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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

Mrs. Reagan:

As we discussed, the Chris  
Wallace documentary manuscript.

Elaine

INTER-OFFICE MEMO

S T. M A R T I N ' S P R E S S, I N C.

*Glenn S. Gillett AD*

TO: Tim McGuire

DATE: 4/3/86

FROM: Margaret Schwarzer

COPIES:

SUBJECT: People interviewed in FIRST LADY

<u>Person</u>	<u>Position</u>
1. Nancy Reagan	
2. Richard Davis	Mrs. Reagan's stepbrother
3. William F. Buckley	
4. Michael Reagan	adopted son of Reagan and Wyman.
5. Bonita Granville Wrather	former actress/ old friend
6. C.Z. Wick	son of U.S. Information Agency Director/ old friend
7. Ron Reagan	son
8. Maureen Reagan	daughter of Ron and J. Wyman
9. Doug Wick	?
10. Nancy Reynolds	former California newswoman/ current Washington consultant
11. Sheila Tate	N.R.'s former Press Secretary
12. Lyn Nofziger	Formerly Reagan's chief political advisor
13. Michael Deaver	Washington consultant/ former White House Aid
14. Stuart Spencer	a veteran Republican Party Strategist/ served in Reagan's presidential campaign
15. Donnie Radcliffe	Washington Post reporter/ covered White House for years
16. James Rosebush	former East Wing Chief of Staff
17. President Reagan	
18. Ed Rollins	served as Reagan's White House political advisor
19. Richard Allen	P. Reagan's first national security advisor
20. Dr. Barbara Kellerman	professor at Fairleigh Dickenson University/ authority on American First Ladys

INTER-OFFICE MEMO

S T. M A R T I N ' S P R E S S, I N C.

TO: Tim McGuire

DATE: 4/3/86

FROM: Margaret Schwarzer


COPIES:

SUBJECT: People interviewed in FIRST LADY cont.

	<u>Person</u>	<u>Position</u>
21.	Letitia Baldridge	etiquette authority served as social secretary to First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy
22.	James Rosebush	Nancy Reagan's Chief of Staff
23.	Richard Wirthlin	?
24.	Mary Jane Wick	?
25.	Bill Blass	fashion designer/ longtime friend
26.	Betty Freidan	feminist/ author of THE FEMININE MYSTIQUE
27.	Richard Allen	?
28.	Ed Rollins	?



First Lady



First Lady

A Portrait of Nancy Reagan

by NBC News and White House Correspondent  
Chris Wallace

St. Martin's Press  
New York

Title First Lady

Correspondent Chris Wallace

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Design by \_\_\_\_\_

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First Edition

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Introduction (by Chris Wallace)

## CHAPTER ONE: Before the White House

Nancy Reagan:

When I was four, my mother left me in Bethesda, Maryland, and went off touring. She had to. She had to earn a living and she couldn't take me touring all over the country with her. When she would get a play that ran for a while in New York, then I'd go to New York and be with her. But the times in Bethesda with my aunt and uncle and my cousin Charlotte were very happy times. I have pictures of us on the Fourth of July with Ginger, our wirehaired terrier, and a bike all decorated ~~with~~ <sup>for</sup> the Fourth. Charlotte and I put Fourth of July costumes on. And it was happy, except that I missed my mother.

It was a real ache. My aunt and uncle were nice, but your mother is your mother and nobody can fill that spot. It was hard on me and it was hard on her.

I went to New York once on one of those times when I could visit her and stay with her. She was in a play. I've forgotten what it

20012

was. But it was a play in which they were very mean to her--oh, they were awful to her. And I got so upset that, sitting up there in a box, watching, I began to cry. I guess I created quite a commotion. Then, when I went backstage, I wouldn't talk to anybody because they'd been mean to my mother. And mother had to finally take me aside and say, "Nancy, it's just make believe. They're really nice. That was all just make believe. They don't really feel that way about me."

Another time I visited my real father and he locked me in a bathroom. I'm sure that afterwards he felt badly about, well, lots of things that had happened. I was always reluctant to talk about it when he was alive because there was no point in hurting him. But this was a visit and I remember something had been said about my mother that I didn't like. We got into an argument and I was locked in the bathroom. Ever since then I can't stand a locked door.

My stepmother, his wife, was a nice woman and she came and got me out. But when we were first married, I remember my husband was going to lock a door and I wouldn't let him and he never knew this story. I said, "No,

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please, I don't want the door locked." And he couldn't understand why, and then I told him the story.

It wasn't all marvelous for a little girl. But there were nice times, too. My aunt and uncle were darling people, and so was my cousin. But I didn't have my mother.

When finally we were together, maybe I appreciated it more than if that hadn't happened to me. And it's always been difficult for me to understand how children could turn against their mother or be separated from their mother voluntarily. I never could understand that, particularly during the sixties when all the turmoil and so on between parents and children began. I had a hard time understanding that. For all those others who had their mothers, I wanted to say to them, "You're so lucky, you're just so lucky, you've had all those wonderful years that I never had."

When my mother met Loyal Davis and brought me to Chicago, it was like the happy ending to a fairy tale. She came to Bethesda to tell me that she'd met this wonderful man and she wanted to marry him but she wouldn't marry him unless it was all right with me. And I often think, what in the world would have

happened if I had said no.<sup>?</sup> I think she would have gotten around it somehow, but I said, yes, of course, and we went to Chicago. And I really couldn't have asked for a more wonderful father. He was a hard act to follow, but I think, with my husband, I followed it pretty well.

I graduated from college at a time when a lot of Smith graduates were getting married. I had people say to me afterwards, "You know, the rest of us stayed back there in Chicago and got married and had children and settled down. And you didn't and you went off to New York and Hollywood and to making movies and doing plays."

I hadn't found a man I wanted to marry. And I couldn't sit in Chicago and do nothing. I stayed with mother until my father went overseas and I stayed with mother for almost a year. And then, when he came back, I left Chicago. I hadn't found the right guy. And so, you do something, and acting was the only thing I knew. I mean, I'd been raised around it. Whatever you do, you want to do as well as you can and accomplish as much as you can. That was inside me.

I liked acting. Not enough to keep on

S  
after I was married, but I liked it. It was fun and I met some great people. I met my husband that way.

I think I was pretty good. The first movie that really kicked it off was "The Next Voice You Hear." I was sent to New York for a promotion tour. I remember going to Radio City and taking a picture of the marquee with my name up on ~~the marquee~~<sup>it</sup> and, oh, I was impressed. But I think my favorite picture was one with Ray Milland and Johnny Hodiak, "Night Into Morning." I liked that picture the best.

There wasn't any big decision I had to make ~~after I got married~~, after I knew I was going to be married. For me, the real fulfillment came with marriage, a home and children of my own. That was completing the whole thing for me. And I had the best of two worlds. I'd had a career that I was happy in and fairly successful in and I had the marriage. I can't say to somebody else, "You should do it my way." I know what made me happy and when I say, my life began then, that's what I thought. Maybe that's not true for somebody else but it was for me."

Richard Davis     Dr. Richard Davis, Mrs.

Reagan's stepbrother, was a

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boy when Nancy came to live  
with the Davis family in  
Chicago.

Our childhood together dates back to the  
1930's and 1940's when we were growing up in  
Chicago. We were particularly blessed with two  
splendid parents, who were devoted to one  
another and to us. We had a very stable home.  
We had the opportunity for an education. And  
we had some wonderful young friends.

My first memory of Nancy was probably  
when she was in the third or fourth grade. In  
those days, she wore a school uniform; a tunic,  
~~and~~ knee socks and a beret. At the beginning  
of the school year, my father and I would walk  
her to the corner of the drive and get her off  
to school. She had a bouncy gait, was very  
vivacious, and was a happy child. She would  
speak to everyone on the way. With each step,  
this tunic which was too short would sort of  
pop up in the air and we'd see her bloomers.  
Father would say, "Richard, Nancy has on those  
dreadful midnight blue bloomers, doesn't she?"  
And I would dutifully agree. And then he'd  
say, with a big, broad smile, "Isn't she just  
the most wonderful child?"

*some outrageous*

We played ~~destructive~~ games. We had one called "Help, Murder, Police!" This was a very precarious game. We'd both get on the highest piece of furniture and then jump on a sliding stool. And this went on and was very carefully timed for Dad's return home. By that time, we were totally exhausted, feigned broken arms and legs and, of course, the great surgeon had to heal us. Then we went on with the evening's activities.

I have some of the most pleasant ~~memories~~ *memories* of the summers, ~~we spent~~. We spent two summers with mother and dad as guests of Walter Huston and his wife in the San Bernadino mountains. The days were filled with a lot of outdoor activity--hiking, riding, swimming, tennis. Of course, those were pre-television days, so we all entertained one another at night. Each of us read <sup>aloud</sup> from a novel during the six weeks <sup>or sometimes</sup> ~~poetry~~, Shakespeare. My father invariably put us all to sleep and then Walter Huston would say, "Well, that's all right, Loyal. I hope you're a better neurosurgeon than an actor." There were many, many happy times during those summers. One summer, we wrote, directed and actually photographed our own little play. Nancy played opposite the great Walter Huston. She had a



bathing suit on and was wrapped in a very elaborate sheet. At one point, he said, "Nancy, you're doing this far too demurely. Be more wicked and evil." And Nancy looked at me. I was photographing all this with a home movie camera. Neither one of us knew what demure meant. We found out later on. But I think if she ever made what we call today a career decision about drama and the theater it was probably back in those really very terribly happy days in the 1930s.

She really adored Dr. Loyal, her new father, so to speak. There was a great relationship between the two of them, even when she was small, which she carried on all through her adult life. They were extremely close. The family, the whole concept of the family and the comraderie, the laughter, the enjoyment of one another, has been extremely important to her--as a youngster and throughout her adult life.

Dad was an extraordinarily devoted person, to his wife and to both of us. He was a rock hard disciplinarian. When he asked either one of us to do something we always did it to the best of our ability and we did it promptly. He was extremely fair. He was never

unreasonable. But he thought basically that children with privilege should have responsibility. And we were reminded, not constantly, but often enough that we had the responsibility to be excellent and to strive, to meet the challenges, in anything we did. He was the key figure in Nancy's life. There's no question about that. She was very open with dad. The day's activities centered around the dinner table. Some of the topics that Nancy brought up as a youngster and as a teenager were really quite extraordinary. It wasn't that infrequently that we discussed the soul. She asked him one night, I remember, what he thought happiness was. He said, "Nancy, the answer to happiness is almost 2,500 years old and it's basically what the Greeks said. It's the pursuit of excellence in all aspects of one's life." That's a very serious and heavy answer and I'm sure in hindsight Nancy and I would have a few things to add to that today. But she was always very open with him. She sought his advice, and once she <sup>did</sup> ~~sought his~~ advice, she followed it. She was extremely respectful and courteous, and extremely pleasant, not only with her peers but with older people.

We were disciplined. A principle was

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expounded and then the reasons for following that principle were explained. He never raised his voice with Nancy. He did with me occasionally.

We were very close, particularly in the summer time. Our educations were rather staggered. Sometimes I was home and she was away, but always at Christmas and holidays we were together.

Nancy was not at all politically minded. I think she became politically aware when she met the President in the early 1950s in California. We discussed all sorts of political issues at home, but I don't think Nancy was that deeply concerned about politics. Her love was the theater.

I think there's an element of truth in the talk that dad was a sounding board at the time the President was turning from Democrat to Republican. He was a good listener and he also gave the two of them advice. Perhaps he helped move the President off center in the 1960s when he decided to enter politics. I think ultimately dad was a really peripheral person in the whole mechanism of decision making. She probably followed the same line of thinking that her father did, which was not

— ? word transcribed wrong? contradiction? delete?

really along liberal lines.

One night, during a Christmas vacation, she came home from college and said, "Dad, I really have a heavy problem for the holidays. I have to learn all these sonnets by Keats and Shelly." Dad looked at her. The problem was attacked directly, ~~it was to be~~ met head on. She was sent upstairs for her English literature book and brought it downstairs and the four of us learned parts of these sonnets. He was very pleased with this pursuit of excellence. I turned around and there was Edith, an actress, of course, and she had gotten up from the dinner table and was doing a little soft shoe number and dancing and had thought up a little rhyme about Mr. Sheets and Mr. Kelly (cq). This was the lighthearted side of our home life and it was a good counter balance between a very serious and intent father and a mother who had a really wonderful sense of humor.

~~(END CHAPTER ONE, BEFORE THE WHITE HOUSE)~~

## CHAPTER TWO: The Real Nancy

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Nancy Reagan:

I'm not going to be like anybody else. I'm going to be Nancy Reagan. I don't think I'm any different than I've always been. But I ~~think~~ anybody who doesn't grow in this position has got to be pretty dumb. I certainly hope I've grown. I think I have. I don't know how you could help but grow. You're exposed to so many different things, so many different people, so many different experiences. In a way, even the negative things that all happened in the beginning were probably part of a growth process. It widens your whole life, your horizons.

I'm more self confident, I think, because, maybe, more people like me. If I think people like me, I'm better.

William F. Buckley: Newspaper columnist and TV host, William F. Buckley and his wife Pat are old friends of the

Reagans.

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There's a difference between self confidence and being assertive. I think that Nancy Reagan has always intentionally cultivated two roles--one ~~her~~ public ~~role~~ and the other ~~her~~ private ~~role~~. In private surroundings, she never has let her opinion be known. In public situations, she is deferential, not in the sense that she feels women should be subordinant in public circumstances, but because she feels that it's her husband who has been elected. They're two personalities there.

Is this  
what WEB  
means?

She's a wonderful friend. She will really struggle to do you a kindness or help you in anything that you want. I make it a point not to ask powerful people for favors, but if I thought that without upsetting public policy she could be helpful, I would simply ask her. I don't doubt for a moment that she would go out of her way to be obliging.

I recently saw her having dinner with my wife after an operation, in my wife's bedroom. That kind of thing isn't done because of a lack of concern.

Everything interests her; peeves, among

other things. She, like a lot of other people, externalizes her frustrations by identifying them in conversation. And there's a lot of just chat which I sometimes simply come upon walking into a room and hear conversations at my wife's end. So there's a lot of what I would call relaxed bandiage.

She doesn't like anybody to criticize her husband. I think that she feels that in the case of certain people, there's a sort of transcendent bond that allows certain liberties. George Will, for instance, was at the White House when we were watching "King Lear" with Laurence Olivier. That morning he'd written a very tough "anti-Reagan" piece. So the relationship was very civil. On the other hand, there's probably an interfacable part of her memory that clocks these little things. I wouldn't be surprised because she is the type. My wife is the same way.

Biologists tell you that in seven years, we are completely renovated biological animals and it is a continuing subject of scientific inquiry the extent to which this biological change, the life and death of individual cells, affects your mind. I'm certain that if I were a clinical psychologist and I spent ten hours with her twenty years ago and ten hours

can this  
be classified?

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with her tomorrow, I'd say there's been a change. But it's true of everyone. I don't see any change in her that reflects the fact of her being First Lady. The changes that I detect would be the changes that you would normally detect in a woman who was twenty years older than she was back then.

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The reason she looks adoringly at her husband is because she adores him. The reason she is dressed chicly is because she dresses chicly. The reason for her rather delicate mannerisms is that that's the way she is. ~~And that's the way she is~~ whether she's at a ball or dressed in pajamas for breakfast in a beach house. That's just simply the way she is.

Michael Reagan: Michael Reagan is the adopted son of Ronald Reagan and his first wife, Jane Wyman.

I think it's true that Nancy Reagan has grown in confidence and has come out more and become more assertive and happier, to an extent. I think the first term for everybody is rough. You're learning so much. Just learning to get around the White House in the



first four years is tough enough. The only place she hasn't grown made my wife jealous. When she went into the White House, she was a size 6. She's now a size 4. And everybody wants her dresses.

I think it hurts Nancy to read <sup>negative</sup> things ~~negative~~ about her or about anybody in the family because sometimes they don't understand the whole story or the whole drift of what was going on, and so they're writing stories or saying things on television, not knowing all the facts.

I've talked to dad about the same situation when I picked up the paper and read something about me. I'll just call dad and say, "How can they say this?" Dad says, "Just don't worry about it. Let it roll off your back." She is thin skinned, I think. She absorbs all that. Maybe it rolls off dad's back; she's there and picks it up with a wheel barrel.

She's a one man woman. She lives, eats, breathes for Ronald Reagan. And she is probably one of the most caring people in the world. And she <sup>truly</sup> ~~really~~ cares about family and home life. I think people misinterpret that sometimes as a coldness and it really isn't. She's just more caring than people ~~really~~

realize. It's too bad some don't realize it as much as they should.

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Bonita Wrather: Former actress Bonita Granville Wrather and her husband, Jack, are close, longtime friends of the Reagans.

I think Nancy is a very special human being. And I think she was badly maligned in the early days in the White House by the press. They didn't know her. They didn't understand her. One thing that's always amazed me is that nobody has ever realized what a fantastic sense of humor she has. Her husband has one, too, of course, but people don't recognize that about Nancy.

I don't think the media were willing to give her a chance in the beginning, <sup>though</sup> And I think they are now. ~~I think~~ People realize that she is a very warm, sympathetic human being. I don't think people give her credit for how really intelligent she is, and always has been.

Nancy's anything but frivolous. She's very level headed, she's very sincere, she's

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very down to earth, and why she seemed frivolous I don't know. Again, I'm going to blame it on the media. That very first year in the White House was a pretty dreadful one. Not only the loss of her father, Loyal Davis, but that terrible attempted assassination. Her grief was private when her husband was hovering between life and death. Her grief was private when her father died. But once her husband recovered and they started going out, every time they stepped out of a car, everytime they walked out of a door into the open, imagine the fear of being shot at. That would inhibit anyone. I think that first year was a very, very difficult one. ~~And~~ It would be for anyone.

I think everyone is hurt by criticism, especially if it's unfair. She's a very vulnerable lady and she's very sensitive. ~~I~~ think ~~she~~ responds to constructive criticism very well, but the unfair criticism hurt her terribly. I just hope now that she's toughened up enough to let unfair criticism roll off her back.

C. Z. Wick

C.Z. Wick is the son of  
United States Information  
Agency Director Charles

Z. Wick and his wife,  
Mary Jane, old family  
friends of the Reagans.

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Nancy Reagan has a terrific sense of humor, a terrific sense of style, is very giving, and is very tuned in to the world around her, willing to try new things, hear about new things, interested in people, and fun to be with.

I think that the conservative characterizations of Nancy Reagan have missed the point of the person. She's a very curious person. She's a very open and interesting person, and not one to ignore the world around her. The single most fun thing that characterizes any family gathering of our families, or just hanging out with her, is humor. She loves to laugh. She has a very quick sense of humor, and practical jokes and on-going family jokes are part of our relationship.

Ron Reagan

Ron Reagan, a former

~~ballet~~ dancer turned  
journalist, is the son of  
President and Mrs. Reagan.

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She's old fashioned in some ways. She didn't grow up in the sixties or anything. She's from another era. She does think that it's better for my father to be out front alone. She's more comfortable that way. She's not comfortable in the limelight as much as in the wings.

I guess she's a very sensitive person. She's a very private person and I think that's one reason why this has all been a little tough for her. She guards her privacy jealously, and doesn't like intrusions into that privacy. When they happen, her thin skin makes her react. It hurts her.

She can be a handful. I mean, she's not always the easiest person to get along with. I guess it's because of that sensitivity. She's a bit of a perfectionist. I don't think I'd want her to be my boss. I would guess she could be demanding as a boss because of that perfectionism.

She's an incredible phone person. She's always on the phone, ever since I was this big. We had to get more line put in at home,

to satisfy her.

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Out at the ranch, mom does not get up at daybreak and go bareback riding through the woods. She doesn't man the tractor or anything. She doesn't do the chainsaw, but she gets out there and neatens up the woods and stuff. I've seen her walk through woods and there'll be dead twigs hanging and she'll get up there and kind of pull these off and kind of get the whole place so it's neat. She's not a big rider or a big outdoors person, ~~She's~~ not an athlete or anything like that, but she can't help but enjoy the ranch because my dad enjoys it so much and she derives a lot of pleasure from his enjoyment.

Maureen Reagan: Maureen Reagan is the daughter of President Reagan and his first wife, Jane Wyman.

She's exactly the same person she was the day she walked into that White House. We all grow, but inside ourselves. The things that we care about, our families and our friends and who we know and what we are, that doesn't change. I have been very upset at the

idea that there is this new Nancy Reagan. It's not a new Nancy Reagan. A more confident Nancy Reagan. A more eloquent Nancy Reagan. But, gosh, I hope we're all more confident and more eloquent as years go by.

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She's got this closet in the White House, and none of us are ever allowed to see it. She squirrels things away in this closet. *Later,* things come out of it. When my husband moved to Sacramento, she said, "Does he need a coffee maker?" I said, "Well, yeah, I think so." Rummage, rummage, rummage. We heard this sound, and all of a sudden, out comes a coffee maker.

Nancy Reagan was a career woman. She had a very good career in the motion picture industry, and she got married. After she was married, she was offered one of the choice television roles of all time, and turned it down, saying, "No, I want to raise a family, and I personally, cannot do both. I know this about myself, and I don't want to take the chance of not being good at either by trying to do two things that I don't think I can put together. Her husband did not encourage her to leave her profession, ~~or not to~~. It was her choice to make. In fact, he was really quite surprised.

Doug Wick:

Doug Wick is (IDENTIFY)

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I've known Nancy Reagan since I was a kid. She's an old family friend. I went to grammar school with her kids. I think she's one of the great lunch dates in America. I think she's warm, smart, funny, ~~I think she's~~ a good friend. Needless to say, I like her.

*interests?*

I think she's an unusual combination of smarts, interesting, and a good listener. I think <sup>much</sup> a lot of times people who have a lot to offer in one camp don't necessarily have a foot in the other, and she can do both. She's one of those rare people <sup>who</sup> that, if you see her in a large group of people, when you speak to her, no matter where you are or who the group is, her eyes never leave your face. Her trick is that she also has that kind of antenna <sup>so</sup> where she knows everything else that's going on in the room while she's talking to you, but she never does that kind of thing where you <sup>notice</sup> see <sup>someone's</sup> eyes going over your shoulder to see who else is coming in.



I don't think she's comfortable being in the center of attention. ~~I think~~ She's someone who's more of a watcher, ~~I think she's~~ a person who's a little bit more comfortable on the sidelines, observing. She seems to have very little ~~ego~~ <sup>interest</sup> about wanting to have everyone look at her.

<sup>The First Lady is an</sup>  
~~I think she's~~ an extremely complicated woman. When she first got into office, I don't think people really understood her. She's very shy, and ~~I think~~ that was misunderstood as maybe not caring or being aloof. As time has gone on, people have gotten to know her and understand her much better. In a funny way, through that assassination attempt on her husband, they realized what a caring, deep, feeling person she is.

She's got unfailing instincts about people, and ~~I think~~ she's someone ~~who~~ you can sit at a party with and she'll know everything that's going on in that room, including the kitchen. She can read someone from across the room. She knows who likes them, and who's trying to work some scam on one side or some scam on the other. In that way, I know ~~he~~ <sup>the President</sup> enormously trusts her judgement.

I was working on the movie, "Sophie's Choice," and part of my job was to look for a Sophie, and that's a blonde Polish woman, a

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tragic figure. I thought Mrs. Reagan would be a good candidate, so I called her and asked her if she was interested, and she said it sounded like a pretty good job, but she had this whole other thing in Washington, and she'd have to see how she liked it. So, I bumped into her at the inauguration and she came sweeping through with a giant entourage and I was in the crowd somewhere and she happened to catch my eye. She yelled across the room, "Keep Sophie on the back burner."

Nancy Reynolds: Nancy Reynolds is a former California newswoman who worked for the Reagans in Sacramento and in the White House. Now a Washington consultant, she remains a good friend.

She was wounded by the early press criticism. It made her feel as if she were a sitting duck. Stories were filled with absolute lies in many cases, very prejudicial, skewed stories. I <sup>recall</sup> ~~remember some of them.~~ I ~~remember~~ the reporters extremely well. I

remember some of them who are famous authors today writing scathing accounts of their interviews of Nancy Reagan. She was totally bewildered, very deeply hurt. She feels herself that she was pleasant and being honest and had invited them into her home. Some would then come out with something that was just so totally off the wall. I think she was weary and it was not always easy to get her to do interviews. I think if you'd been slapped or stung a few times, you'd say, hey, I don't need this.

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She's very funny. It's something that she shows privately to her friends and family. She's witty, very sensitive, very current on cultural things as well as on public affairs. She watches all the news broadcasts. She's well read. But she basically thinks of herself as a private person. Her loyalty is legendary. A few weeks after Ronald Reagan became governor, she was on an airplane going to Los Angeles as she did every weekend and she was sitting in the front seat and behind her were ~~two people~~, two men discussing Ronald Reagan's budget. They were criticizing the governor very loudly and you could see the steam beginning to build. Before you know it, she pushed her button and the seat slipped back

and she turned around and said, "That's my husband you're talking about and every bit of the information that you two are exchanging is wrong and incorrect. I would like the chance to correct you." Those two men were so stunned, they just sank about five inches down in their seats. Their faces turned red and that was the last <sup>w<sup>r</sup></sup> you heard from them.

I think if people ask her if she feels strongly about something, she certainly expresses herself. I've heard her many times disagree with the president and others. It's like everything else, you win some and you lose some. And she's done both.

It's true that sometimes, as a governor's wife, she would sit in the bathtub and rant and rave at people in private. Those of us who were on the staff could always tell when she'd had a bad day, because she would be in the bathtub having wonderful conversations saying things to people who she felt had been cool and unfair and really mean spirited to her or to her husband or to her family. And it was one of the ways she blew off steam.

Sheila Tate:

Sheila Tate was Nancy

Reagan's White House  
press secretary.

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She doesn't like surprises. No one would like to read in the paper that they felt this way or that way about something when they hadn't been consulted about how they really did feel.

She's a perfectionist. If you have failed to provide all the necessary information, then she's not going to feel secure about the event or the interview or whatever she's doing, so she will ask for more information.

I don't think it's a fair criticism that she demands when she should ask. I think that's from people who are unfamiliar with her way of doing things. Perhaps once they got a call and they were so flustered that they stuttered and stammered.

Some say she gets along better with men than with women. She never ignored me. She certainly had close men friends, but I think she's interested in everybody.

Lyn Nofziger: Washington political  
consultant Lyn Nofziger  
served as President

Reagan's chief political  
 advisor throughout much  
 of his public career.

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Everybody wants to leave <sup>his or her</sup> their own mark  
 but I <sup>believe</sup> think that she sees what she's doing  
 really as a way of assisting <sup>the President</sup> him, of building  
 him. We all have our own egos. But I don't  
 think she's ever set out to have people  
 compare her to him, or anything like that.

Michael Deaver: Washington consultant  
 Michael Deaver was one of  
 President Reagan's three  
 principal White House  
 aides and is a longtime  
 friend and associate of  
 the Reagans.

She's one of the most special people  
 that I've ever known in the world. She's  
 smart, she's strong, she is very intense. She  
 has a side to her that very few people know  
 about. And that is this very strong personal  
 loyalty to people <sup>of</sup> regardless of who they are  
 who've been good to her.

I remember when Carolyn's father died

my wife  
 18 ← OK? correct? identify.

we'd?  
 ✓

suddenly. He'd only been here three months. She called me on the phone and said, "Why don't you bring the kids up to Camp David for the weekend." We got to Camp David and she took those two kids of mine who had just lost their grandfather and made life wonderful for a weekend for them. She took them bowling, for hot dogs, bicycle riding, whatever they wanted to do. That's the side of Nancy Reagan nobody knows about. In California, during the Vietnam War, once a week, sometimes twice a week, without any press around, she'd quietly go to the veteran's hospital and sit there and hold a <sup>vet's</sup> hand ~~if they had a hand left~~ and go home and call their mothers and cry with them and go back the next week and do the same thing over again. She didn't do it because she was trying to change her public relations image. She was doing it because Nancy really cares about people.

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Stuart Spencer:

Stuart Spencer is a veteran Republican Party strategist who served in the Reagan presidential campaign.

I don't think people realize that she is

a vulnerable person. There was an article in  
the Washington Star <sup>during</sup> in the 1980 campaign. It  
was a cheap shot. That woman was devastated  
for weeks. People talk about her being tough.  
They talk about her being involved in the  
process. Those things are all true, but she's  
also a vulnerable, sweet little person. A lot  
of her personal friends see that, but people  
in the political arena don't ~~see~~ it.

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Donnie Radcliffe: Donnie Radcliffe is  
a Washington Post  
reporter who has  
covered the Reagan  
White House for  
several years.

There is an element of the unapproachable  
about her. I would have hoped that after four  
years, with this particular press corps who is  
following her every move, that there would be  
some feeling of a rapport that has developed  
with us. I don't have that <sup>sense</sup> feeling. I still  
feel that we can have our differences and  
still have an understanding.

I mean, we might encounter her in a  
situation where she is walking towards a group



of press she knows, and there is not a glimmer of recognition in her eye about who we are. The president isn't that way. Sometimes he'll give you a little lift of the eyebrow, or a little wink. It doesn't mean that we've crossed each other's lines or we've succumbed to each other's charms, but it does mean that there is a human quality there that, with Mrs. Reagan, is missing.

I think she thinks that she's been burned by the press and therefore she's wary. I don't know if she is really scared and I do not necessarily subscribe to the view that she is timid and shy. I don't see Mrs. Reagan as that at all. I think she's more aloof and controlled about what the outer Nancy Reagan is.

I would like to like her. I really don't know whether I like her or not. I don't dislike her. I don't know that I would think of her as a close friend. ~~I just don't know how I would say that~~ I feel that there's a certain detachment about her that makes it sort of difficult to feel a closeness to her. Now, she may be wonderful with her staff, but that's the sort of thing I don't know ever comes through to ordinary mortals. I still feel there's a curtain there.

I would like to feel that she is a warm, caring person, that I could go to and talk about substantial things or concerns, but I don't know how that would ever be possible.

~~If you sit down with the president you do feel that at least for the moment you and he are having a friendly discussion, whether you are disagreeing or not. With her I feel that there is so much superficiality, there's nothing there that goes very deep.~~

James Rosebush: James Rosebush was Mrs. Reagan's East Wing chief of staff.

You certainly don't have a person here who's changed herself to fit the occasion, but the experience of the past years has had an impact on her.

I think ~~I~~ she was always willing to take risks--accept challenge--but I think now she does it with greater confidence. I think she takes all of the public acclaim now with a knock-on-wood attitude because she's no one to rest on those laurels. In the political world, they can evaporate. So I think she wants to work hard to keep the public confidence.

*The First Lady is*  
I ~~think~~ she's bright, she's hardworking, and she's good to work for in the sense that she knows what's going on. She's alert, and so you can work well with her because of that, because she knows what's going on. She's very demanding of herself. You want to do your best for her. That's the way I respond to her. I want to do my best for her because she's demanding of herself and ~~I think~~ she expects good work out of people.

She likes to use the phone a lot more than I do. I've never been one to enjoy talking on the telephone but that's her way of communicating with people. She's up there on the second floor of the White House and you or I might get up and walk down to the office at the end of the hall to chew the fat with someone, but her way of communicating is on the telephone.

She has never <sup>ONCE</sup> said to me ~~once~~, "Jim, you've overscheduled me. You've given me too much. You've made me climb too many flights of stairs." She's got boundless energy.

Dr. Richard Davis:

Nancy came to Washington prepared, by parents, a good home, a fine education, and

wonderful friends. Sometimes we forget that she was "First Lady of California" for eight years. So she did have experience when she arrived in Washington. I think the first two or three years in the White House got her off stride. The first thing that did was some unfortunate press.

The second was the wounding of the president in March, 1981. I remember that, of course, vividly. I had come down on several occasions and three or four nights after his operation I came <sup>STREET</sup> ~~here~~ to the White House. Nancy had had a really dreadful day. Things were perhaps touch and go. We got back here and she seemed to shift gears. She actually took me on a little guided tour. We talked about different things and finally the tour, so to speak, ended in a beautiful room on the third floor called the solarium. It has a bay window and looks out over the monument.

That night, though, it was under renovation and there weren't any lights in the room. It was early spring and the window boxes were filled with daffodils. Here we were standing in this darkness and there were these dancing yellow flowers which represented to us, I guess, a hopeful future. We discussed a

number of things. She expressed her gratitude about all the care the president received and the doctors and nurses. And then she turned to me and said, "Now Dick, my job this week is to really go over this room and renovate it so the president can recover here. It will make him feel like he's outside once again and, you know, we want to keep all that sunshine and happiness in his life."

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And I thought tht really was quite a remarkable thing. She showed no self pity. She was thinking of a life probably more dear to her than her very own.

~~(END CHAPTER TWO; END THE REAL NANCY)~~

*Husband and Wife*  
CHAPTER THREE: ~~Nancy and Ren~~

Nancy Reagan:

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I can't talk for anyone else. I can talk for me, what makes me happy, what makes my husband happy, what makes our marriage happy. For me, my husband, my family, come first. And that makes me happy. I assume it makes them happy.

I think it's easier if you have a definite philosophy that you've held for a long time. I have a feeling that perhaps in the past, there've been some people who maybe haven't made up their minds clearly what their positions are. And I think that can age you pretty quickly. But if you have a pretty definite philosophy of what you want to do, then it makes things a lot easier.

It's what he feels. He has his own instincts about what's right and what's wrong.

Do we ever fight? We disagree. We don't fight. Fight to me means throwing plates and all of that. There's nobody that you're going to agree with all the time, even your husband.

I'm often asked about thirty three years of marriage, which today sounds like a long time. It doesn't seem like a long time,

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though. I got to thinking about it and, you're always reluctant to give anybody advice about marriage or how to have a long marriage or whatever, but I've really been very lucky because most men or women, when they get married, like to feel that their husband or wife, if put to the test, if put under tremendous pressure, would act in a certain way, would act with great strength and ~~would~~ make you very proud of them. You like to feel that. But very seldom does the average person have a chance to really see that husband or wife under those kinds of circumstances. I've been very lucky in that, because I've seen my husband under very pressured conditions, I know he's never failed. Never failed me. He's always stuck to principles. He's never done anything for political reasons. You go back to the assassination attempt. I don't know of many men who would have handled it that way.

President Reagan:

How do you explain it? We're happy. I don't know how to answer it. From a man's

standpoint, I could say what I think Clark Gable once said to someone, "There's nothing more important than approaching your own doorstep and knowing that someone on the other side of the door is listening for the sound of your footsteps."

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I know that during the day, even before this job, whatever I was doing, something would happen in a day and the first thing that would go through my mind was picturing myself telling her about it when I got home.

We talk about everything. Sometimes, we disagree on someone or their particular qualifications or something, but never very seriously. It's good to talk about it and have other input. I feel better always knowing that we're in agreement.

Michael Reagan:

I don't think she advises him on ~~things,~~ decisions he makes as president. But it's important that dad have her because she is a sounding board just for family feelings. She's an important part of his life. I've always said that, without her, dad probably wouldn't be president of the United States. She gives him inner strength, that he really needs and that keeps him going every day, knowing that



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at the end of the day, he has her to go home to.

She sees the people around dad and she wants them to to be in the same mold they're in. I think that's what happens. She may voice an opinion on a person or whether they're doing the job and are looking the part they should play or if they're not. She probably discusses that with dad. But the ultimate decision is always up to dad on who he's going to have working with him.

I think he values very much all the advice that she gives him. Dad's just a stronger man because of Nancy Reagan, <sup>and</sup> She's been a very supportive force. Without her support, he would not have run for governor, he would not have run for president.

I think what pulled them through into the 1980s was that dad and the people around dad wanted him to run. I don't know if Nancy did. All of us were hurt after he lost to Ford at the end of '76. It was, what do you do, do you start this, do you do that? ~~I think everybody was pretty hurt that dad didn't get it.~~ I think dad's the one that pulled up his boots and said, no, we're going on. And then everybody supported <sup>him</sup> dad.

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You make a bad remark against Ronald Reagan and Nancy's not going to be friendly to you. ~~There are a lot of people who won't.~~ Her life really is <sup>centered</sup> around Ronald Reagan. She will do whatever is necessary to insulate him and keep him happy. And she goes off. She does her thing helping with the kids, with the grandparent program and the drug program, which are important to her. But, really, the most important thing to her is Ronald Reagan. So if you consider everything ~~in that~~, on that basis, then she isn't that complicated.

They do need each other. They both dance to the other one's  <sup>tune</sup> ~~side~~. I mean, dad is Nancy's strength in his way and Nancy is his strength in the home life. I think they could live all by themselves and be perfectly happy. That's not to say that they don't want the kids or anything of that nature. But the fact is that now the kids are grown and gone. and their relationship hasn't changed in 30 years. They are the same people  <sup>who</sup>  ~~that~~ met back in the fifties and got married in 1952. They haven't changed.

William F. Buckley:

I would say that, at one level, Nancy Reagan has total influence over her husband. that is to say I could not imagine his doing something which forfeited her loyalty or her devotion to him. <sup>Dot</sup> It would be very hard to imagine such a thing even in the abstract.

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They are in every sense of the word companions. They share their thoughts, they share their peeves, they share their enthusiasms. And when something is brewing, it is coterminously communicated. It isn't something that he sort of announces. So there's never a situation in which all of a sudden he accosts her at noon and says something's been cooking in my mind for three months. This is it. They just don't have that kind of relationship.

Suppose he asked Jimmy Carter to be special Mideast fixit man. Something like that, he'd almost certainly would discuss with her because of the bizarre character of it. I can't believe that he would discuss with her in any detail recommendations of who should be the new head of the Federal Reserve Board.

I think she has a very important role in the sense that he would never want to disappoint her nor would he ever want to