

# WHEN AUDREY MET ALICE BY REBECCA BEHRENS

## Mother-Daughter Book Club Discussion Guide

Living in the White House is like being permanently grounded. Except with better security.

First Daughter Audrey Rhodes can't wait for the party she has planned for Friday night. The decorations are all set and the pizza is on its way. But the Secret Service must be out to ruin her life, because they cancel at the last minute for a "security breach," squashing Audrey's chances for making any new friends. What good is having your own bowling alley if you don't have anyone to play with?

Audrey is ready to give up and spend the next four years totally friendless—until she discovers Alice Roosevelt's hidden diary. Afterward, the White House will never be the same. Audrey stops being the perfect "First Daughter" and starts asking herself :What Would Alice Do? The former first daughter's outrageous antics give Audrey a ton of ideas for having fun...and get her into more trouble than she can handle.



### About the Author:

Rebecca Behrens grew up in Wisconsin, studied in Chicago, and now lives with her husband in New York City. She and her mother love to read and discuss books—especially ones about girls full of moxie and places full of history! For more information about Rebecca—including information on how to arrange a Skype visit for your book club—visit her online at [www.rebeccabehrens.com](http://www.rebeccabehrens.com).

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1. At the beginning of the story, what is Audrey's relationship with her mother like? How does Audrey feel about it?
2. How would you characterize Alice's relationship with her stepmother? How is it different than her relationship with Aunt Bye?
3. Sometimes Audrey expresses embarrassment about her mother's role as a public figure. How would you feel if your mother—or daughter—had a prominent role in society?
4. In the story, Audrey's mother is the first woman president. What are some ways in which her gender presents challenges in that role—such as “Bikinigate”?
5. What was the role of women in society like during Alice's time? In Audrey's time, how have things changed—or stayed the same?
6. How do clothing choices create tension between Audrey and her mother and Alice and her stepmother? Why do you think clothing is so important to both girls?
7. Alice's mother died when Alice was a baby. How does Alice feel about not having a mother, and how does that affect her relationships with the rest of her family?
8. How does Audrey's mom react to hearing that Audrey would like to go on her class trip? Do you think her response is fair or understandable?
9. Why did Audrey's mom take her to the Kennedy Center? What effect did that have on Audrey, and on their relationship?
10. In what ways does Audrey worry about her mom's role as president? Does Alice share similar concerns about her father?
11. “Being heard” is important to both Audrey and Alice—especially by their parents. What prevents Audrey's mom from listening to her daughter? What prevents Alice's parents from hearing her?
12. How does Audrey's mother feel about the essay Audrey writes? Did her response surprise you?
13. How would you characterize Alice's relationship with her family at the end of her diary? How has it changed over the course of the story? How has it stayed the same?
14. How does Audrey's mother's understanding of her daughter change at the end of the book?
15. Would you like to be the president's daughter—or a president who is also a parent? Why or why not?