



BOOK NEWS & NOTES

A Revealing New Look At America's First Couple

"The best decision I ever made was asking Laura to marry me. I'm not sure the best decision she ever made was saying yes. But I'm glad she did..."

George W. Bush

(NAPSA)—It's been said that, from the outside, no one ever really understands the pressure the spotlight of celebrity can put on a marriage. When the husband and wife in question are President and First Lady, says Christopher Andersen, No. 1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Jack and Jackie* and *Bill and Hillary*, "you can multiply that pressure a thousand fold."



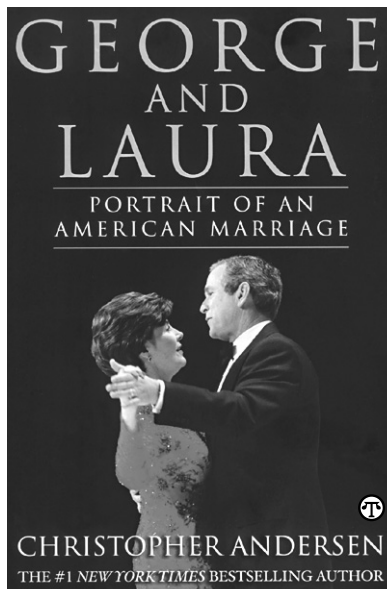
Andersen

In his new book **GEORGE AND LAURA: Portrait of An American Marriage**, (William Morrow, \$22.95), Andersen puts the Bushes' marriage under the microscope and concludes that "as man and wife they're not only surviving in the White House—they're flourishing there."

To get to the heart of the current President's marriage, Andersen conducted hundreds of interviews with those who know the Bushes best, including Laura's surprisingly outspoken mother, Jenna Welch. **GEORGE AND LAURA**—which is likely to find its way onto a number of holiday gift lists—has been described as a vivid and sometimes startling portrait of the First Couple. Among the many surprising revelations and insights the author serves up:

- A detailed, behind-the-scenes account of how the President and First Lady coped with 9/11 as the drama unfolded, their emotional reunion in the presidential bunker beneath the White House, and how they leaned on each other as they rallied America in the war on terrorism.

- The true extent of the President's drinking problem prior to becoming President, the strains it put on his marriage, and the night Laura delivered the ultimatum that changed his life. "Laura is stronger than most people realize," says Andersen. "After all, she



A new book offers an "up close and personal" look at the marriage of the President and First Lady.

did what neither Jackie nor Hillary could—she saved her man from himself."

- Surprising new details about George and Laura's poignant struggle with infertility ("Laura was so upset that she couldn't walk down the baby aisle at the supermarket without crying") and her life-threatening pregnancy.

- The pressures of raising headstrong twin daughters in the glare of the media and how the girls have "shaped up completely," observes Andersen, since 9/11.

- Laura's surprising behind-the-scenes influence on domestic and even foreign policy issues. "She shares her opinions with her husband in bed, over coffee and the morning papers," writes Andersen, and she gets him to appear more statesmanlike by sidling up to the President and whispering "Rein it in, Bubba."

A former contributing editor of *Time* and senior editor of *People*, Andersen has written 23 books. In addition to his studies of presidential marriages, the author also wrote the No. 1 bestsellers *The Day Diana Died* and *The Day John Died*.

The book is available now wherever books are sold.