

american wife by curtis sittenfeld

American Wife by Curtis Sittenfeld: A Deep Dive into Power, Identity, and American Life

american wife by curtis sittenfeld is a novel that captures the complexities of American identity, politics, and personal transformation through the lens of a fictional First Lady. Curtis Sittenfeld's 2008 novel is an ambitious and intimate portrayal of a woman navigating the turbulent waters of public life, private struggle, and the expectations placed on her as the wife of a powerful man. Drawing inspiration from real-life figures while crafting a unique narrative, Sittenfeld invites readers to explore themes of ambition, loyalty, gender roles, and the price of power.

In this article, we'll unpack the rich layers of *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld, analyzing its characters, themes, and cultural significance. Whether you're a fan of political fiction, character-driven stories, or simply looking for an insightful read about American life, this novel offers a compelling journey that resonates beyond its pages.

Understanding the Premise of *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld

At its core, *American Wife* is about Alice Blackwell, a woman from a small town in Wisconsin who marries Todd Blackwell, a charismatic and ambitious politician who eventually becomes the President of the United States. The novel follows Alice's life from her troubled childhood through her rise to national prominence, offering a deeply personal perspective on the sacrifices and compromises inherent in political life.

Unlike a typical political thriller, Sittenfeld's narrative focuses less on policy and more on the internal and emotional landscapes of its characters. The story is partly inspired by the life of Laura Bush, though Sittenfeld consciously avoids turning Alice into a direct replica, instead creating a nuanced and flawed protagonist who grapples with identity, loyalty, and the expectations of the American public.

Who is Alice Blackwell?

Alice stands out as a complex figure—both strong and vulnerable. Raised in a working-class environment, she is marked by tragedy early on, which shapes much of her worldview. Her marriage to Todd propels her into a world of privilege and scrutiny, but she often feels like an outsider looking in. Her journey explores issues of self-worth, the role of women in politics, and the contradictions of the American dream.

Readers often find Alice's voice refreshingly honest. Sittenfeld's portrayal avoids glamorizing political life,

instead revealing its isolations, compromises, and moral ambiguities. This dimension makes *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld more than just a political novel; it's a profound character study.

Thematic Exploration in *American Wife*

One of the reasons *American Wife* resonates with readers is its rich thematic fabric. The novel delves into multiple layers of meaning, making it a rewarding read for those who appreciate depth and nuance.

The Intersection of Power and Gender

American Wife examines how power dynamics operate within a marriage and within the political arena, especially from a woman's perspective. Alice's role is often constrained by traditional expectations of a political spouse, forcing her to balance her own desires against the demands of public image and loyalty to her husband.

The novel sheds light on the broader societal pressures women face, particularly those in the political spotlight. Alice's experiences echo ongoing conversations about gender roles, agency, and the often invisible labor women perform behind the scenes.

Identity and Reinvention

Another central theme is identity—how it is formed, challenged, and sometimes reinvented. Alice's evolution from a small-town girl to First Lady involves constant navigation between her past and present selves. This tension highlights the complexity of selfhood in the face of societal expectations and personal trauma.

Sittenfeld's narrative invites readers to consider how public personas are crafted and how much of that is performance versus authenticity. The ambiguity surrounding Alice's inner life makes her a compelling and relatable figure.

The American Dream Revisited

The novel also critiques and reimagines the American Dream. Alice and Todd's story is one of upward mobility and achievement, but it also reveals the costs and contradictions embedded in that ideal. Through their experiences, Sittenfeld questions what success looks like and who pays the price for it.

Stylistic Features and Narrative Techniques

Curtis Sittenfeld is known for her sharp prose and keen insight into character psychology, and *American Wife* is no exception. The novel's style is accessible yet layered, blending straightforward storytelling with subtle symbolism and emotional depth.

First-Person Perspective and Its Impact

The story is told primarily from Alice's first-person point of view, which creates an intimate connection between reader and protagonist. This narrative choice allows Sittenfeld to explore Alice's thoughts and feelings in detail, making the political world feel personal and immediate.

Use of Flashbacks and Non-Linear Storytelling

The novel employs flashbacks to Alice's childhood and earlier life to provide context and deepen the reader's understanding of her motivations. This non-linear approach enriches the narrative by revealing key events and emotional milestones gradually, keeping readers engaged and invested.

Why *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld Matters Today

More than a decade after its publication, *American Wife* remains relevant for several reasons. Its exploration of politics, gender, and identity continues to resonate in a world where the personal and political are often intertwined.

Political Fiction with a Human Face

In an era dominated by political spectacle and media soundbites, *American Wife* offers a refreshing focus on the human beings behind the headlines. It reminds readers that public figures are complex individuals shaped by personal histories and struggles.

Insight into the Role of Women in Politics

The novel contributes to ongoing discussions about women's roles in leadership and the challenges they face. Alice's story underscores the sacrifices and resilience required to navigate male-dominated spheres

while maintaining a sense of self.

A Window into American Culture and Values

By grounding its narrative in a distinctly American setting, the book explores cultural values, social mobility, and the contradictions of national identity. Sittenfeld's nuanced portrayal encourages readers to reflect on what defines America and its ideals.

Tips for Readers Diving into American Wife

If you're planning to read *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld or have recently started, here are some tips to enhance your experience:

- **Pay attention to character development:** Alice's complexity is at the heart of the novel, so notice how her perspectives shift over time.
- **Consider the historical and cultural context:** While fictional, the story parallels real political events and figures, enriching your understanding.
- **Reflect on the themes:** Think about how power, gender, and identity play out not only in the novel but in contemporary society.
- **Engage with the narrative voice:** Alice's first-person account is key—try to read between the lines to uncover underlying emotions and motivations.

Exploring these facets will help you appreciate the depth and craftsmanship of Sittenfeld's work.

American Wife's Place in Curtis Sittenfeld's Body of Work

American Wife fits into a broader pattern of Curtis Sittenfeld's literary interests—namely, her focus on strong female protagonists and social commentary. Known for other acclaimed novels like *Prep* and *Eligible*, Sittenfeld often explores themes of class, identity, and the complexities of relationships.

American Wife stands out as one of her most ambitious projects, blending political intrigue with intimate storytelling. It showcases her ability to humanize larger-than-life characters and to probe the interplay

between personal and public lives.

Comparisons with Other Novels by Sittenfeld

While *Prep* centers on adolescent identity and *Eligible* offers a modern take on classic literature, *American Wife* tackles the adult world of politics and power. Readers familiar with Sittenfeld's style will recognize her trademark blend of wit, empathy, and sharp observation.

Together, her novels create a rich tapestry of American experience from different angles, with *American Wife* providing a unique window into the upper echelons of political life.

American Wife by Curtis Sittenfeld is a novel that invites thoughtful reflection on the nature of power, the roles women play in shaping history, and the ways in which personal identity is challenged and reshaped by circumstance. Through Alice Blackwell's story, readers gain not only an engrossing narrative but also a nuanced critique of American culture and politics. Whether you approach it as a political drama, a character study, or a social commentary, *American Wife* offers a rewarding and memorable reading experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of 'American Wife' by Curtis Sittenfeld?

The novel follows the life of Alice Blackwell, a Midwestern woman who becomes the wife of a powerful U.S. politician, exploring her personal and political struggles over several decades.

Is 'American Wife' based on a real person or true events?

While 'American Wife' is a work of fiction, it is widely believed to be inspired by the life of Laura Bush, former First Lady of the United States, though Curtis Sittenfeld has stated it is a fictional story.

What themes are explored in 'American Wife'?

The novel explores themes such as marriage, politics, identity, loyalty, and the complexities of public versus private life.

How does Curtis Sittenfeld develop the character of Alice Blackwell in

the novel?

Sittenfeld develops Alice's character through detailed narrative and introspection, showing her evolution from a small-town girl to a political spouse, and highlighting her internal conflicts and growth.

What is the critical reception of 'American Wife'?

The novel received generally positive reviews for its insightful portrayal of political life and character depth, though some critics noted it occasionally leans on familiar political fiction tropes.

How does 'American Wife' compare to Curtis Sittenfeld's other works?

Like her other novels, 'American Wife' features strong, complex female protagonists and combines literary fiction with elements of social and political commentary, showcasing Sittenfeld's signature style.

Additional Resources

American Wife by Curtis Sittenfeld: A Profound Exploration of Power, Identity, and the American Dream

american wife by curtis sittenfeld stands as a compelling work of contemporary American fiction, weaving a narrative that probes deeply into themes of political power, personal identity, and the complexities of marriage within the public eye. Published in 2008, this novel has attracted significant critical attention for its nuanced portrayal of a woman whose life trajectory mirrors, yet diverges from, that of a real-life political figure. Curtis Sittenfeld's deft storytelling and incisive character study invite readers to examine the intersections of private life and public scrutiny in modern America.

In-depth Analysis of American Wife by Curtis Sittenfeld

At its core, *american wife by curtis sittenfeld* is a fictionalized account inspired by the life of Laura Bush, though Sittenfeld is careful to maintain a respectful distance, creating a character named Alice Blackwell. The novel's strength lies in its ability to humanize a figure often viewed through the narrow lens of political commentary, presenting Alice's personal history alongside her ascent into the political elite. This approach allows Sittenfeld to explore broader themes such as gender roles, societal expectations, and the sacrifices demanded by the pursuit of power.

The narrative is structured around Alice's recollections as she faces a critical health crisis, which serves as a catalyst for reflection on her life's choices and the forces that shaped her. This framing device offers the reader an intimate glimpse into her psyche, contrasting the public persona with the private woman. Through this lens, Sittenfeld investigates how the American Dream is often complicated by the realities of ambition, privilege, and the cost of maintaining appearances.

Thematic Exploration: Power and Identity

One of the most striking aspects of *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld is its examination of power—both political and personal—and how it influences identity. Alice's journey from modest Midwestern beginnings to the pinnacle of political society encapsulates a classic American narrative, yet the novel does not shy away from highlighting the constraints placed on women in this arena.

Sittenfeld's portrayal of Alice grappling with her role as a political spouse underscores the tension between public expectation and private selfhood. The novel explores how Alice negotiates her identity amidst the demands of being a wife, mother, and public figure, revealing the nuanced compromises and resilience required. The theme of self-reinvention emerges as a critical motif, resonating with readers familiar with the pressures of conforming to societal ideals.

Character Development and Psychological Depth

In *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld, character development is meticulous and layered. Alice Blackwell is portrayed with psychological depth that transcends the archetype of "political wife." Sittenfeld delves into Alice's internal conflicts, her desires, and regrets, painting a portrait of a woman who is both shaped by and resistant to her circumstances.

This psychological complexity is enhanced by the novel's narrative style, which shifts between present reflections and past events. The non-linear timeline allows readers to piece together Alice's evolution, understanding how formative experiences, including trauma and loss, influence her decisions and worldview. This approach enriches the reader's engagement, encouraging a contemplative reading experience that probes beyond surface-level characterizations.

Comparative Context: American Wife and Political Fiction

When placed alongside other works of political fiction, *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld distinguishes itself through its intimate focus on the spouse's perspective rather than on the political figure themselves. While novels like Michael Dobbs' *House of Cards* or Richard Condon's *The Manchurian Candidate* center on intrigue and political machinations, Sittenfeld's novel emphasizes the human dimension behind political power.

This shift in focus challenges typical narratives within the genre and aligns *American Wife* with literary fiction that prioritizes character study over plot-driven suspense. The novel's engagement with themes of gender and power dynamics also places it within a broader cultural conversation about the roles of women in political spheres, adding depth and contemporary relevance.

Stylistic Features and Narrative Techniques

Curtis Sittenfeld employs a restrained yet evocative prose style in *American Wife*, balancing clarity with emotional nuance. The author's choice to write in a reflective, often introspective tone allows for an exploration of memory and perception, blurring the lines between objective truth and personal interpretation. This narrative technique reinforces the novel's meditation on the construction of identity and the elusive nature of self-understanding.

The pacing of the novel is deliberate, favoring character moments over rapid plot progression. This stylistic choice complements the thematic concerns of the book, inviting readers to immerse themselves in the subtleties of Alice's inner life. Moreover, Sittenfeld's attention to detail in setting and dialogue grounds the story in a believable American milieu, enhancing its authenticity.

Pros and Cons of *American Wife* by Curtis Sittenfeld

- **Pros:**

- Rich character development that offers psychological insight.
- Nuanced exploration of gender roles within political contexts.
- Elegant prose that balances narrative depth with readability.
- Engaging examination of the American Dream's complexities.

- **Cons:**

- Some readers may find the pacing slow due to its introspective nature.
- The fictionalization of a real-life figure may limit the appeal to readers expecting straightforward biography.
- Limited action or political intrigue may not satisfy fans of traditional political thrillers.

Conclusion: The Enduring Relevance of American Wife by Curtis Sittenfeld

american wife by curtis sittenfeld remains a significant contribution to contemporary literature, offering a rare and thoughtful perspective on the intersection of private life and public power. Its exploration of identity, memory, and societal expectations resonates well beyond the confines of political biography, touching on universal themes of selfhood and resilience. For readers interested in political fiction that prioritizes character complexity and thematic richness, Sittenfeld's novel provides a compelling and insightful journey into the American experience.

[American Wife By Curtis Sittenfeld](#)

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: American Wife Curtis Sittenfeld, 2009-02-10 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A gorgeously written novel that weaves class, wealth, race, and fate into a brilliant portrait of a first lady—from the author of *Rodham* and *Eligible* “Terrific . . . an intelligent, bighearted novel about a controversial political dynasty.”—Entertainment Weekly NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: Time • People • Entertainment Weekly A kind, bookish only child born in the 1940s, Alice Lindgren has no idea that she will one day end up in the White House, married to the president. In her small Wisconsin hometown she learns the virtues of politeness, but a tragic accident when she is seventeen shatters her identity and changes the trajectory of her life. More than a decade later, when the charismatic son of a powerful Republican family sweeps her off her feet, she is surprised to find herself admitted into a world of privilege. And when her husband unexpectedly becomes governor and then president, she discovers that she is married to a man she both loves and fundamentally disagrees with—and that her private beliefs increasingly run against her public persona. As her husband's presidency enters its second term, Alice must confront contradictions years in the making and face questions nearly impossible to answer. NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR: The New York Times Book Review • Chicago Tribune • NPR • Rocky Mountain News • St. Louis Post-Dispatch • The Washington Post Book World

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: American Wife by Curtis Sittenfeld Jo Case, 2010

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: Prep and American Wife: Two Bestselling Novels

Curtis Sittenfeld, 2013-04-22 One of the most exceptional voices in literary fiction today, Curtis Sittenfeld is renowned for her rich prose, irresistible storytelling, and fascinating characters who struggle with the rules of gender, race, and privilege. Now, in this convenient eBook bundle, here are her blockbuster bestselling and critically acclaimed novels, *Prep* and *American Wife*. *PREP* Named One of the Top Ten Books of the Year by The New York Times Lee Fiora is an intelligent, observant fourteen-year-old when she leaves her family behind in Indiana to attend the prestigious Ault School in Massachusetts. Over the next four years, her experiences at Ault—complicated relationships with teachers, intense friendships with other girls, an all-consuming preoccupation with a classmate who is less than a boyfriend and more than a crush—coalesce into a singular portrait of the universal pains and thrills of adolescence. *AMERICAN WIFE* Named One of the Top Ten Books of the Year by Time, People, and Entertainment Weekly A bookish only child born in the 1940s and raised in a small Wisconsin town, Alice Lindgren has no idea that she will one day end up in the White House, married to the president. So when the charismatic son of a powerful Republican family sweeps her off her feet, she is surprised to find herself admitted into a world of privilege. As

he unexpectedly becomes governor and then president, she discovers that she is married to a man she fundamentally disagrees with yet deeply loves. And upon the advent of her husband's second term, Alice must finally face questions nearly impossible to answer. Praise for Curtis Sittenfeld "One of the most tender and accurate portraits of adolescence in recent memory."—San Francisco Chronicle, on *Prep* "A tart and complex tale of social class, race, and gender politics."—The Boston Globe, on *Prep* "[Sittenfeld's] dialogue captures teenage humor brilliantly, and her characters show remarkable depth."—Chicago Tribune, on *Prep* "An intelligent, bighearted novel about a controversial political dynasty."—Entertainment Weekly, on *American Wife* "Smart and sophisticated . . . Sittenfeld has an astonishing gift for creating characters that take up residence in readers' heads."—The Washington Post, on *American Wife* "An intimate and daring story . . . Alice is a woman of considerable intellect, compassion and character." —USA Today, on *American Wife*

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *An American Wife* , 18??

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *American Wife* Curtis Sittenfeld, 2009-02-01 When her husband is elected president of the United States, Alice Blackwell finds her new life as first lady increasingly tumultuous as she reflects on the privileges and difficulties of her position as her private beliefs conflict with her public responsibilities.

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *Help Yourself* Curtis Sittenfeld, 2020-10-01 Discover these fabulous stories by the bestselling author of *ROMANTIC COMEDY*, *AMERICAN WIFE* and *YOU THINK IT, I'LL SAY IT*. 'Nobody else writes with such precision and amusement' *RED MAGAZINE* 'Recommended for anyone who enjoys short stories. Delicious' *PANDORA SYKES*, *The High-Low* podcast _____ Sittenfeld's wryly hilarious and insightful new collection, *HELP YOURSELF*, illuminates human experience and gracefully upends our assumptions about class and race, envy and disappointment, gender and celebrity. Suburban friends fall out after a racist encounter at a birthday party is caught on video and posted on Facebook; an illustrious Manhattan film crew are victims of their own snobbery when they underestimate a pre-school teacher from the Mid-West; and a group of young writers fight about love and narrative style as they compete for a prestigious bursary. Connecting each of these three stories is Sittenfeld's truthful yet merciless eye. Full of tenderness and compassion, this dazzling collection celebrates our humanity in all its pettiness and glory. A *STYLIST* Best Books for Autumn title Featured in the Sunday Times Guide to Culture Praise for CURTIS SITTENFELD: 'You won't want these stories to end' *REESE WITHERSPOON* 'Perfect miniatures in deadpan prose' *GUARDIAN* 'Clear-eyed and compulsive' *MAIL ON SUNDAY*

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *You Think It, I'll Say It: Reese's Book Club* Curtis Sittenfeld, 2019-03-05 "Every bit as smart, sensitive, funny, and genuine as her phenomenally popular novels,"* a dazzling collection from the New York Times bestselling author of *Prep*, *American Wife*, and *Eligible* "I really loved all the characters in this book. They're so complex and interesting, and in every story, you'll find them going through these pivotal moments in their lives."—Reese Witherspoon (Reese's Book Club Pick) **NAMED ONE OF THE TEN BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY PEOPLE AND USA TODAY AND ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The Washington Post • NPR • Financial Times • San Francisco Chronicle • New York Public Library • Refinery29** A suburban mother of two fantasizes about the downfall of an old friend whose wholesome lifestyle empire may or may not be built on a lie. A high-powered lawyer honeymooning with her husband is caught off guard by the appearance of the girl who tormented her in high school. A shy Ivy League student learns the truth about a classmate's seemingly enviable life. Curtis Sittenfeld has established a reputation as a sharp chronicler of the modern age who humanizes her subjects even as she skewers them. Now, with this first collection of short fiction, her "astonishing gift for creating characters that take up residence in readers' heads" (*The Washington Post*) is showcased like never before. Throughout the ten stories in *You Think It, I'll Say It*, Sittenfeld upends assumptions about class, relationships, and gender roles in a nation that feels both adrift and viscerally divided. With moving insight and uncanny precision, Curtis Sittenfeld pinpoints the questionable decisions, missed connections, and sometimes extraordinary coincidences that make up

a life. Indeed, she writes what we're all thinking—if only we could express it with the wit of a master satirist, the storytelling gifts of an old-fashioned raconteur, and the vision of an American original. *Booklist (starred review) **LOONGLISTED FOR THE CARNEGIE MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN FICTION** “At once psychologically acute, deftly crafted and deeply pleasurable.”—San Francisco Chronicle “Witty and buoyant . . . Each deceptively simple and breezy story is masterfully paced and crafted.”—Chicago Tribune “Perfectly paced, witty and laced with unexpected twists: Every story here sticks its landing. Whatever [Sittenfeld] writes, we'll read it.”—People “Razor-sharp, often hilarious . . . [Curtis Sittenfeld] is a sharp observer of human nature and human relationships. . . . A witty, breezy, zeitgeist-y collection.”—USA Today

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *Conversations with Biographical Novelists* Michael Lackey, 2018-10-18 How does a writer approach a novel about a real person? In this new collection of interviews, authors such as Emma Donoghue, David Ebershoff, David Lodge, Colum McCann, Colm Tóibín, and Olga Tokarczuk sit down with literary scholars to discuss the relationship of history, truth, and fiction. Taken together, these conversations clarify how the biographical novel encourages cross-cultural dialogue, promotes new ways of thinking about history, politics, and social justice, and allows us to journey into the interior world of influential and remarkable people.

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *And Sons* David Gilbert, 2014-05-27 **NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY** The Washington Post • The New Yorker • Esquire • The Austin Chronicle • Kansas City Star • The Guardian (UK) • BookPage • Flavorwire • Bookish “[A] big, brilliant novel.”—The New York Times Book Review Who is A. N. Dyer? & Sons is a literary masterwork for readers of *The Art of Fielding*, *The Emperor's Children*, and *Wonder Boys*—the panoramic, deeply affecting story of an iconic novelist, two interconnected families, and the heartbreaking truths that fiction can hide. Look for special features inside. Join the Random House Reader's Circle for author chats and more. The funeral of Charles Henry Topping on Manhattan's Upper East Side would have been a minor affair (his two-hundred-word obit in *The New York Times* notwithstanding) but for the presence of one particular mourner: the notoriously reclusive author A. N. Dyer, whose novel *Ampersand* stands as a classic of American teenage angst. But as Andrew Newbold Dyer delivers the eulogy for his oldest friend, he suffers a breakdown over the life he's led and the people he's hurt and the novel that will forever endure as his legacy. He must gather his three sons for the first time in many years—before it's too late. So begins a wild, transformative, heartbreaking week, as witnessed by Philip Topping, who, like his late father, finds himself caught up in the swirl of the Dyer family. First there's son Richard, a struggling screenwriter and father, returning from self-imposed exile in California. In the middle lingers Jamie, settled in Brooklyn after his twenty-year mission of making documentaries about human suffering. And last is Andy, the half brother whose mysterious birth tore the Dyers apart seventeen years ago, now in New York on spring break, determined to lose his virginity before returning to the prestigious New England boarding school that inspired *Ampersand*. But only when the real purpose of this reunion comes to light do these sons realize just how much is at stake, not only for their father but for themselves and three generations of their family. In this daring feat of fiction, David Gilbert establishes himself as one of our most original, entertaining, and insightful authors. & Sons is that rarest of treasures: a startlingly imaginative novel about families and how they define us, and the choices we make when faced with our own mortality. **NATIONAL BESTSELLER • A NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS' CHOICE** “Big, brilliant, and terrifically funny.”—Jess Walter, author of *Beautiful Ruins* “Extraordinary.”—Time “Smart and savage . . . Seductive and ripe with both comedy and heartbreak, [*& Sons*] made me reconsider my stance on . . . the term ‘instant classic.’”—NPR “A big, ambitious book about fathers and sons, Oedipal envy and sibling rivalry, and the dynamics between art and life . . . [*& Sons*] does a wonderful job of conjuring up its characters' memories . . . in layered, almost Proustian detail.”—Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* “[A] smart, engrossing saga . . . Perfect for fans of Jonathan Franzen or Claire Messud.”—Entertainment Weekly “Audacious . . . [one of the year's] most dazzlingly smart, fully realized works of fiction.”—The Washington Post

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *Almost Madam President* Nichola D. Gutgold,

2009-01-01 All around the world women are presidents and prime ministers, yet in America, we have yet to elect the first woman president. When Barack Obama accepted the nomination as the Democratic candidate for president in 2008, the media were quick to point out that Hillary Clinton lost. Yet Clinton won almost 18 million votes and was the first front-runner woman candidate. *Almost Madam President: Why Hillary Clinton 'Won' in 2008* argues that Hillary Clinton gained more than she lost in her bid for the presidency. This book takes the reader on a rhetorical journey through Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential campaign, focusing on Clinton's sophisticated YouTube style announcement speech, the debates, and the many notable stump speeches and media events on the campaign trail. Along the way Gutgold examines the obstacles and opportunities of women as presidential candidates.

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *The Best American Short Stories 2017* Meg Wolitzer, 2017-10-03 The New York Times–bestselling author of *The Interestings* compiles a stunning anthology of literary short fiction with T.C. Boyle, Emma Cline and others. “If you know exactly what you are going to get from the experience of reading a story, you probably wouldn’t go looking for it; you need, in order to be an open reader of fiction, to be willing. To cast a vote for what you love and then wait for the outcome,” writes Meg Wolitzer in her introduction to this volume. *The Best American Short Stories 2017* casts a vote for and celebrates all that is our country. Here you’ll find a man with a boyfriend and a girlfriend, naval officers trapped on a submarine, a contestant on America’s Funniest Home Videos, and a gay man desperate to be a father—unforgettable characters waiting for an outcome, burning with stories to tell. *The Best American Short Stories 2017* includes entries by T.C. Boyle, Jai Chakrabarti, Emma Cline, Danielle Evans, Lauren Groff, Eric Puchner, Jim Shepard, Curtis Sittenfeld, Jenn Walter and others.

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *First Ladies* Betty Boyd Caroli, 2019-04-05 This expanded and updated fifth edition presents Caroli's keen political analysis and astute observation of recent developments in First Lady history. Caroli here contributes a new preface and updated chapters.

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *All That Work and Still No Boys* Kathryn Ma, 2009-09 How do we survive our family, stay bound to our community, and keep from losing ourselves? In *All That Work and Still No Boys*, Kathryn Ma exposes the deepest fears and longings that we mask in family life and observes the long shadows cast by history and displacement. Here are ten stories that wound and satisfy in equal measure. Ma probes the immigrant experience, most particularly among northern California’s Chinese Americans, illuminating for us the confounding nature of duty, transformation, and loss. A boy exposed to racial hatred finds out the true difference between his mother and his father. Two old rivals briefly lay down their weapons, but loneliness and despair won’t let them forget the past. A young Beijing tour guide with a terrible family secret must take an adopted Chinese girl and her American family to visit an orphanage. And in the prize-winning title story, a mother refuses to let her son save her life, insisting instead on a sacrifice by her daughter. Intimate in detail and universal in theme, these stories give us the compelling voice of an exciting new author whose intelligence, insight, and wit impart a sense of grace to the bitter resentments and enduring ties that comprise family love. Even through the tensions Ma creates so deftly, the peace and security that come from building and belonging to one’s own community shine forth.

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: *The Majority* Elizabeth L. Silver, 2024-07-09 A riveting novel of motherhood and ambition, love and friendship, and one woman's fight to be a Supreme Court Justice History is only as good as the historians, and I'm no longer trusting them to tell my story. Half of the United States is waiting for Justice Sylvia Olin Bernstein to die. The other half is praying for her to hold on. At eighty-three, “the Contemptuous S.O.B.” doesn’t have much time left. What she does have is her story. Covering the span of fifty years, Sylvia's personal account reveals the intimate truth about a woman who is not just a brilliant mind but a daughter, a best friend, a wife, and a mother. Caught between the competing desires of career and family, truth and convenience, progress and patience, she will be given a chance to change the course of American history. Set against the vibrant sweep of the twentieth century, *THE MAJORITY* brings us into the sacrifices, heartaches, and complex emotional life of a powerful woman ahead of her time, whose life

and work turn out to have supreme stakes.

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: Big Girls Don't Cry Rebecca Traister, 2011-06-07 It was all as unpredictable as it was riveting: Hillary Clinton's improbable rise, her fall and her insistence on pushing forward straight through to her remarkable phoenix flight from the race; Sarah Palin's attempt not only to fill the void left by Clinton, but to alter the very definition of feminism and claim some version of it for conservatives; liberal rapture over Barack Obama and the historic election of our first African-American president; the media microscope trained on Michelle Obama, harsher even than the one Hillary had endured fifteen years earlier. Meanwhile, media women like Katie Couric and Rachel Maddow altered the course of the election, and comedians like Tina Fey and Amy Poehler helped make feminism funny. As Traister sees it, the 2008 election was good for women. The campaign for the presidency reopened some of the most fraught American conversations about gender, race and generational difference, about sexism on the left and feminism on the right, all difficult discussions that had been left unfinished but that are crucial to further perfecting our union.

american wife by curtis sittenfeld: Moon St. Louis Brooke S. Foster, 2014-06-24 As a St. Louis resident, Brooke S. Foster knows the best ways to experience the Gateway City, from must-see sights like the Gateway Arch and the City Museum to great Northern Italian cuisine on the Hill. Foster provides travelers with unique trip strategies to help organize their visit, such as Blues, Barbecue, and Beer: A Legendary St. Louis Weekend; and From the Butterfly House to the Gigantic Slide: St. Louis with Kids. Including experienced advice on checking out the Victorian-era mansions in Lafayette Square, exploring the revived nightlife of downtown St. Louis, and seeing live music at the Blue Note in nearby Columbia, Moon St. Louis gives travelers the tools they need to create a more personal and memorable experience.

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fiercely intelligent, and moving collection exploring marriage, friendship, fame, and artistic ambition—including a story that revisits the main character from Curtis Sittenfeld’s iconic novel *Prep*—from the New York Times bestselling author of *Eligible* and *Romantic Comedy* “[Sittenfeld’s] perfectly contained stories are a joy.”—Booklist, starred review In her second story collection, Sittenfeld shows why she’s as beloved for her short fiction as she is for her novels. In these dazzling stories, she conjures up characters so real that they seem like old friends, laying bare the moments when their long held beliefs are overturned. In “The Patron Saints of Middle Age,” a woman visits two friends she hasn’t seen since her divorce. In “A for Alone,” a married artist embarks on a creative project intended to disprove the so-called Mike Pence Rule, which suggests that women and men can’t spend time alone together without lusting after each other. And in “Lost but Not Forgotten,” Sittenfeld gives readers of her novel *Prep* a window into the world of her beloved character Lee Fiora, decades later, when Lee attends an alumni reunion at her boarding school. Hilarious, thought-provoking, and full of tenderness for her characters, Sittenfeld’s stories peel back layer after layer of our inner lives, keeping us riveted to the page with her utterly distinctive voice.

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