



The First Lady (Hardcover Library Edition)

James Patterson , Brendan DuBois (With)

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From the world's #1 bestselling writer comes a book that takes politics and mixes it with suspense creating a must-read thriller.

Sally Grissom is a top secret service agent in charge of the Presidential Protection team. She knows that something is amiss when she is 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 reveals itself as a twisted case when the White House receives a ransom note along with the First Lady's finger. As Sally races against the clock to save the First Lady, she discovers evidence that leads to a troubling conclusion: could the First Lady's abductors come from inside the White House?

The First Lady (Hardcover Library Edition) Details

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Author : James Patterson , Brendan DuBois (With)

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From Reader Review The First Lady (Hardcover Library Edition) for online ebook

Laura Rash says

Meh...

YC says

Fun mystery read

Mandy White says

A quiet day today and managed to listen to this in one day. A good stand alone story with an unexpected twist

Maria Rose says

Another great fast to read book by James Patterson. What was amusing to me, was how this book showed how little was the contribution of the co-author to the other book in a similar setting. That said this basis of the story in this novel involves the unplanned disappearance of the First Lady of the US. Her husband Harrison Tucker is running for re-election for his second term against a liberal elitist governor from California, plus he has a narrow lead in the polls (only 5.9%). He also has been having an undercover affair with Tammy Doyle, a career investor for a prominent company for the last eight months. Little does he know that his chief of staff, Parker Hoyt knows of this affair and has been monitoring it from the sidelines, via a connection in the Secret Service. His only goal in life is power and he will use all means possible to achieve this, as he creates the ideal situation. So he created the publicity stunt that exposed the affair and aggravated the distance between the First Lady and the President, whose marriage was at the present moment a false pretense to appease the public. Rather than letting the two parties agree to a mutual divorce settlement, Parker Hoyt contrives a plan to completely eliminate the First Lady, utilizing his resources (a plant in the Secret Service, access to his former employer's military mercenary tactics, and a for-hire assassin). Two women, stop his plan because of his inability to understand the female psyche. First, the First Lady had planned her escape from the public eye (mainly to recoupe and start a new life) and her father in consoling her and in retribution to the man she married, thought of the plot of asking for ransom. Second, the female head of the Secret service was like a dog with a bone and would pursue all clues, even when warned off. The best part of the book was the payback to both the President who was left alone with no companionship and the sudden death of Parker Hoyt after his resignation.

Elaine Heading says

I found this book incredibly frustrating as there were so many stupid things happening. Here's a few examples;

- There's no way the First Lady would have been in that cabin and not found. She was only 3 miles upstream.
 - The horse farm had a shed full of illegal immigrants and despite the huge search party going on no one checked the shed? Come on!
 - The secret service agents sitting in the car and never even glanced around when the assassin drove past?
 - The assassin camping out by the stream watching what was going on and no one found her.
 - The logic for having the First Lady killed made no sense to me. Surely if anything it would make the public hate the President more for driving his wife to suicide with his affair?
 - Agent Grissom putting her child in danger multiple times, leaving her home alone and then bringing the First Lady to the same house she was staying in despite there being a hit out on her.
 - Standing at her sisters front door with the First Lady and waving to a woman going past in a Lexus? She was meant to be hiding the First Lady?
 - The way AG spoke to her team with such a lack of respect annoyed me. I think it was to make us see her as a strong woman but she was just rude.
 - The way she let Scotty off the hook at the end. She was nicer to him in that exchange than she was when he was helping her during the rest of the book.
 - Lots of the reviewers mention the twist they didn't see coming. I'm feeling I must be missing something as I thought it was obvious from halfway in that she had disappeared by herself.
 - What happened to the premise that the US don't negotiate with terrorists? Could the President really hand over that much money so fast with no permission. And what was the explanation for her rescue? How did he explain away the money?
 - how did the assassin escape from the hospital? Especially with her injuries.
 - AG didn't die because she was shielded by her coat and scarf. I actually laughed out loud at that bit.
 - I'm still trying to figure out how the assassin opened the heavily secured apartment door with a bit of sticky tape.
-

Janie says

3.5 stars - lots of satisfying heroes and villains and twisting plot. Fun read while visiting in hospital

Erik says

An excellent thriller with a lot of twists to keep you guessing. I love anything political so this was a very enjoyable read.

Annette Chidzey says

This fast paced novel co-written by James Patterson and Brendan DuBois was indicative of other Patterson novels I have read in that the key characters were quickly introduced to the reader and their specific roles and circumstances established promptly so that the narrative could rapidly unfold. Having previously read 'The President is Missing', I was immediately drawn to this account set as it was in Washington DC, a location I had recently visited. Grace Tucker, the wife of the American President, was central to the storyline and

somewhat of an enigma until the later developments emerged in terms of her 'plan' to escape an unhappy relationship and an unfulfilling role as the First Lady, however or whatever that entailed.

At times, it was hard to keep track of certain characters' motives but overall this did not affect the enjoyment or understanding of the diverse events that underpin this novel.

The Patterson format is becoming very familiar to me and it is apparent to me why his writing is popular with many readers who want novels that are compelling in terms of fast-moving storyline, constant action and sustained suspense.

It is also a good example of why Goodreads needs to have a more precise rating system that enables options such as 3.5 rather than 3 or 4.

Julie Garner says

Another strong political thriller by JP. Quite a few twists and turns will keep you reading until the end.

Liz says

I felt this was slower-paced than many of James Patterson's books and a political thriller rather than a murder/crime story. The plot was good with many twists although I felt it lost momentum in the middle.

3-4 stars

Matt says

Finally out for reading...

James Patterson and Brendan DuBois renew their collaborative efforts with a new book full of thrills and political intrigue. As US President Harrison Tucker makes his final push for re-election, he finds himself in an awkward position. Caught leaving an Atlanta hotel with his mistress, Tucker scrambles to save his reputation, but is unable to keep media reports from reaching First Lady Grace Tucker. Understandably upset, the First Lady excuses herself and leaves the White House. While the news is troubling, it's just another hurdle that Secret Service Agent Sally Grissom has to face. Heading up the Presidential Protective Detail, Grissom will have to keep POTUS safe as he tries to patch his reputation. She's tossed a curveball soon thereafter, when a senior member of the First Lady's detail calls to say that she's gone off the grid, having slipped past those charged with protecting her. Grissom rushes to the scene of where she was last seen, hoping that this is just the First Lady trying to exert some freedom. However, things take a turn for the worse when a note appears in the First Lady's handwriting. Has her disappearance been orchestrated and is she being held against her will? Meanwhile the president's Chief of Staff is making calculated moves of his own to ensure the disappearance news does not derail an already fragile situation. He cannot have anything go against his plans or it could spell electoral disaster. With a mercenary slinking around in the background, Grissom's actions begin to have dire consequences and new evidence push the Secret Service to the brink as they seek to do what's needed before media outlets use the disappearance as new fodder for the next news cycle. Patterson and DuBois do a great job with this standalone novel, which keeps the reader's attention until the story's climactic ending. Recommended for those who can appreciate Patterson's stronger collaborative efforts.

James Patterson collaborations can be hit and miss, which is additionally troublesome as the market is supersaturated with the author's name on bookstands at any given moment. However, Brendan DuBois can usually be counted upon to help shape novels in a productive manner and keep Patterson on task. This novel mixes the fast pace of political thrills with the mystery of a missing central actor. Sally Grissom proves to be a decent protagonist, mixing her grit on the job with having to balance being a single mother at home. Still in the midst of marital disintegration, Grissom must try to keep her daughter's respect while not letting her personal life distract her from the job at hand. As this is a standalone, the authors must 'sell' Grissom in short order so that the reader does not lose interest in her, which appears to be done effectively throughout. Many of the secondary characters prove useful storylines to keep the novel moving forward. From the search for the First Lady to those who want Grissom and her team away from the action, the authors can easily use a number of characters to add flavour to a rich narrative. The story is strong and well-paced, with Patterson's trademark quick chapters that keep the plot from losing momentum. Patterson and DuBois have a great way of mixing first- and third-person narratives to show an entire story from all perspectives. While I do bemoan the excessive number of books Patterson churns out, this is one with a silver lining that I feel would be perfect for those who need a few hours to escape their busy lives.

Kudos, Messrs. Patterson and DuBois, for a successful novel. I am happy I took the time to enjoy this piece and look forward to another collaborative effort.

Like/hate the review? An ever-growing collection of others appears at:
<http://pecheyponderings.wordpress.com/>

A Book for All Seasons, a different sort of Book Challenge: <https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/...>

Paula Phillips says

I have to admit. First I wasn't sure whether I would enjoy this book as I found *The President is Missing* hard to get into and it ended up being a DNF for me. *The First Lady*, on the other hand, I did enjoy as I loved the character of Grace Tucker - the first lady. She was strong, stood by her moral code and ethics. She was her person and had a strong sense of what was right and wrong. The President, on the other hand, I found him such a weak man in this book and quite pathetic. Just because he is the President doesn't mean he can't have a brain of his own as he sacrificed for himself not only his wife but also his mistress. The First Lady starts with Grace learning that her husband has been cheating on her and to escape she goes to a spot she can be herself. During this time, she manages to duck away from her security and go off the grid. All clues are pointing to her apparent suicide, but Agent Sally Grissom has other ideas up her sleeve. As she races to save Grace, she must also keep herself and family safe as Parker - the President's right-hand man is willing to kill and do anything to ensure that the President stay in power and his numbers remain. *The First Lady* was Brendan's first book with James Patterson, and I look forward to reading more as he seems to have the ability to write strong female characters which were nice to read for a change.

Carol says

TWENTY-ONE MINUTES before the ambush, Harrison Tucker—former state senator, former Ohio governor, President of the United States, leader of the free world, and a month away from being reelected in a landslide to a second term—is lying on his stomach on a king-size bed in an Atlanta hotel room, feet

toward the headboard, chin resting on a pillow, watching a retrospective documentary on the TV series House of Cards with the love of his life.

A breakfast cart with the remains of two meals has been pushed to one side of the small but adequate room, and he sighs with pleasure as his companion, Tammy Doyle, straddling his back, gives him a thorough and deep post-coital back rub.

“Look,” he says, watching the fictional president slither his way across the screen, “writers have to fictionalize politics and deal-making, like on The West Wing or Madam Secretary, but there’s no way Frank Underwood could be elected president in real life. You know why?”

Tammy lowers her head, purrs in his ear. Prior to this they were both clothed, while he was giving a fundraising speech and she was watching from a distant table that had cost her lobbying firm ten thousand dollars, but now they were both nude, the room filled with the scent of perspiration, coffee, and sex.

In James Patterson's new stand-alone thriller, one secret can bring down a government when the President's affair to remember becomes a nightmare he wishes he could forget.

Sally Grissom is a top secret service agent in charge of the Presidential Protection team. She knows that something is amiss when she is 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 reveals itself as a twisted case when the White House receives a ransom note along with the First Lady's finger.

This is one book with twists and turns at every bend. I was impressed with the story and found many angles that kept me guessing. WOW, what a read. RECOMMEND. Story worth your while.

Kate says

Hugely entertaining political thriller, although its writing feels less 'Pattersony', and not as good, as in other Patterson books I've read recently. Nevertheless, I enjoyed every page and gobbled it up. Review to follow shortly on For Winter Nights.

Donna Hines says

James is back but this time he's lost something valuable- Our First Lady!

Well kind of as she's tucked away in a rural area but not many know until money comes into play or as they say you might have to pay out the ARSE.

Well, for starters she might've wanted to run after all she just witnessed on tv her husband the President of USA with another woman named Tammy.

Of course, there must be an explanation. Or one should hope since both parties are married.

Not much for reasoning but when her husband winds up dead there sure is plenty of chatter with the coincidences now in play.

How could the First Lady just go missing?

Perhaps it's a logical explanation but one wonders why can't the secret service find her, isn't that there job?

Or how about the FBI launch an internal investigation? Wait, what if this is an internal issue?

Oh well, there may just be a crazy person behind it running around seeking a huge chunk of change and a nice lock up.

This for me was ok, it was a quick read, nothing too thrilling but it flowed nicely.
