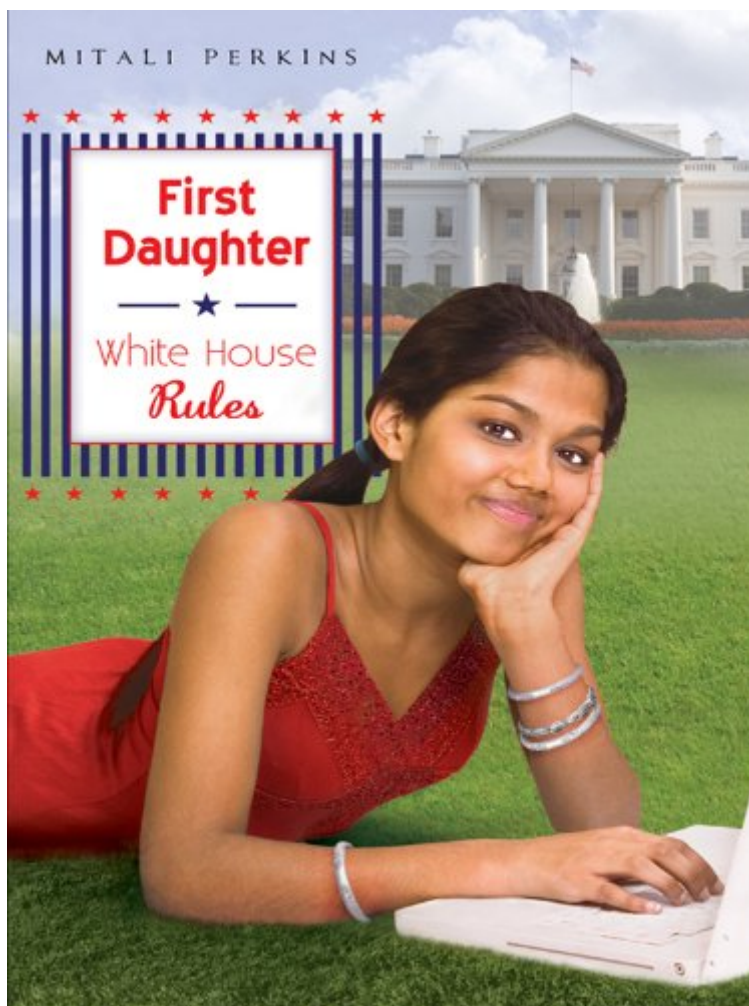


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First Daughter: White House Rules



Synopsis

In *First Daughter: Extreme American Makeover*, Sameera showed the United States it was ready for a Pakistani-born First Daughter. With her brains and bravado, she helped her dad win the presidential election. Now she's living in the White House. Fabulous! Right? Actually, it's no fairy tale. The Secret Service and the paparazzi follow Sameera everywhere. She misses her friends—and even her school—back home. So Sameera decides to escape. Will she be able to pull it off, or will her plan backfire on the entire First Family? This smart and funny novel continues the adventures of a Pakistani-American teen in the spotlight.

Book Information

File Size: 405 KB

Print Length: 236 pages

Publisher: Dutton Books for Young Readers (January 24, 2008)

Publication Date: January 24, 2008

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0010JWVL6

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #1,005,051 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #55

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family

Issues > Family > Adoption #59 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult >

Literature & Fiction > Geography & Cultures > United States > Asian American #83 in Books >

Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Adoption

Customer Reviews

Only problem with the book is that it was too short. I found the characters interesting and endearing, and thought it was a good story. The First Family was terrific, and I hope that there are more novels from this author about this First Family.

As a mother who screens everything my 13-year-old daughter reads, I really enjoy reading about the growing-up-ethnic-in-a-non-ethnic-world challenges young people face. I find, however, that most experiences are terribly similar within a group, so what is really appealing to me are those stories that feature something different, while still keeping ethnic identity crises as a major theme. Mitali Perkins' "First Daughter" books, which hit the bookshelves with "First Daughter: Extreme American Makeover" when Barack Obama was poised to be President of the United States in an incredibly astute marketing move, are two of those that meet that criterion. This review is actually for the sequel to "Extreme American Makeover" because, inexplicably, "Extreme American Makeover" is not yet Kindleised. "First Daughter: White House Rules" is a very perceptive look at what challenges an adopted Pakistani girl would face if her family achieved overnight international affirmation - especially if she was part of the planning team. I'm sure I don't need to point out that if this series was written by and about the first-ever Chinese-American First Child, it would not have enjoyed the same level of interest - but, to be honest, the one part about the book that did annoy me quite a bit was that I had to stop myself from seeing Natasha and Malia Obama in my mind while reading the book. It would be nice if Sameera had been more interested than she was in the more serious international issues - but that would take away from the generally light tone of the book(s). Any fan of Meg Cabot's "The Princess Diaries" series would enjoy "First Daughter", but unlike Genovia heir apparent Mia Thermopolis, Sameera Righton takes on the role of king-maker (okay, president-maker) rather than actual ruler. I think the series has the potential to go a lot further than just these first two books, and I certainly look forward to reading "Extreme American Makeover" on Kindle as well. My own daughter's review of the book (which was also submitted to our local library as part of their online summer reading program.) follows: "First Daughter: White House Rules' by Mitali Perkins is a really interesting, funny read. "About-to-turn-seventeen-years-old Sameera Righton is just like any other kid - she *loves* writing her blog, SparrowBlog, her cookie-making skills are amazing, and, of course, fashion is v-e-r-y important. Of course, Sameera is *also* the daughter of the President of the United States of America. *And* she's adopted from Pakistan at birth, which, according to the press, makes her a 'role model for South Asian kids everywhere." "Living in the White House is pretty fun - you get to wear fancy dresses and go to balls with cute Austrian guys, you have your own private movie theater, and you get to have a gazillion chefs ready to help you out when your cookies didn't come out exactly as planned." "But life's not all fun and games for Sameera: "Her almost-boyfriend might not be even that anymore." "Her cousin is seriously prickly about Sameera paying for everything." "The reporters and Secret Service dudes follow her *everywhere*, 24/7." "And people are starting to say that Sameera is just a pampered

pooch, and that she couldn't last a day in the `real world.'"The problem is, they just might be right - and if they are, well, Sameera's just going to have to fix that."Even if it means breaking a few rules."I thought that the book was really good - Sameera is amazing, and I *loved* her blog. I also thought that the plot was really good as well: it had just the right bit of seriousness in it, but enough silliness to make it not-so-depressing. The only problem I had was that Sameera kept saying, whenever her parents or friends or whoever, made a comment about how she sounds 'just like a Pakistan girl', she always mutters how 'she *is* a Pakistan girl.' I didn't like how she was always muttering that, yet she never told the friends and family that it bugged her."I would give the book five stars: two stars for the plot, two stars for the characters, and one star for Sameera's blog posts, which were really cool."

In this second book in Mitali Perkins' First Daughter series, Sameera "Sparrow" Righton, the smart, articulate adopted Pakistani daughter of a Republican presidential candidate whose blog helped her father win, is back. This time, though, instead of trying to help out with her father's campaign, Sparrow is moving into the White House!In *White House Rules*, Sameera is continuing to adjust to life in the spotlight. Even more than that, really; with the constant presence of the Secret Service, privacy is hard to come by when you're living in the White House. Aside from the fact that she's the President's daughter and dealing with all that comes along with that territory, Sameera also has normal teenage girl stuff to deal with-like guys. She and Bobby were getting really close before, but now he's mysteriously stopped calling.*White House Rules* is a worthy sequel to the fun-yet-serious first book in the series, *Extreme American Makeover*. I felt like the characterizations also got better in this second novel, though Sameera is still a little too perfect to be real a lot of the time. Again, though, Mitali Perkins manages to deal with real, thought-provoking issues (like religious prejudices) in a really fun, quick read. Perkins is a good writer; the pacing and flow of her story are quite good. And it takes a talented author to have a book about romance, friendship, religion, politics, family, bigotry, and more, without any of it seeming odd or forced or out of place. I wasn't quite blown away by *White House Rules*, but it was an engaging read, if not exactly unforgettable. I'll look forward to book number three in this series, and, in the meantime, maybe look up some of Mitali Perkins' backlist.

In the second book of the FIRST DAUGHTER series, Sameera is unpacking boxes and exploring the White House with her cousin, Miranda. Sameera loves living in the White House. She gets to explore, learn to waltz, and she stills keeps writing in her blog.But she's also beginning to realize

that life in the White House may not be a fairy tale. Bobby, her friend and the guy she likes, stopped calling after her dad became President. When she learns it's because of religious beliefs, she's outraged, just as Bobby is. There's also a comment left on her blog that leaves her wondering if she really could survive in the real world. She soon hatches a plan to find out -- and it seems that to make life a fairy tale, people have to be willing to take some chances. To be honest, I love all of those movies about the President's daughter (Chasing Liberty especially), so I was sure I'd love a series of books about the First Daughter, too. I was right! This book was great. Sameera is one of the best characters I've read about in a while. She's spirited and daring, but she's also honest and she knows when to stop. All of the other characters were amazing, too. WHITE HOUSE RULES is a fun, quirky read and I'd recommend it to anyone, even if you're not a fan of these types of movies. Reviewed by: Harmony

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