



# FRIENDS

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BOOK CLUB

FOPSL Book Club: April 17, 2020

Book: *Becoming*

Author: Michelle Obama

Discussion leader: Lisa Walters

Thanks to Lisa Walters for presenting Michelle Obama's memoir, *Becoming* via Zoom! Usually our presentations begin with historical tidbits about the author, but given the author is one of the most popular and well-known people on Earth, an introduction was unnecessary. (I did say this was a memoir?)

A clever title. Given the view of her naked shoulder on the cover, one could say the book is about beauty. Or perhaps, the tale about a black girl from the South of Chicago who graduates from elite institutions to find work as a lawyer and then First Lady is about metamorphosis. Maybe the title is meant to speak for all of her transformations: scholar, mother, wife, etc. In any case, Michelle Obama does change and shares her conversions in an entertaining manner.

A good part of the discussion concerned race and Michelle Obama's audience. Who was the book intended for? Did she reveal everything like a guest on the old Oprah Winfrey Show? Or did she hold back details in deference to whomever she expected would find the book appealing? It was clear that if given the chance, many of us would have liked to ask

her to go into depth about passages in the book or about information we felt was left out.

David Kelly

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Friends of the Palm Springs Library Book Club meets online

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