



# Farewell to the First Lady

Michelle Obama is an inspirational role model.

Michelle Obama is said to be even more popular than her husband.

Over the past eight years, President Barack Obama's wife, Michelle, has brought intelligence and passion to the White House and used her position to speak up for what she believes in. In the process, she has become one of the most important role models in the world.

Born Michelle Robinson, she was brought up in a modest family home in Chicago, US. She made the decision early on to stay out of trouble, viewing education and learning as the key to success in her future. "I loved getting As. I liked being smart... I thought being smart was cooler than anything in the world," she remembers.

Her passion for learning took her to Princeton, one of the best universities in the US, and from there she went on

to a successful career as a lawyer.

Obama has done many incredible things as First Lady, from bringing schoolchildren in to help turn a corner of the White House garden into a vegetable patch, to speaking out against gun violence in her home town. Perhaps the most important, though, has been as a role model to young girls in the US and around the world.

In 2009 she even visited a girls' school in north London, and stayed in touch with the pupils, inviting some of them to the White House.

In her emotional farewell speech, Obama spoke directly to the youth she hopes to inspire, saying, "...something better is always possible if you're willing to work for it and fight for it... I will be with you, rooting for you and working to support you for the rest of my life."



**CHANGE OF PLAN**  
Michelle Obama wasn't always happy with her husband's ambitions. "I'm very wary of politics," she said in 1996.

At school, Obama enjoyed getting good grades.



Shevchenko says she's a typical geek.

## The professional hacker

On the Big News pages we reported that US intelligence services have said that Russia had a hand in hacking US computers during the American election campaign. Although Russia denies this, the US claims to know some of the hackers responsible, including a Russian woman called Alisa Shevchenko.

Shevchenko, who loves kickboxing and describes herself as a typical "computer geek," denies it. For work, she is paid by companies to hack into their secure computer systems and find any weaknesses. She claims that the Russian government did approach her but that she'd never work for them. "I only work with honest and open people that I feel good about," she said. Shevchenko is very angry about being accused of interfering with the elections – but it's not all bad; she's since been offered several jobs.

## Don't judge a bookseller by his cover

Steve Bloom has been branded the UK's rudest bookseller after it emerged that he charges his customers 50p just to enter his shop. He has also been accused of calling one customer a pain in the backside.

After he was featured in newspapers, however, people have been defending him. His wife said that he tends to feel low in winter. "He worries and he's shy," she said. His 50p charge is only there to deter people from looking at the books without buying any; the money is returned when they make a purchase. Although some people find Bloom rude, he's also kind: he looks out for postcards featuring dogs for an old lady he knows who collects them.



## THEY SAID IT!

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**"I would look through the papers and say, 'Where's the most dangerous place to go?', because it always makes a good story."**

Journalist Clare Hollingworth who died on 10 January, on her spirit of adventure. She was the first journalist to report that the Second World War had broken out.

