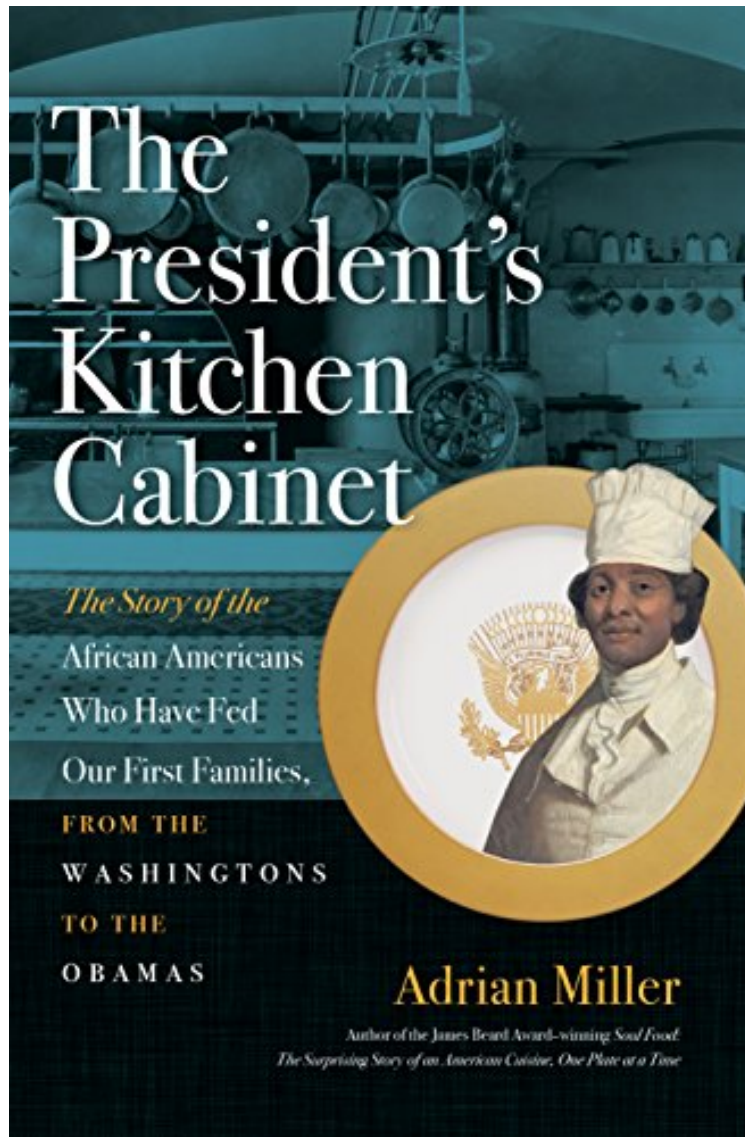


(Mobile library) The President's Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of the African Americans Who Have Fed Our First Families, from the Washingtons to the Obamas

The President's Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of the African Americans Who Have Fed Our First Families, from the Washingtons to the Obamas

Adrian Miller

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Adrian Miller : The President's Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of the African Americans Who Have Fed Our First Families, from the Washingtons to the Obamas before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be

worth my time, and all praised *The President's Kitchen Cabinet: The Story of the African Americans Who Have Fed Our First Families*, from the Washingtons to the Obamas:

12 of 14 people found the following review helpful. A Magnificent Read!By maraisWhat an engrossing, informative and satisfying book! As Viola Davis said last night in her Oscar acceptance speech, it is the duty of an aware artist to "exhume" stories of lives not known before to reveal profound, universal truth. And Adrian Miller has done just that in this magnificent read. By reading Adrian's book you will know about those everyday heroes and heroines who sustained the executive branch of the United States, and in some cases (especially that of Zephyr Wright) influenced profound changes in US society and history. Ignore the stories that Miller brings to you in this book at your peril, for these African Americans, enslaved or as "free" servants, quiet or outspoken, in all cases giving of their skill and heart to the function of the Executive Mansion - were an important part of our American story. Besides the fact that I'm a Twitter buddy with Adrian, I had no idea that this book would be so rich with vibrant stories of men and women close to the heart of executive power in the White House. For reading this book, I am in debt to my friend, and after reading this you will acknowledge a similar debt for Adrian's bringing these people to life, and for honoring these outstanding stories of those in White House kitchens who served our US Presidents. Thanks my friend!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy fred hartmanInteresting info on Presidential kitchens and some interesting facts on the diets of Presidents and their peculiarities.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A very interesting read for food lovers and cooks.By Jeffrey R OliveiraReally interesting history of the White House kitchens and staff from the open hearth days to today. A very interesting read for food lovers and cooks.

James Beard awardwinning author Adrian Miller vividly tells the stories of the African Americans who worked in the presidential food service as chefs, personal cooks, butlers, stewards, and servers for every First Family since George and Martha Washington. Miller brings together the names and words of more than 150 black men and women who played remarkable roles in unforgettable events in the nation's history. Daisy McAfee Bonner, for example, FDR's cook at his Warm Springs retreat, described the president's final day on earth in 1945, when he was struck down just as his lunchtime cheese souffle emerged from the oven. Sorrowfully, but with a cook's pride, she recalled, "He never ate that souffle, but it never fell until the minute he died." A treasury of information about cooking techniques and equipment, the book includes twenty recipes for which black chefs were celebrated. From Samuel Fraunces's "onions done in the Brazilian way" for George Washington to Zephyr Wright's popovers, beloved by LBJ's family, Miller highlights African Americans' contributions to our shared American foodways. Surveying the labor of enslaved people during the antebellum period and the gradual opening of employment after Emancipation, Miller highlights how food-related work slowly became professionalized and the important part African Americans played in that process. His chronicle of the daily table in the White House proclaims a fascinating new American story.

Miller opens a door into a fascinating world that few ever think about: the White House kitchens. There, he brings to light a realm shaped by an often-ignored group of African Americans who have nurtured the first families so they could lead a nation.--BooklistA compelling combination of history and cookbook, as it is not only filled with fascinating anecdotes and photos, but includes a score of mouth-watering recipes you just might like to try out yourself.--Kam WilliamsShines a light on the role of African-American cooks and their recipes.--Milwaukee Journal SentinelSatisfies our voyeuristic curiosity into the lives of celebrated men, yes, but it also tells the sometimes even more interesting tales of the men and women who fed them.--Denver PostRich in stories, biographies, illustrations, and, of course, recipes.--Durham Herald-SunAn intriguing glimpse into the inner workings of the White House kitchen and the chefs who have made its wonderful cuisine possible.--Library JournalMeticulously researched, with touching stories.--Flavors MagazineMiller makes it lively through quick, interesting, and sometimes humorous vignettes that dash back and forth through history. . . . Whether it'll sit with your cookbooks or on a shelf with other history tomes, it's a book you'll savor in more ways than one.--Philadelphia TribuneDissects the social and political considerations that saw African-American contributions to the White House minimized.--Mailonline.comThe time is ripe to explore [this] history, much of it previously untold.--Michael Floreak, Boston GlobeFocuses on material culture, cultural issues, political dynamics, and labor relations, contributing to the study of the development of the culinary professions in the US.--Huffington PostFor food history and presidential history buffs alike, both entertaining and illuminating.--Kirkus sBrings the men and women who have worked in the White House kitchen to the forefront. . . . Couldn't be more timely.--Bridgette Lacy, News ObserverIn a tone both intimate and scholarly, the book tells the story of 'presidential foodways' from their perspectives. Recipes are included, a tangible reminder of the power of food to bring history to life.--Stanford MagazineDissects the social and political considerations that saw African-American contributions minimized or outright ignored as they fed the First Family, from George Washington to our first black president, Barack Obama.--Trevor Hughes, USA TodayFamous recipes and amusing anecdotes aplenty. . . . A parallel history of the nation's leaders told through the lens of their domestic employees, whose stories are laced with the often difficult themes of race, social change, and career ambitions that helped define--and feed--America itself.--Craig

LaBan, Philadelphia Inquirer The President's Kitchen Cabinet brings history alive by tracing the people and foods that appeared at White House events large and small, personal and formal. The research is impeccable, the stories are vivid and thrilling, and the food detailed and delicious. If you love the history of our nation's first home as I do, you will devour this book.-- Bill Yosses, former executive pastry chef at the White House and coauthor of The Perfect Finish

Adrian Miller details the many subtle and not-so-subtle contributions of African American culinary professionals to the food history of the White House. The people, black and white, in The President's Kitchen Cabinet come across as real, engaged, and accurately placed in their own history, and the White House is refreshingly portrayed as a living institution that has changed dramatically over time." --Leni Sorensen, founder-director of the Indigo House Culinary History and Rural Skills Center

Adrian Miller takes readers on a journey through the stories of African American men and women who have cooked, shopped, and prepared drinks for U.S. presidents through American history. By putting the largely forgotten stories of these men and women together, The President's Kitchen Cabinet restores to their careers the high profile and respect they deserve.--Elizabeth S. D.Engelhardt, author of A Mess of Greens

With humor and scholarship, Adrian Miller has written an essential and uplifting expose, ensuring that another group of overlooked African American culinary professionals is remembered and celebrated for its contributions to American foodways.--Toni Tipton-Martin, author of The Jemima Code

About the Author

Adrian Miller--author of Soul Food: The Surprising Story of an American Cuisine, One Plate at a Time, which won a James Beard Foundation book award--worked as a special assistant to President Bill Clinton. He is a certified Kansas City Barbecue Society judge and former Southern Foodways Alliance board member. He lives in Denver, Colorado.