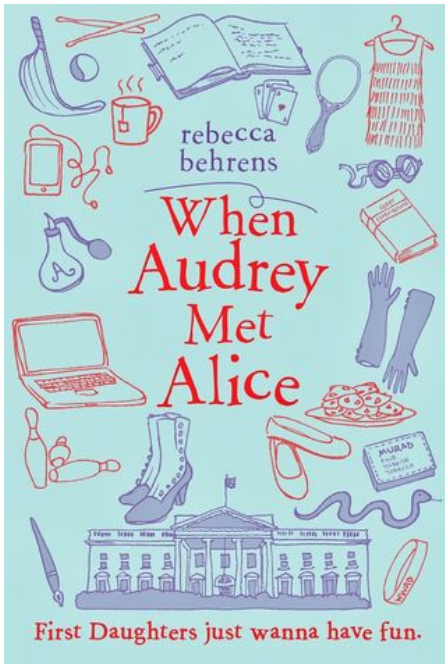




When Audrey Met Alice

Rebecca Behrens

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First daughter Audrey Rhodes re-creates Alice Roosevelt's infamous antics in this fun, smart middle-grade debut

First daughter Audrey Rhodes can't wait for the party she has planned for Friday night. The decorations are all set and the pizza is on its way. But the Secret Service must be out to ruin her life, because they cancel at the last minute-citing security breach and squashing Audrey's chances for making any new friends. What good is being "safe and secure" if you can't have any fun?

Audrey is ready to give up and become a White House hermit, until she discovers Alice Roosevelt's hidden diary. The former first daughter gives Audrey a ton of ideas for having fun...and more problems than she can handle.

When Audrey Met Alice Details

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Author : Rebecca Behrens

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From Reader Review When Audrey Met Alice for online ebook

vic (indefinite hiatus) says

did i care for this? no, not really.

the plot was semi-okay, if there could even be a plot.

honestly, most of the book was just audrey acting out so that she could be more noticed by her parents. although i understand the angst she feels, i just can't really grasp what outcome she had except for ruining a b/g platonic relationship that existed.

another issue was the gay marriage essay and protest that was brought into the book. honestly, the entire LGBTQ+ part of the novel seemed forced, as if bringing in the issues of LGBTQ+ would strengthen the novel within the LGBTQ+ community.

this is just my take honestly

Emily says

Fun, but ultimately light-weight. It delves a little too frequently into standard aftermath a of a tweenager's incredibly bad decisions (sneaking in a boy! sneaking out! risqué clothes! yelling at parents!), exacerbated by doing all of it in the White House. Audrey is young and clueless to the point of frustration, though as a thirteen year old she should probably be excused. She is, after all, lead astray by trying to follow the advice of Alice Roosevelt's diary, which seems to have been written by a typical rebellious and boy crazy and flippant teenager who thinks nothing of breaking every possible rule and all available hearts then whining when her parents scold her about it. The ending is ultimately a bit too put-a-bow-on-it tidy for me, but it and the book on the whole is ultimately charming. It's hard not to root for Audrey to find her place and be happy. I also appreciate that Audrey chooses to take up the platform of marriage equality. And there are certainly some fun and funny moments.

I would also venture to say I'd like it much better were I a little younger and closer to the target audience. On the other hand, a middle schooler would probably also see through all of Audrey's bad ideas pretty quickly.

Melissa Landers says

What a fun read; I couldn't put it down! This is the story of Audrey, daughter of what we can assume is the first female POTUS. Frustrated when the novelty of White House life wears off, Audrey finds a kindred spirit in long-deceased first daughter, Alice Roosevelt, through her diary entries.

I could feel Audrey's angst as I cringed and laughed alongside her during this journey. The writing is clean and the pace is perfect. Highly recommend to middle grade and YA readers!

M says

The book "When Audrey Met Alice" was a cute story, but it was a little basic. It was the typical story of a 13 year old facing middle school girl problems. But, the twist in the story is that she is also the first daughter. I think that the story has an inspirational theme with her standing up for herself and believing in herself.

Jean says

Audrey Rhodes just wants to have a pizza party with her friends. It shouldn't be so impossible. But when you are the daughter of the president, a security breach can really mess up your plans. Not to mention the Secret Service agents following your every move. And friends at school calling you Fido behind your back.

But Audrey finds a new friend when she uncovers Alice Roosevelt's diary under a floorboard in the dining room. Separated by 100 years, Alice's diary entries mirror Audrey's experiences in the White House. And the Former First Daughter's wild antics may point to solutions to Audrey's problems...or may land her in deep trouble.

WHEN AUDREY MET ALICE is all kinds of wonderful. Funny, empowering, and sometimes cringe-worthy, Behrens has nailed what living in the shadow of a powerful parent must be like. This book is historical fiction at its best--taking voices from the past, breathing new life into them, and making them relevant to our problems today.

I want to give this book as a gift to every middle school girl I know and tell her "To thine own self be true."

Katie says

I am glad that this was a pick for Dahlia's Book Club, because I really enjoyed it and probably wouldn't have read it otherwise. This one was pretty cute and fun, while also having some serious moments. Overall, I didn't think this read too young for me. It seemed more like it was on the upper end of Middle Grade, since the main character was in 8th grade, and was a teenager.

I enjoyed how this really showed that being the president's daughter isn't necessarily an amazing experience. It shows how it can be lonely to be living in the White House with parents who are too busy for you. It shows how it can be hard to make friends at a new school because you can't tell if they genuinely are interested in being friends with you as a person, and not just because you're the First Daughter. Of course, I haven't had this experience so I don't know what it's really like, but it read very genuine to me.

I liked getting to read the fictional diary of Alice Roosevelt. She had quite the adventures in her days. I liked seeing how things that Audrey did paralleled the life of Alice, and how reading about Alice was really able to help her.

I liked the sweet romance that developed between Audrey and her friend from school, Quint. Since this is MG, the romance was not a big focus, and remained a friendship for a while. But once it turned into a romance, it was quite cute and light.

If you like MG and younger YA, read this book.

Henrietta says

It wasn't easy to be the First Kid and Audrey was definitely not having a good time because of her status. After moving into the White House, Audrey felt as though she were living in a prison. Could her life change now that she had access to the private journal of Alice Roosevelt?

Audrey was a lonely kid. With her parents busy working all the time, she didn't really have anyone to talk with. Because she didn't have any sibling, she could only play alone at the bowling alley inside the White House. Since she must travel with guards around her at all times, you could imagine how frustrating Audrey must feel as a young teenager. Life could be really difficult for a young teen at times and when all adults treated her as though she were a misbehaved child, Audrey felt unheard, misinterpreted and misunderstood.

I felt bad for Audrey. She wasn't an irresponsible person. In fact, she was quite likeable but because the adults were too busy to spend time with her, they often made quick judgments based on what other people hinted about her. It was quite unfair and if I were Audrey, I'd probably scream and yell and call the adults hypocrites and egomaniacs.

Anyway, Audrey was hurt by her parents' reactions but she wasn't someone who'd do reckless stuff just because she was being scoffed. She could be naive at times but honestly, I quite liked her for being a bit imprudent and a little unsophisticated.

Reading the private journal of Alice Roosevelt had opened Audrey to become more creative about who she could become and while not everything that Alice did had a positive influence on her, I liked that Audrey didn't blindly follow every rebellious act that Alice did.

The ending seemed fun (although there was this a-little-too-good-to-be-true vibe to it) but I liked that Audrey was generous about what she could do (and achieve) as First Kid to help others.

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Originally posted on LeisureReads.com

A copy of the book was provided by publisher for review purposes.

Katy Upperman says

I loved this book. Really and truly. It was fun to read from the perspective of past Pre-Teen Katy, and it was also an easy story to relate to as Adult Katy. It's a coming-of-age story, one that reminds readers that teenagers are not hopeless and adults (even Very Important Adults) aren't perfect. It's so much more than the lighthearted shenanigans-in-the-White-House story I was expecting.

When Audrey Met Alice is two stories in one. It switches back and forth between First Daughter Audrey Rhodes present-day narration and former First Daughter Alice Roosevelt's century-old diary entries. Author Rebecca Behrens does an incredible job of bouncing between the two distinct voices: Audrey's inquisitive, finding-her-place teen voice (she uses the term unbearably adorkable!), and Alice's more formal (and snarkier!) almost-a-lady voice. Alice's narration, in particular, leaps off the page — so much so that I had to

constantly remind myself that I wasn't **actually** reading excerpts from her long-lost diary.

There are so many interesting details about life in the White House (past and present) in *When Audrey Met Alice*. Thanks to security issues and appearances and the media, it becomes apparent pretty quickly that life as First Kid isn't all it's cracked up to be. Both Audrey and Alice exhibit feelings of uncertainty and annoyance, and both girls are faced with the pressures of growing up in the public eye and the frustrations of overprotective parents. Audrey and Alice both act out in ways that feel real and warranted, and often struck me as rather funny. I particularly love how Audrey turns to the diary when she feels exceptionally forlorn. The reverence she feels for untamable Alice is awesome. (As is the supersweet romantic subplot!)

Guys, this is a cool book. Unique in every way, and extraordinarily well-written. If you love upper middle-grade or know of a middle grader in need of fabulous reading material, please do pick up *When Audrey Met Alice*.

Jen Malone says

When Audrey Met Alice tells the story of a First Daughter who should be on top of the world, with a newly-elected president for a mom, she gets to live in the White House. But having to move away from a cozy home for a formal mansion, start at an intimidating new school, and get trailed everywhere by Secret Service isn't always smooth sailing. That's why she's so intrigued (and mischievously inspired) when she finds Alice Roosevelt's hidden diary in a closet of the Residence and learns how the "first" First Daughter in the White House found her own unique ways (a pet garter snake in her purse, for one!) to handle the pressures of being in the public eye.

I ADORED this book! So, so, so, so much. It made me happy every time I went to pick it up (I probably would have read it in one sitting, but, ya know... life) and even happier as I read. I think this is exactly the kind of book parents will love giving their daughters because it introduces history in such a fun, entertaining way and Alice Roosevelt's voice in her diary entries is spot-on fabulous. I want her for my new bestie! Great concept, great writing and pure fun from start to finish!

Liza Wiemer says

I don't read that many MG novels, but I was totally captivated by *When Audrey Met Alice*, a story about a first daughter Audrey Rose discovering Alice Roosevelt's diary in one of the closets in the White House. As Audrey tries to adjust to her own life as first daughter, Alice through her diary becomes Audrey's guide. I love how Behrens uses historical information in this novel and mixed it with a modern story. I was transported to the White House and Audrey's school. I got a very strong sense on how difficult life was for her living in the White House, always under a microscope and not seeing her parents much (her mom is president).

Going back to the history, I loved learning about what it would have been like for a first daughter in the early 1900s: fashion, trips, friendships, social pressures.

The description of the White House was very cool with the gardens, the bowling alley, the movie theater, the dining rooms, and bedrooms.

Audrey is a very likable character who I believe many MG students will adore. There's a good balance

between history and present day, and I loved the use of a diary to share the information and how Alice ended every diary entry with: To Thine Own Self Be True. It's a great message.

A winner, WHEN AUDREY MET ALICE is a must for MGers, schools, libraries.

Kristin says

EAT UP THE WORLD!! Love Audrey, love Alice, love EMILY SPINACH!

Beth says

Audrey Rhodes is the president's daughter and all she wants to do is have a normal life: hang out with her friends, attend parties, and go on class field trips. Instead, she feels like living at 1600 is a prison rather than a privilege. But one night she discovers an old diary in her bedroom that belonged to Alice Roosevelt, former First Daughter and well-documented Washington rabble-rouser. Suddenly, reading of Alice's eccentric ways (that included walking around the White House with a garter snake around her arm) inspires Audrey to adopt the mantra "What Would Alice Do?" Audrey soon finds out, however, that approach is getting her into more trouble than she expected.

Rebecca Behrens's debut novel is a smart, sassy romp through the life of a First Daughter at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. For readers who are fans of Meg Cabot's All-American Girl series, this is a comparable middle grade read-alike. While categorized as middle grade, I would place this on the older end of middle grade, right before a reader is ready for edgier YA titles. There is some mild swearing but nothing scandalous.

What I especially loved about When Audrey Met Alice is that Behrens not only made the president in this novel female, but she did so with very little fanfare, as if to show her young audience that the idea of a woman being president is just a regular day in America. It actually took me a while to realize that the president was female at first.

I also love that Behrens endears her audience to learn more about the eccentric, wild child known as Alice Roosevelt. After reading this book, I know I certainly want to learn more about her!

If I had one thing critical to say about When Audrey Met Alice, it's that I'm not entirely sure how believable it is for a First Daughter in this day and age to be using social media and email so freely. There are a few cases where Audrey talks about signing onto Facebook as if it's no big deal. It would seem if Audrey felt like a prisoner in her real life, that the Secret Service would also be putting the kibosh on her virtual life as well. I have a feeling if Sasha and Malia Obama were using social media unsupervised there would be too much that would get leaked by "friends" and classmates. Then again, that's just my feeling. I have no idea how the lives of the First Daughters are run. I would imagine social media is off limits though. Other than that bit of criticism, I thoroughly enjoyed Behrens debut novel and look forward to seeing more from her in the future.

Read my entire review on my blog.

Mari Anne says

Interesting MG take on history, real and imagined. WAMA follows the fictional first daughter of the first female president as she copes with being an only child in the fishbowl of the White House. She gets herself in trouble when she finds the long lost diary of Alice Roosevelt and tries to emulate her "eat the world" mentality.

I thought this book would have been better without the introduction of the politically charged issue of gay marriage. It was pretty well handled but it always bothers me a bit to see an author push a political agenda in books aimed at kids that can't even vote.

Probably best for grades 6 and up.

Cheryl says

"It was ok." Great concept, but obvious & superficial. Maybe a more naive reader than I will get a kick out of it, but it's not likely to get reread, I don't imagine, nor pushed on friends.

I do have to admit that, when I requested it, I was somehow under the impression that it was a picture-book. I think it would have been better as such. Most of the material here is filler, imo. And, again, a slightly younger audience, say 6-8 instead of 8-12, would, I believe, enjoy it more.

Emery Lord says

I loved this book even more than I thought I would--and I've been obsessed with reading it for months. Audrey's narration made a very unusual situation (being President's daughter!) into something so cringe-ably familiar and easy to relate to: crushes and feeling like a thirteen year-old outsider, not having enough freedom as you form your own identity. Add in the sassy wisdom of Alice Roosevelt, and it's just perfect.

In all the best ways, this book reminds me of my favorites when I was in middle school (Ella Enchanted, Catherine Called Birdy, ya know the type). Not in subject matter, but in the spirited/warmly funny protagonist and deft, interesting world-building. Put another way, I think WHEN AUDREY MET ALICE has the makings of a classic.

...I feel like I should disclose that Rebecca Behrens is a friend of mine, but I swear I'd write this exact same review even if this book was written by Denise.*

*Denise is a character in the book.**

**She sucks.
