



# Madam President

*Nicolle Wallace*

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## **Madam President** Nicolle Wallace

With *Madam President*, current cohost of *The View* and former White House Communications Director Nicolle Wallace returns with an electrifying portrait of three powerful women on a day that will change the country forever.

Charlotte Kramer, the forty-fifth President of the United States, has done the unprecedented in allowing a network news team to document a day in her life—and that of her most senior staff. But while twenty news cameras are embedded with the president, the unthinkable happens: five major attacks are leveled on US soil. Her secretary of defense, Melanie, and her press secretary, Dale, must instantly jump to action in supporting the president and reassuring the country that the safety they treasure is in capable hands.

But secrets have always thrived in President Kramer's White House. With all eyes on them and America's stability on the line, all three women are hiding personal and professional secrets that could rock the West Wing to its very foundations...and change the lives of the people they love most.

With an insider's sharp eye and her trademark winning prose, Nicolle Wallace delivers a timely novel of domestic and political intrigue that is impossible to put down.

## **Madam President Details**

Date : Published April 28th 2015 by Atria/Emily Bestler Books

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Author : Nicolle Wallace

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# From Reader Review *Madam President* for online ebook

## kristen says

*Madam President* is a fast-paced, tightly wound narrative about three women - POTUS, SECDEF and the Press Secretary - before, during, and after an international crisis of terrorism on American soil. Recommended for people who like political behind-the-scenes narratives, interpersonal relationships and political intrigue.

I thought the book would focus much more on the attack itself and I'm not sure why since the synopsis didn't hint at that. Instead, it spent about 1/3 of the book setting up the tenuous relational connections between the three women and most of the rest dealing with their day of the attacks. There's a brief bit at the end set one year later which follows up on things.

For the plot, four stars. For making me care about the characters, three. But, it is 3 of a series I haven't read so I'm giving Wallace the benefit of the doubt that she did that work earlier.

I will use this in class as a recommended reading for my "women in politics" lecture.

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## Margot says

### 2.5 Stars

Nicolle Wallace is one of the co-hosts on TV's *The View*. Ms. Wallace has also been a communications director for George W. Bush and an advisor to Sarah Palin when she was running for the vice-presidency.

Obviously, Ms. Wallace knows a bit about the kind of people who inhabit Washington D.C. And, she knows how the White House works, or at least, how it did work.

Ms. Wallace has taken her knowledge and experience and created three novels set in the U.S. capital. Her latest book, *Madame President*, features the first female president, Charlotte Kramer.

There are quite a few other people in the story, but primarily its about the president and two other women: Melanie, a close friend who used to be her chief of staff, but is now the Secretary of Defense, and Dale, a former staffer who had an affair with the President's husband, but is now the Press Secretary. (Yeah, you read that right.)

The plot revolves around what happened on one particular day. Dale (the Press Secretary) persuaded Charlotte to allow two CBS anchors unfettered access to the White House so they could do a "24 Hour Day in the Life." Their goal was to show what the occupants and employees of the White House do on an average day.

An average day is not what they get. On this particular day, there are five terrorist attacks in five different American cities. Its similar to what happened on 9/11. The author was working in the White House on 9/11 so she used her experience in this story.

This book is getting a lot of attention, I guess, because of the position of the author. I found the plot idea a

plausible one, but the characters didn't measure up. Seriously, what woman would hire her husband's former mistress for one of her key jobs? Or what president would appoint a young woman of say late thirties/early forties into as key a role as Secretary of Defense? Or, for that matter, what group of senators would confirm her to that post?

I was hoping for so much more from the premise of this book. I thoroughly enjoy the new CBS drama *Madame Secretary*. I was hoping for something like that. Every episode of that show has substance to it coming from headlines along with complex characters.

I've read reviews that compare this book to the TV series *West Wing*. I find that comparison wrong and, actually, insulting. I've binge-watched that seven-season series so many times that I feel I'm a semi-expert on the show. Trust me, *Madame President* is nothing like *West Wing*, except for where it takes place.

I received a copy of this book from the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

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## **Samantha says**

### **3.5 out of 5 stars**

(Sidebar: Seriously Goodreads, when are you going to let us have half stars?!)

Think of this as *Scandal*, *Madam Secretary*, *The West Wing*, and *State of Affairs* all wrapped up into one book. Populated by a cast of strong female characters, *Madam President* follows Charlotte Kramer, the forty-fifth US President, as she faces a day of terrorist attacks on US soil. Told from the various perspectives of those on her team it explores the women's professional and personal lives. Nicolle Wallace, the book's author, is a DC scence-ster (former White House Communications Director and political analyst for CBS *Evening News*), which adds a certain air of realism to her writing that makes it feel very believable.

I know this sounds awful, but there is one part of the book I found a little bit implausible: an almost entirely female administration. President, VP, Secretary of Defense, Press Secretary... While I'm not complaining, it just seemed like a little much. (Also, sidebar - it was slightly unclear to me how someone could go from Chief of Staff to Secretary of Defense and still be under 40...) That said, Wallace does a nice job of keeping the book focused on the political/current event situations at hand and does not let *Madam President* descend into chick-lit territory.

Overall, an enjoyable read for those who miss *The West Wing* and like their entertainment with a touch of politics.

Disclaimer: I was provided with an ARC of this novel by the publisher for review.

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## **Shannon says**

For a book about women in power and a mass terrorism event it's incredibly boring.

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## **Lauren Hopkins says**

I'm torn with this book. I loved that everyone in power is female and seeing what could potentially be female solutions to domestic and international affairs at the highest levels of government, and I enjoyed seeing the various perspectives related to a situation like a terrorist attack (the president's, the press secretary's, and the secretary of defense's in addition to also getting a peek at what it'd be like for the press corps, and so on). But overall this didn't really work for me? The women were somewhat decently fleshed out, though all of the men in their lives were kind of bland and the same person, so when one of these men died I was like "wait which one was he?" making it very difficult to care about his death, which is bizarre because the women all care very much about his death. He was kind of a faceless character. And all of the relationship drama felt unnecessary to me...hundreds of people are dead, the president is dealing with this and trying to face the nation, and the drama in her head is about her husband comforting another woman? Puh-lease. In that sense it's like, why write a book about strong powerful women when you just turn them into catty and petty Gossip Girl characters? I did really love the fact that the presidency depicted was bipartisan, with a Republican president and Democrat VP...and that most of the decisions made came from this bipartisan sort of harmony where there's compromise. Don't know how this utopian ideal would play out in the real world, but it was nice to see it at least in a fictional world. This book is apparently part of a series, which I didn't know, but I don't think it's necessary to read the first two to understand this one.

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## **Iris says**

Madam President sounded interesting, and I have watched its author on The View. This is a good book, but I did have some problems with it. Finally we have a female president, but I think it is a bit much to also have females as vice-president, secretary of defense, and press secretary. I also had a problems with the story starting with terrorist attacks, and then going back 24 hours for over 1/3 of the book. I enjoyed the story, but would have liked more information. I really liked the sense of working together across party lines, without terrorism. I received a copy for review. I will be reading more by Nicolle Wallace.

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## **Brette Sember says**

I read the other two books in this series, but it was so long ago I just didn't remember what happened and I didn't get a good recap in this book, so I still don't know why Charlotte and Melanie were somewhat estranged. I enjoyed the insiders look at the White House that Wallace offers, but I find some of her character's choices hard to swallow - hiring your husband's mistress as your press secretary? That's a tough one. I also just wasn't getting why the president and her husband got back together since clearly they just didn't love each other.

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## **PopcornReads says**

There's nothing like reading a novel full of political intrigue written by a political insider. Bestselling author Nicolle Wallace was the White House Communications Director during George W. Bush's presidency and

that experience shows in her writing of Madam President. Imagine being president when the nation is attacked. That would be bad enough but add in an aggressive media team broadcasting from inside the White House when that happens and you've got a recipe for disaster. Read the rest of my review at <http://popcornreads.com/?p=8395>.

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### **Ebony says**

I wanted West Wing, but got the same old story of women obsessed with men...could not finish

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### **Donna Callejon says**

#### **Please, Nicolle Wallace, Write More Novels**

I'm so sad to have finished all three of the Charlotte Kramer trilogy books. The characters are so well developed, relationships so realistically detailed, and story arcs believable. As a 30 year DC area resident not involved in politics, it's fun to imagine real people in these characters, which have been developed by someone who knows of what she writes.

This was my favorite of the three, even if it caused me to feel that as a country we are more vulnerable than ever (Trump aside)

NDW you are the most direct and fair person on MSNBC, but please, please, start writing again.

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### **V Forr says**

What an excellent third (and final?) installment in this brilliant series by Nicolle Wallace. The plot was a continuation from the first two novels which focuses on a female president and her staff. The story is suspenseful, vivid, and realistic. This particular storyline includes a tragic series of terrorist attacks and the administration's handling of the day. This one book centers primarily on the twenty-four hours around the attacks which at first seems a bit intense, but moves along rather quickly. Once again, Ms. Wallace's personal experience while working in the White House at the time of September 11th adds a layer of authenticity to the storyline. The characters are strong, complex, and fascinating. The entire series has strong women characters you cannot help but applaud. I highly recommend this third novel as well as the previous two. Happy reading!

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### **Kathy says**

I had hoped that this would be an insightful book. Instead it was chic lit with characters that I didn't care about.

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## Abby says

Madam President was an enthralling fiction read following 3 female White House staff members on one of the most traumatic days of their careers-- the president, the Secretary of Defense, and the press secretary. I found this book to be very refreshing, as it follows female characters in high-power settings rather than their male counterparts.

While the writing was slow at some points in time, this book had me glued to the edge of my seat, waiting to see what would happen next. I want to go back and reread it already in order to catch some of the things I might have missed! 4 stars.

Shoutout to the publisher, Atria Books, for sending me an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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## Ann says

What a fantastic read. I don't know how I missed the first two books with Charlotte Kramer as the President of the United States but I've already downloaded them to catch up. I had no problems with this story and really didn't realize it wasn't a stand alone book until I reached the end. I can only hope we have more books with the three wonderful women in this story. Melanie and Dale are an intricate part of the Presidents response to the attack on the US. On a day when a news crew is shadowing the president there are 5 cities attacked by terrorist. A realistic look at both politics and grief as the days progress. I can't wait to recommend this book and it's companions to readers.

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## Stephanie Tracy says

I have to be honest, and I hate to say it... but I struggled to get through this book. It's such a shame, because I loved the other two in the trilogy, and I genuinely think Nicolle Wallace is a good writer. I like the characters - President Charlotte Kramer, and the two other 'main' women of the trilogy, Melanie and Dale. I like them all for different reasons. The storyline, as it had been going from the first book, was fast-paced and engaging. Then I started this one.

Another Goodreads reviewer said it best as I was scrolling through to see what other people had written about this book. Something to the effect of - "for a book about women in power and a mass terrorist event, this book is really boring." I couldn't agree more. It seems most of the book takes place over the course of a day. A single day. And yes, this day happens to feature terrorist attacks in 5 cities, and the death of one of the White House staff members, but SERIOUSLY. Too much emphasis is put on the description of how the White House handles an incident like this. It focused more on preparing the President for her speech, on navigating around the city in the midst of chaos, and of the tense relations with the press.

The previous two novels featured much more angst and drama. A crumbling marriage, an adulterous affair, a mentally incompetent Vice President. There were fights and tears and drinking wine on the White House balcony. There was FEELING. This book fell so flat in comparison, I can't even describe it properly. Suffice it to say, it's a shame that an otherwise great trilogy ended on such a low note. As it is, I'll probably forget these characters fairly quickly, and if I recommend the series to others, it will only be the first two. You'd miss nothing by skipping the final installment altogether!

Sorry for the harsh review, but I'm disappointed. I'd looked forward to ending this trilogy with a bang and, well... no. Moved it up 1 star in this review purely because of the other two books.

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