

WHITE HOUSE HOTTIES

A NEW BOOK PLANTS TONGUE IN CHEEK AND ASKS: WHAT IF EVERY PRESIDENT SINCE WASHINGTON WERE BACK ON THE DATING MARKET?

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♥ Dressed as George Washington and a date, authors J.D and Kate Dobson re-enact revolutionary pickup lines.



LOOKING FOR LOVE IN ALL THE WRONG PLACES?



Imagine having your pick of 44 paramours who have it all — power, entourages, pedigrees. All they lack in most cases is eligibility and a pulse.

You can't actually date any of them (all are dead or married), but you can memorize their turn-ons and moon over their profiles in *Hottest Heads of State Volume One: The American Presidents* by J.D. Dobson, BA '00, and his wife, Kate, who set out to make each and every POTUS relatable and dateable. Billed as *TigerBeat* (the teen idol mag) for U.S. presidents, *Hottest Heads of State* presents each commander in chief as he might come across on Tinder or eHarmony or — let's not forget Thomas Jefferson and Jimmy Carter — FarmersOnly.com.

Some presidents were harder to profile than others, Dobson says, but all have at least one endearing quality. Ulysses S. Grant, a handyman with a heart, built a coffin and held a funeral for his wife's canary. Millard Fillmore read the dictionary for fun. Theodore Roosevelt walked on stilts.

In typical teen magazine fashion, the book is packed with quizzes (Does Richard Nixon Like You More as a Friend?), dating tips (if Abraham Lincoln invites you to the theater, say no!) and trend alerts (powdered hair gave way to oil-slicked side parts over time).

If you find a president you fancy, study the "How to Win His Heart" section of his profile — love letters to John Adams; long walks with Fillmore; Vaseline scalp massages for Calvin Coolidge. These aren't made-up presidential proclivities but the

fruits of hours of semirigorous research, says Kate: "I read a lot of first halves of a lot of biographies."

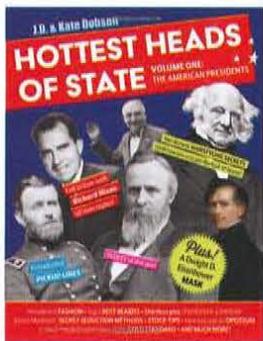
Before co-writing *Hottest Heads of State*, Kate was an assistant comics editor at the *Washington Post*, and J.D. was a U.S. Senate staffer, federal lobbyist and crisis communications consultant. Some 10 years ago, they launched *HottestHeadsOfState.com*, the precursor to their book. "I thought it was meant to rank people in terms of looks — even people who have been dead hundreds of years," J.D. says. "But Kate? She knows what the public wants."

Publishers, too. It was the website that got them their agent and book deal.

Next, the Dobsons plan to write *Hottest Heads of State Volume Two*. (It may even include women!) Meanwhile, the couple runs a business making candles that smell like politicians. Once you've spent months learning the histories and imagining the courtship rituals of long-dead presidents, it's natural to wonder how they might have smelled in their prime. Take Teddy Roosevelt, an outdoorsman. His candle smells like leather and woodsmoke. Washington had a distillery, so his smells like whiskey. But what of Washington's real aroma? Would it light your fire or just singe your nose hairs? Based on what we know of his dental health and his era's pitiful hygiene, Washington probably smelled like Limburger.

Still, he achieves "dreamboat" status, as the Dobsons write in *Hottest Heads of State*, because he "is willing to put some effort into looking good. Hence the ponytail."

Ah, the ponytail, with its silken tie and snowy talc. Washington's is a hot head, indeed. **M**



GEORGE WASHINGTON

1789–1797



We know what you're thinking: "Hey, who's the dreamboat in the wig?"

» Well, his name is George Washington, and that isn't a wig! It's his actual hair covered in powder because why not? (OK, we can think of a few reasons why not.)

Now you're probably thinking, "I'm all about the wig hair, but tell me: Does he have any teeth?" And the answer is yes! But only in the sense that he bought someone else's teeth and wears them in his mouth. So if that's a deal breaker for you, you might as well stop reading here and move on to John Adams. Or — if we're being honest — you should just move directly to Thomas Jefferson.

But the main thing you should know about George Washington is that he is a guy with self-control. You're never going to have to listen to him talk about his boring feelings because he keeps them pent up inside, just like therapists are always advising people to do. He hides his temper and his relentless ambition, all while projecting a carefully crafted persona that is cool, detached and heavily dusted in powder. Basically, George Washington is the perfect man because he is really good at pretending to be the perfect man.

By now you're probably starting to quiver with desire. And that's OK — it's just your body's way of telling you that you have fallen in love with George Washington and all other men have been ruined for you. You might as well go ahead and hurl this book into the fire, along with all your romance novels and also your wedding ring.

Excerpted from *HOTTEST HEADS OF STATE, Volume One: The American Presidents* by J.D. and Kate Dobson, published by HENRY HOLT AND COMPANY. Copyright © 2018 by John and Kate Dobson. All rights reserved.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE HIM



He can dance. What Washington lacks in teeth, he makes up for in dance moves. (This is assuming that teeth and dance moves can be exchanged on a one-for-one basis. Go to a swap meet and see if you can trade dance moves for teeth, or vice versa, and report back to us.)



He enjoys interior decorating. Washington is the kind of guy who will absolutely watch HGTV with you. He's constantly updating his house to keep it looking fashionable, and he would probably be embarrassed to see how out-of-date it looks now. (Thanks for nothing, Mount Vernon Ladies' Association!)



His hands are gigantic. Just imagine those giant hands gripping your waist as Washington sweeps you across the dance floor, then pulls you in close to his muscular chest and whispers in your ear about an episode of *Property Brothers* he saw last night.



George Washington's Life in a Nutshell*

1732 George Washington is born. Finally!

1733-48 Doesn't chop down any cherry trees.

1749 Lands a job as a surveyor. (Get it? "Lands"? Ugh, never mind.)

1754 Accidentally starts the French and Indian War. Oops!

1759 Marries Martha Dandridge Custis. Best man probably brings up the whole French and Indian War thing in his toast.

1759-75 Lives at Mount Vernon; works tirelessly to get it ready to be a popular tourist attraction in a couple hundred years.

1775 Appointed commander of the Continental Army. Refuses to accept a salary, which is good because Congress probably wasn't going to pay him anyway.

1776 Famous crossing of the Delaware, in which Washington makes his employees work on Christmas Eve.



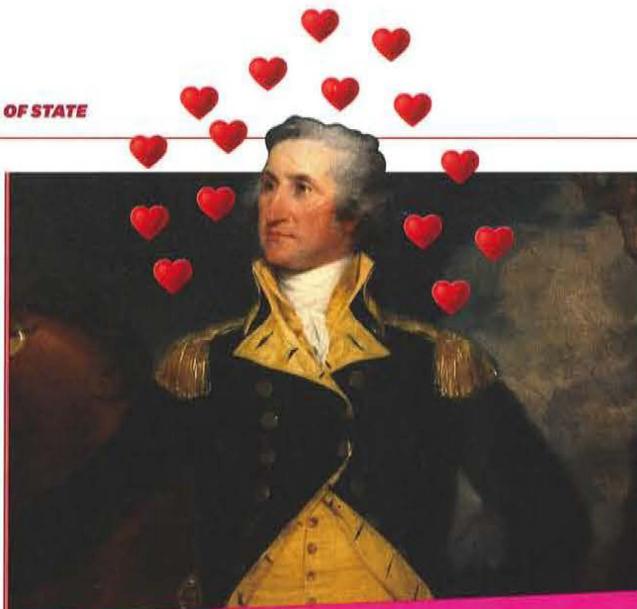
1777 Spends winter at Valley Forge. Troops won't shut up about how they don't have any shoes.

1781 Wins surrender from British at Yorktown, who then resentfully begin a multidecade project to cultivate an accent that makes them sound smarter than the Americans.

1789 Is basically peer-pressured by the entire country into becoming president. Starting a proud American tradition, he borrows money to move to New York City.

1797 Retires from public life; gives a farewell address warning his country against doing all the things it will then proceed to do.

*Please cut out this section and cram it inside of a nutshell.



VITAL STATS

Looks  **6** This is a guy who cares a lot about appearances and is willing to put some effort into looking good. Hence the ponytail.

Physique  **10** Washington has a muscular build and towered over the other Founding Fathers at around 6'2". That's the modern-day equivalent of being over 11' tall!

Charisma  **5** Here's a tip from George Washington for those of you who aren't naturally charismatic: Try to become the wealthiest landowner in America. There — now no one cares whether or not you're charismatic.

Generaling  **10** Washington is the only American commanding general to win a war against Great Britain. (So far.)

 **Washington never chopped down a cherry tree;** a biographer invented that story in order to sell more books. We asked our editor if we could make stuff up in order to sell more books, but she thought about it for a minute and then said, "No."

HOW TO WIN HIS HEART



Be rich. Martha Dandridge Custis was one of the wealthiest widows in Virginia, and Washington proposed the third time he met her. Not to imply that Washington was only interested in her for her money, but ... actually, we can't think of how to finish this sentence.

Be refined. Washington likes women who are classy and elegant. And you know what that means — no more picking your teeth with a folded dollar bill! That's just insult upon injury for George Washington.

Don't let it bother you that he's in love with Sally Fairfax. If it's any consolation, most men would choose Sally Fairfax over you.



As a teenager, George Washington fell for a woman named **Sally Fairfax**, and there's evidence that he carried a torch for her his entire life. Which is a pretty long time to carry a torch! We can only carry a torch for 10 minutes or so before our arm gets tired and we have to rest it on top of a can of gasoline.

Washington met Sally because she was married to his best friend, which — for the record — is a great way to meet women. Sally was rich and classy, and Washington was anything but. So their romance was basically like the plot of *Notting Hill* if, instead of getting together with Julia Roberts, Hugh Grant had channeled his sexual frustration into overthrowing the British government.



THE ONES WHO GOT AWAY

If you ever took the time to read the *Federalist Papers*, you'd know the founders intended for presidential elections to be won by the hottest candidate. And yet, far too often, the American voters have cast their votes based on considerations like "Is he in my political party?" or "Would I enjoy having a beer with him, even though I don't like beer?" Here are some almost-presidents who slipped away.



William Jennings Bryan

(Ran for president in 1896, 1900, 1908)

William Jennings Bryan lost three presidential elections, was fired as Woodrow Wilson's secretary of state and was counsel for the "evolution is a bunch of hokey" side in the Scopes Monkey Trial. And yet he's best known for his "cross of gold" speech opposing the gold standard, which he gave at the 1896 Democratic National Convention. You, too, can make people forget about your shortcomings by giving a speech about the gold standard. In fact, we guarantee that if you climb onstage at the Democratic National Convention and start ranting about the gold standard, that's what you'll be known for.



Henry Clay

(Ran for president in 1824, 1832, 1840, 1844, 1848)

Clay, known as "The Great Compromiser," ran for president no fewer than five times. He was beaten by men such as Andrew "I beat people literally, not just in elections" Jackson, Zachary "I've never voted" Taylor and William "I think I'm coming down with something" Harrison.

Charles Evans Hughes

(Ran for president in 1916)

If you're feeling sad that Charles Evans Hughes lost the 1916 election to Woodrow Wilson, console yourself with the fact that he was obviously better suited to other careers. For example: 1) polar expedition leader, 2) viking, 3) walrus.

Alton B. Parker

(Ran for president in 1904)

You only have to look at Alton B. Parker's big, soulful doe eyes to know that, in the 1904 presidential election, Teddy Roosevelt is going to take him down like a big, soulful doe.

John Frémont

(Ran for president in 1856)

John Frémont was a famous explorer. Here he is exploring the inside of his coat.