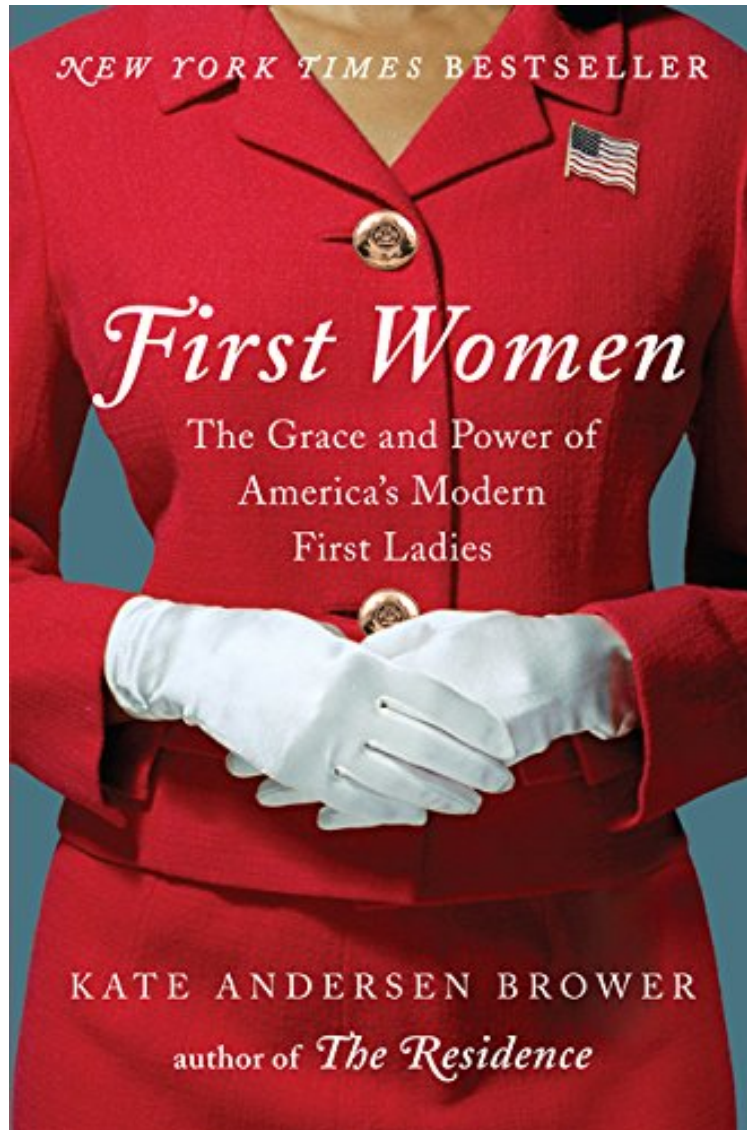


[Free] First Women: The Grace and Power of America's Modern First Ladies

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Kate Andersen Brower

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#61558 in Books Brower Kate Andersen 2016-04-12 2016-04-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.38 x 6.00l, .0 #File Name: 0062439650400 pagesFirst Women The Grace and Power of America s Modern First Ladies | File size: 48.Mb

Kate Andersen Brower : First Women: The Grace and Power of America's Modern First Ladies before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised First Women: The Grace and Power of America's Modern First Ladies:

35 of 35 people found the following review helpful. A pleasant valentine for the First LadiesBy GallaThis is a pleasant

valentine for ten first ladies. It is not profound but neither is it particularly critical. A few of the anecdotes appeared in Brower's *The Residence*. Many of the stories she shares are already widely known: the coolness between Barbara Bush and Nancy Reagan, the Clintons' profane arguments, the fact that Michelle Obama was not particularly happy about moving to Washington and into the White House, and so on. At first Brower appears to want to make readers think that the First Ladies have some special relationship because of the role they shared, however, that theme doesn't really work. In fact, the only two first ladies who seemed to have developed a true friendship were Lady Bird Johnson and Betty Ford. Rosalind Carter remained bitter for a while after her husband's defeat and even was somewhat resentful because Hillary Clinton did not ask her anything about health care although that had been Rosalind's major effort as first lady. Nancy Reagan doesn't seem to have cared much for any of them with the possible exception of Jackie Kennedy Onassis (snob appeal, maybe?) There is one photograph of several of the women at an event which tells all. The five or six others appear to be talking to each other but Mrs. Reagan is at the end of the table and is turned completely away. The expression on her face says, more or less, "when will this purgatory end"? All in all, the book is interesting as a sidelight into the lives of these women who have tried to fulfill the role as best they could. Some more successfully than others. Some tidbits are fascinating. Laura Bush has an image of the perfect southern lady who never loses her cool but evidently there were times when she could make her displeasure known, especially toward a staff member who kept losing the keys to her daughter's car. Pat Nixon was much liked and admired by her staff as was Barbara Bush. The only real criticism I have of the book is its organization. Brower skips around and repeats herself at times. Perhaps organizing it chronologically completely would have made for a more cohesive story.

120 of 131 people found the following review helpful. Should've been written chronologically

By Emily I was very excited about this book because I'm extremely interested in this era of American history, but I'm confused about the reviews. Several readers mention they feel that this is a "well written" and "thoroughly researched" work. I'll give Brower the points on research (I'm sure this was quite a task to undertake), but I'm lost at the notion that people feel this book is well-written. In my opinion, this entire narrative reads like pages and pages of notes that someone has jotted down and published, prior to the editing process or prior to even formatting the story into a cohesive outline. Brower begins the introduction with a story of Hillary Clinton and Jackie Kennedy and later repeats the exact phrasing of this same story in a subsequent chapter. It's odd. The chapters in general are long-winded and only vaguely connected to their titles ("motherhood" for instance is the heading for one chapter but naturally, this topic is covered throughout the book, so this subdivision means little in the context of the entire thread) and because it's written out of order, the author is forced to constantly use last names and descriptions ("Amy's nanny," "Jack's doctor") repeatedly, even when writing about someone who's already been discussed. Had my opinion been solicited (which I know is comical, given that the author is a NY Times #1 Best Seller), I would have definitely suggested putting it in chronological order. I know that many research accounts use examples of common themes from all of their subjects to illustrate the chosen category, but this writing bounces so all over the place that the author would've done better to start with Jackie and tell the story from her forward, interweaving the ladies' relationships with one another into the tale as the years progress. As it's written, we start with Jackie yachting with Hillary and circle back so many times to Pat Nixon, Betty Ford, Rosalynn Carter, and Lady Bird Johnson, that I'm constantly having to pause and remember, ok: Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush, Obama. It's hard to keep it all straight as a younger person (even one who knows all the presidents in order from Washington) who didn't live through most of these years. The book, as a whole, feels extremely chaotic. That being said, there is obviously interesting information about the women within these pages. You just have to mine through quite a bit of rough-edged stone to get to these precious jewels. I definitely believe the author's account as I think she is a credible source who clearly did her homework, and it does make the women come alive in a sense that one might not ordinarily understand. I do wonder though what the ladies think - or would think - of some of this information coming to light. Betty Ford comes off the best in my opinion while Nancy Reagan seems somewhat cold and borderline pathetic, and the others, (save Hillary Clinton who is really her own category, apart from "first lady," and the Bush ladies, who have personal philosophies barring them from complaining or self-pity) read like tragic figures, generally ruined by the role. I'm not saying not to read this book... give it a shot, just understand that you have to focus and sift through some repetitive information to receive the benefits of the best parts. I personally wish it had been condensed and gone through another pass at editing, but I do commend Brower on bringing this story to our collective attention.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Quite Interesting and Informative

By Barbara A Klein *First Women* by Kate Andersen Brower is a novel about America's modern First Ladies. Much like her recent bestseller, *The Residence*, we are privileged to see inside the White House and the living quarters of the First Family. Relying on first hand interviews with former First Ladies and staff members one can get a glimpse of the fishbowl existence that these ladies live. Interestingly, each former First Lady has her own style. The transition from administration to administration can be fraught with anxiety, concern and nervousness or with reassurance and calmness that all will be taken care of. There is also the stress of subtle hostility between the old administration and the new administration. These ladies come to the White House as supporters of their husbands and as veterans of intense campaigning, sometimes to the detriment of their families. However in all cases, the focus of these plucky individuals has always been the welfare of their husbands and their children. Some have taken it upon

themselves to personally see that those surrounding the President are unquestionably loyal and trustworthy. It has not been beyond some of these ladies to see that those who didnt muster up were relieved of their positions.I found this novel to be informative and very interesting. It gives a true perspective as to the lives these families live under very stressful circumstances.I purchased a Kindle copy of this book from .com. No review positive or otherwise was required all opinions are my own.

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 and Melania Trump. 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 worlds most powerful address.