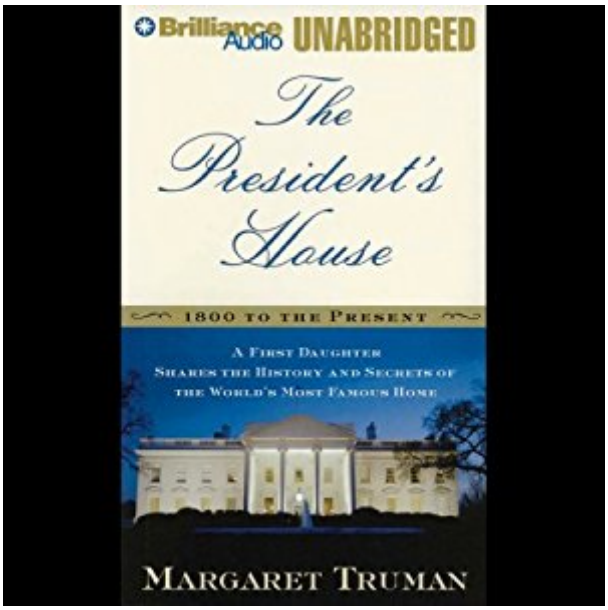
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The President's House: History And Secrets Of The World's Most Famous Home



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Synopsis

As Margaret Truman knows from firsthand experience, living in the White House can be exhilarating and maddening, alarming and exhausting, but it is certainly never dull. Part private residence, part goldfish bowl, and part national shrine, the White House is both the most important address in America and the most intensely scrutinized. In The President’s House, Margaret Truman takes us behind the scenes as she reveals what it feels like to live in the White House. Here are hilarious stories of Teddy Roosevelt’s rambunctious children tossing spitballs at presidential portraits and a heartbreaking account of the tragedy that befell President Coolidge’s young son John. Here, too, is the real story of the Lincoln Bedroom - as well as the thrilling narrative of how first lady Dolley Madison rescued the priceless portrait of George Washington and a copy of the Declaration of Independence before British soldiers torched the White House in 1814. Today the 132-room White House operates as an exotic combination of first-class hotel and fortress, with 1600 dedicated workers and an annual budget over $1 billion. But ghosts of the past still walk the august corridors, including the phantom whose visit President Harry S. Truman described to his daughter in eerie detail. From the basement swarming with reporters to the "Situation Room" crammed with sophisticated technology to the Oval Office where the President receives the world’s leaders, the White House is a beehive of relentless activity, deal-making, intrigue, gossip, and, of course, history in the making. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Customer Reviews

I ordered this book because I had read in an Eleanor Roosevelt biography how shocked and dismayed Margaret and Bess were when they arrived in the living quarters and found it so shabby. I wanted to know more about how shabby, what was left, what did they have to do, what's it like moving in, moving out, living on the second floor.This is not that book. This was a hard book to get to the end. I had to force myself. She does not tell her stories in chronological order. She'll leap from a 20th century president back to a 19th century one, then back again. You get no sense of how the house grew or changed over the years because the timeline is so out of wack. She has chosen to tell her stories bundled in topics -- the grounds, the office areas, the servants, the gardens, the pets, the reporters, the brides, the children, etc. And within each chapter, even then she does not tell the stories chronologically. She skips back and forth.I guess the advantage of that is she can insert a story about her father into each chapter, because if she had told it chronologically, she'd have to deal with his stories in one chapter.She tells her stories in a folksy, casual way, as if she were telling the story over dinner to friends around the table, and it just doesn't work in this context. And all the stories, bumping through history out of order like the Doctor in a runaway Tardis, run together in each chapter. And for someone who was literally inside, this is no insider's tale. Many of these stories you have heard elsewhere, in other books. That's probably where they came from. Here she had a first hand opportunity to write about what it's really like to live in the White House, and she wrote a book that anyone could have pieced together sitting in a research library. I don't get it.

Margaret Truman is, of course, the daughter of President Harry Truman and his wife Bess. She is the most prolific writing child of any American Chief Executiv. Margaret Truman has written several mysteries and histories about life in Washington which are written in a popular style easy to understand and enjoy. As Ms. Truman opens the door to our White House she lets us discover the fascinating men and women who have lived at 1600Pennyslvania Avenue. She discusses such various topics as:1. White House Weddings.2. Relations between the Presidents and the Media3. The Children of Presidents who have lived in the White House4. White House Presidential Pets5. The kooks and crazies who have tried (and in some cases been successful) in assasinating our chief executive.6. She describes the growth of the White House from its first occupancy by John and Abigal Adams in 1800. The history of the White House building, grounds, gardens and additions are discussed.7. How the routine of a White House day changed with every administration-when they awoke to what they liked for dinner! Ms. Truman has written in a charmingly simple style which is nevertheless based on her well done historical research. This is a book anyone regardless of age or party affiliation could enjoy.I recommend it highly!

A very interesting topic, written by someone who knew the topic from a unique first hand experience.

The President’s House: 1800 to the Present The Secrets and History of the World’s Most Famous HomeThis is a fascinating story about the history of the White House. When I was in High School (way back), I hated history. The past didn’t interest me because one of the biggest events in history had just ended, World War 2. This book goes back to the beginning and relates the complete history of the White House. I hate to think that there will be no more books by Margaret Truman who, to me, is one of the greatest murder mystery writers of all time. Although this is not a murder mystery, she has written many other equally fascinating books.Claude Bedell

I am a history lover, particularly American History. My favorite catagory is presidents. They are all fasinating people. The Author of this book lived in this house during a very bad war & knows about it as other authors might not.It takes a special person, to lead a country & these men have all felt they are capable of doing that. Some have been wrong, & failed badly. Some have been fair & we survived, without too many problems & some have been poorly advised, unknowledgeable & have caused some of the worst conditions our country has faced. This is about the house they have lived in for four or more years & alot about their personal lives, stories about their families, etc. I find it fascinating & very interesting. I bought it for a grandchild, but he will have to wait till I have read it all.

A great book for any time, including our time now. All the idiosyncrasies, both good and bad, of the various presidents, their families and staff are explored in a very good natured way.

Interesting facts about the White House.

Very informative book

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