

Recommended Books and Videos: America's First Ladies

Compiled by Leslie Goddard, Ph.D.

BOOKS/VIDEOS ABOUT AMERICA'S FIRST LADIES:

First Ladies: An Intimate Group Portrait of White House Wives by Margaret Truman (1995).

First Women: The Grace and Power of America's Modern First Ladies by Kate Brower Anderson (2017).

Upstairs at the White House: My Life with the First Ladies. By J. B. West (1973).

First Ladies of the Republic: Martha Washington, Abigail Adams, Dolley Madison and the Creation of an Iconic American Role by Jeanne E. Abrams (2019).

The Smithsonian First Ladies Collection by Lisa Kathleen Graddy and Amy Pastan (2014).

DK Eyewitness First Ladies by Amy Pastan in association with the Smithsonian (2017).

Smart About the First Ladies. by Sally Warner (2004). For ages 5-9.

Smithsonian: First Ladies Revealed (2017). Four-episode documentary series. Episodes focus on topics including style, twists of fate, times of war, and trailblazers.

First Ladies: Influence and Image. A C-SPAN series that aired 2013-2014 with episodes on each first lady – from Martha Washington to Michelle Obama – using conversations with top experts, video tours of historic sites, and audience questions.

First Ladies (2020). A CNN six-part documentary series narrated by Robin Wright with episodes on Michelle Obama, Jackie Kennedy, Nancy Reagan, Hillary Rodham Clinton, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Lady Bird Johnson.

BIOGRAPHIES OF INDIVIDUAL FIRST LADIES:

Martha Washington: An American Life by Patricia Brady (2006).

Dearest Friend: A Life of Abigail Adams by Lynne Withey (1981).

A Perfect Union: Dolley Madison and the Creation of the American Nation by Catherine Allgor (2006).

Mrs. Lincoln: A Life by Catherine Clinton (2010).

The Personal Memoirs of Julia Dent Grant by Julia Dent Grant, John Y. Simon et al (1988)

Frank: The Story of Frances Folsom Cleveland, America's Youngest First Lady by Annette B. Dunlap (2010)

Edith Kermit Roosevelt: Portrait of a Modern First Lady by Sylvia Jukes Morris (2001)

Madame President: The Secret Presidency of Edith Wilson by William Hazelgrove, Bernadette Dunne, et al. (2016)

No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II by Doris Kearns Goodwin (1994).

The Roosevelts: An Intimate History by Geoffrey C. Ward and Ken Burns (2014).

Bess Truman by Margaret Truman (1986, rev. 2014).

Mrs. Ike: Memories and Reflections on the Life of Mamie Eisenhower by Susan Eisenhower (1996)

Mrs. Kennedy and Me by Clint Hill and Lisa McCubbin (2012).

Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis: The Untold Story by Barbara Leaming (2014).

Grace and Power: The Private World of the Kennedy White House by Sally Bedell-Smith (2005).

Lady Bird: A Biography of Mrs. Johnson by Jan Jarboe Russell (1999).

Lady Bird and Lyndon: The Hidden Story of a Marriage That Made a President by Betty Boyd Caroli (2015).

Pat and Dick: The Nixons, An Intimate Portrait of a Marriage by Bill Swift (2015).

Betty Ford: First Lady, Women's Advocate, Survivor, Trailblazer by Lisa McCubbin and Susan Ford Bales (2018).

My Turn: The Memoirs of Nancy Reagan by Nancy Reagan (1989)

The Matriarch: Barbara Bush and the Making of an American Dynasty by Susan Page (2019)

Living History by Hillary Rodham Clinton (2003).

Laura Bush: An Intimate Portrait of the First Lady by Ronald Kessler (2006).

Becoming by Michelle Obama (2018)



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