

The Georgetown Ladies' Social Club: Power, Passion, and Politics in the Nation's Capital

C. David Heymann

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POWER, PASSION, AND POLITICS
IN THE NATION'S CAPITAL

THE GEORGETOWN LADIES' SOCIAL CLUB



KATHARINE GRAHAM, LORRAINE COOPER,
EVANGELINE BRUCE,
PAMELA HARRIMAN, AND SALLY QUINN

C. DAVID HEYMANN
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF RFK
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before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Georgetown Ladies' Social Club: Power, Passion, and Politics in the Nation's Capital:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A world I cannot imagine.By Carolyn DoyleA great read about a world I simply cannot imagine. Money beyond belief, some with morals some without (a lot without) A lot of major

government decisions probably made at these fairly small dinner parties, most certainly discussed also things that should have been secret information were shared with the people there that did not already know about them. So many of these people had a sex life with many people outside of their marriage and everyone knew about it. This is not about these days I am talking about but many years ago so the morals of our country have long, long been as bad as today if not worse. Also there is a lot of history about the Washington Post and the changes that took place there and there were many. Katherine Graham's learning how to change from a housewife that had been so beaten down about any abilities that she had by her husband, to being the strong woman/leader she really was. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Power of Georgetown Influence By Stella Carrier "The Georgetown Ladies Social Club" by C. David Heyman is an incredible book that explains some of the powerful women who have indirectly/directly shaped past political elections. The following are some excerpts of entertaining details featured in this interesting book: Chapter Eight Page 161: Mary Meyer was allegedly one of President Kennedy's favorite mistresses. He included her in many of his political dealings because of his admiration for her beauty and intellect. To further add to the controversial scandal, there was talk that both the president and Mary were sometimes high on acid while being intimate with each other. Mary Meyer supposedly obtained her drugs from Timothy Leary. It is listed that Mr. Leary was a full-time faculty member of the psychology department at Harvard University. Chapter Nine Page 182: Kay Graham looked to Averell Harriman and Alice Longworth as human models of aging gracefully. She chose to read more and abstain from drinking in order to emulate them. Chapter Nine Page 199: President Nixon's decision to distance himself from the Georgetown crowd may have affected him politically. Washington hostess Anna Chennault was purported to be one of the few women that he opened up to on a friendship level. In addition, it was discussed that Kay Graham was instrumental in leaking the Watergate story. Chapter Nine Pages 202-207: Kay Graham was purportedly a charming woman who at one time simultaneously attracted the affections of Warren Buffett and Robert McNamara. The book lists how a close friend by the name of Polly Fritchey was aware of the love triangle, and was quoted as saying, "Kay adored Mr. Buffett but loved Bob McNamara." Chapter Ten Pages 208-240: Sally Quinn's combination of attractiveness and charisma played a pivotal role in her success as a reporter for the "Party Section" of the Washington Post. I wish to refrain from judging, but Sally Quinn's popularity was not without controversy. The chapter discusses the reasons why her and Jackie Kennedy were distant from each other. In addition, Sally Quinn became known hosting New Year's parties that become one of the most sought after events in the D.C. area. It is listed why she had to explain that she was masterminding the events out of no other ulterior motive but to have fun. Chapter Twelve pages 269-320: Compelling information is included on a past marriage between late Hollywood legend Elizabeth Taylor and Republican politician John Warner. The chapter discusses how Elizabeth Taylor wanted so much to fit in with the Georgetown crowd. On page 287, Pamela Harriman indirectly implied the expectations that she had of Elizabeth Taylor. I was incredibly shocked to read that wealthy women such as Georgette Mosbacher and Arianna Huffington were also trying their best to fit in with the members of the Georgetown elite. Before this chapter, I really thought that women of high wealth had an easy pass into the prestigious ranks of "The Georgetown Ladies Social Club." On the other hand, I do have to admit that this chapter enlightened me on why I must take certain social games less personally. There are actual pictures of these women included between the pages of 246-247. Chapter Fourteen page 335: Kay Graham was mentioned as saying that Pamela Harriman helped get Bill Clinton elected. In addition, Bill Clinton expressed his appreciation by selecting Pamela Harriman as United States ambassador to France on January 20, 1993. There is so much more stimulating information in "The Georgetown Ladies Social Club." Thanks to the author, I also now know about books by Katherine Graham and Sally Quinn. The books that he listed were: Washington by Katherine Graham, The Party by Sally Quinn, and Washington by Meg Whitfield. "The Georgetown Ladies Social Club" is a fascinating book that best appeals to anyone who is curious to learn various "juicy" details on Georgetown and/or Washington D.C. history written in a vibrant manner. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. recommend this seller By Susan H. silly book

In this definitive and first-time portrait of the political and social life of Georgetown, bestselling biographer C. David Heymann chronicles the dinner parties, correspondence, intersections, and overlappings of some of the most powerful women behind American politics. Henry Kissinger pronounced that "the hand that mixes the Georgetown martini is time and again the hand that guides the destiny of the Western world." In this compelling book -- a heady mix of politics, sex, scandal, and power -- Heymann reveals the real moguls of Washington. "The Georgetown Ladies' Social Club," a term coined by Ronald Reagan, comprises a list of formidable and fascinating women, among them Katharine Graham, Lorraine Cooper, Evangeline Bruce, Pamela Harriman, and Sally Quinn. In a city characteristically and historically controlled by men, these women's social status and personal wealth (in addition to their courage, vision, and voracious ambition) afforded them an abundance of behind-the-scenes political clout. Through a combination of primary-source documents and personal interviews, Heymann offers intriguing and often startling insights into Washington life, from the latter days of the Truman administration to the advent of President George W. Bush. Filled with the history and lore of Georgetown itself, *The Georgetown Ladies' Social Club* is a riveting exposé of the powers behind the throne, the women who made and make Washington tick.

From Publishers Weekly Heymann, bestselling biographer of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Barbara Hutton, offers a captivating chronicle of the female power behind American politics in the latter half of the 20th century. In a time when men wrote the rules of the political game, he writes, five formidable women greatly influenced who won and who lost: Washington Post publisher Katharine Graham; Lorraine Cooper, wife of Kentucky's Sen. John Sherman Cooper; Evangeline Bruce, wife of U.S. ambassador David Bruce; Democratic Party fund-raiser (and later ambassador) Pamela Harriman, married to the powerful and wealthy Averell Harriman; and Sally Quinn, Washington Post writer and wife of the Post's former executive editor Ben Bradlee. While they had husbands in high places, these women wielded a vital political influence in Georgetown by organizing the parties where momentous meetings took place and decisions were made. These women were so compelling not only for their professional and political accomplishments and legendary dinner parties but for their dynamic, and often clashing, personalities and ambitions. Heymann deftly explores these personalities through interviews with family, friends, enemies, admirers and detractors. The resulting anecdotal social history of Georgetown is a winning combination of sex, scandal and political escapade. It also provides a complex portrait of its subjects. "What the Georgetown Five ultimately share is their ability to maintain a public pose, to protect the image they sought to create, no matter what the cost, no matter what the burden," writes Heymann, whose earlier books have become award-winning TV miniseries. 16 pages of bw photos not seen by PW. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Heymann, the author of biographies of Jackie and Robert Kennedy, Gloria Vanderbilt, and Elizabeth Taylor, turns his attention to a group of women whom Ronald Reagan dubbed the Georgetown Ladies' Social Club: Katharine Graham, Lorraine Cooper, Evangeline Bruce, Pamela Harriman, and Sally Quinn. These influential hostesses wielded political and social power from their Georgetown homes, where the politicking done behind the scenes was sometimes as important as what was happening on Capitol Hill. Their stories overlap, but the similarities are striking. All of the women began their rise by standing on the shoulders of their husbands--ambassadors, a senator, newspapermen--but eventually they came to brandish power of their own. Following a loose chronological order, this well-researched account (bolstered by many primary-source interviews) tells the story of a time and a place, Washington from the 1950s into the present. Not surprisingly, the book is incredibly dishy, with some of the most intriguing stories having little to do with the ostensible subjects (e.g., the story of the mysterious murder of JFK's mistress, Mary Meyer, sister-in-law of Ben Bradlee). Heymann pulls out all the stops here, and the result is a well-researched, fast-paced, and fascinating look at dinner-party power-broking. Expect plenty of buzz around this one. Ilene Cooper Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved The Toronto Sun An informative and entertaining book -- like the women it profiles. The Washington Post Think Entertainment Tonight does Georgetown. Liz Smith New York Post One juicy story after another. Mr. Heymann doesn't hold back. I couldn't put this book down.... Don't miss it!