



George and Laura: Portrait of an American Marriage

Christopher Andersen

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They would be called upon to lead a nation in one of its darkest hours -- but were they up to the task? He had been the wild, hard-drinking scion of one of America's premier political families. She was the school librarian with a warm smile and a tragic secret of her own. Yet after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, they rose to the challenge: He became the embodiment of America's fighting spirit and she assumed the role of "First Comforter" with effortless grace. Still, the true nature of their relationship has remained a mystery. Until now. In the style of his #1 "New York Times bestsellers "The Day Diana Died and "The Day John Died, as well as his bestselling books about another President and First Lady, "Jack and Jackie and "Jackie After Jack, Christopher Andersen draws on important sources -- many speaking here for the first time -- to paint a vivid, sometimes startling, often inspiring portrait of America's First Couple. Among the intriguing insights and stunning revelations: Important new information about 9/11 and its aftermath -- including a gripping moment-by-moment account of how the President and First Lady coped as the horrific drama unfolded. The true extent of George W.'s drinking problem, the strains it put on his marriage, and the ultimatum that changed his life -- and the course of history. Their heartbreaking battle against infertility and how close Laura came to dying in childbirth. The early tragedies that shaped them, including the car crash caused by a teenage Laura that took the life of a former boyfriend -- and changed her life forever. Laura's surprising behind-the-scenes influence on U.S. policy -- foreign and domestic. The pressures of raising headstrong twin daughters in the glare of the media -- and how 9/11 has brought the Bushes and their children closer together than ever before.

"George and Laura is a compelling look at their unique partnership, and the courage, grace, and humor that defines it. It is a stirring wartime saga of triumph and tragedy and, above all, a uniquely American love story.

George and Laura: Portrait of an American Marriage Details

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Wendy says

I just really liked this book. I know this president was not always looked kindly upon by many, but I like them as a couple. Great Americans, dedicated to their country, to their families, and to each other. I really admire Laura Bush. . . quite an inspiring woman. Would love to meet her.

Angela says

I gave this book 3 stars only because, to me, it wasn't written well. Which is funny because I loved Christopher Anderson's writing with Princess Diana. It took me awhile to read it because it was just dull to me. I didn't like the first of the book especially. It was too slow & drawn out. But I do love former President George W Bush & former first lady Laura. I believe they truly love one another & work very well together. And this book many times did show this.

Jennifer says

Obviously I didn't pick up this book because I am a fan of the first couple but I'm very interested in marriage in general and specifically, marriage under pressure. I can't imagine any other pressure-cooker more stringent or all-consuming than the White House and I was interested to read one person's interpretation of why George and Laura are still together. More incredibly, for all George's faults, he has never been dogged by rumours of infidelity, the way previous presidents have.

I learned some interesting facts through this book. I didn't know that Laura was responsible for a fatal automobile accident while she was in her teens or that she chain-smokes; I didn't know that both Bush twins have multiple arrests and warnings for drinking offenses; I didn't know that President Bush's rise to the top seemed so incredilous to those who had been in politics for a long time. So I found it interesting but ultimately it did not change my opinion of the man, his family or his politics.

Elaine Cougler says

George and Laura by Christopher Andersen is an intimate look at the Bushes and their family. I liked the insight Andersen gave me but was left wondering at his light handling of Bush's obvious intellectual challenges. For Laura I have nothing but praise having read this book. Maybe she should have been president. Of course I'm not an American so perhaps have a different viewpoint as an outsider looking in. I did end up liking this couple portrayed by Andersen as both having challenges and of finding ways to overcome them. Always a good life lesson.

Anne Roszczewski says

I appreciate the honest coverage of the things President Bush did as a young man; his wild side and carelessness. It makes me appreciate even more, the man he became and his faithful devotion to his lovely wife. The book was well written, easily readable and interesting. I have grown to appreciate even more our 43rd president and I am certainly glad he was the one to guide us through the aftermath of 9/11. A great look into both George and Laura's backgrounds and the wonderful marriage they have. A breath of fresh air when compared to the Clintons.

Christi Murray says

I really enjoyed the honesty of this book. There is a lot of history about George W past when he was younger. I love reading about how he became a Christian and really loved that Laura was and continues to be an amazing woman.

Very touching story of their lives no matter what your party affiliation.

Vicki says

I actually really liked this book. I learned a lot of things that I did not know about both of them, and I think it helped me understand a lot more about them. You really get to learn a lot of their motivations because of things that happened when they were younger. They really do have an amazing relationship, one that I think is pretty rare nowadays in our country. The chapters on when he was president show that he really was working hard to do the best he could for the country, even when he was down at Crawford and it might not have been completely apparent. I definitely recommend this book, even if you weren't a huge fan of Bush.

Melinda says

If I could choose anyone famous with whom to have lunch, I would pick Laura Bush. I have long found her to be a fascinating, intelligent, charismatic, charming individual who appears to be as genuine on television as I would imagine her to be. This book proved my theories to be true. But more than that, I delighted in discovering that the title delivered its promise - Anderson details the hasty courtship and engagement as well as the low and highlights of an endearing marriage.

Both personalities became more human to me as their past mishaps, indiscretions and successes were recounted. Their solid dedication to and protection of each other are exemplary. During President Bush's two terms, I always felt that the interaction and emotion between the two that I was able to observe on television was real and natural, not staged and artificial as I've seen between other celebrities. For their relationship alone, this book is worth a read. Though political opinions and events do enter into the mix, these were not the book's focus.

Jodielayton says

I think as with anything, you have to really learn about someone or a subject before you can decide you don't like them or it. I judge a man by the caliber of wife he catches. President George Bush is one who caught well.

Kent says

got this as a gag gift from Elizabeth - but so far it's interesting, but not dramatic, telling of W's and Laura's upbringing from childhood thru 9/11. lots of cool anecdotes, lots of funny statements collected over the years. you can read this a little at a time, then put it down, and pick it up, and you'll never lose the flow.

if W's life wasn't true, it would be hard to write it even as fiction.

Sherrel Wiser says

Absolutely loved the book. I both wondered how we could possibly elect George W. for President, and that fortunately he was the right man at the right time when 9-11 occurred. Laura Bush was a wonderful 1st lady and now I have a greater appreciation for both.

Luann Habecker says

i don't know that i am the better for reading this. i persevered through it. honestly, it came across like someone got a handful of quotes that either of them had said and then took the liberty of filling in the blanks. it was really bad towards the end when the same quote/reference was used-again.

Brandi (Rambles of a SAHM) says

This is a biographical account of the first couple's marriage. It begins on September 11, 2001 and then flashes back to their beginnings. I found it to be interesting. It contained information that I wasn't aware of. It is well written and a quick read.

Becky says

I am not a George Bush fan, but this book was a great insight into the Bush family and those that make up our leaders. I gained a new respect for Laura, and it proves to every kid that great things can happen even if your are "average" (keeping mum on having the right amount of money.....)

An enjoyable non-fiction, from someone who doesn't read a lot of biographies.

Jack Zhong says

Easy to read and laugh, got a good look at what made of a man a history, what endures in anyone's life that may aspire others. A great couple indeed, not one man world but a world shared with the other and then all. Stopped at page 67 and surely will look up Bush's stories online; sharing his childhood stories was already fun and in some ways, very much helpful.
