

The Reluctant First Lady

Venita Ellick

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Get ready for a change of pace and a quick touchdown into the political and personal lives of the president and the first lady. It may not be at all what one would expect, especially since this wife of a president has decided to forego the title and most of the responsibilities of “first lady.” Ashley Taylor prefers to continue, with no interruptions or distractions, her high-powered job at the Cameron Museum of Art in the Big Apple. She has told her husband, Michael, about her plans since before his campaign began, but he has always been hoping she would change her mind if he got elected. When Michael, his staff, and a significant portion of the public nay-say her decision, Ashley goes to great lengths, including ditching the Secret Service bodyguards and literally running away, to pull her life into the shape she wants it to be in. She does come to realize she will indeed have to make some sacrifices and, in the end, compromise wins the day—but not without some interesting and quite creative solutions.

With a premise that challenges both mind and emotion, *The Reluctant First Lady* is a fun, energy-charged read. Ellick provides a perfect balance of thought, action, and dialogue, along with well-timed backstory of the main characters, and she definitely gets the reader thinking, “What if?”

PATRICIA MORROW (Fall 2013)

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