

BECOMING

By *MICHELLE OBAMA*

Book Review by Monicah Kyalo

I always admire Michelle Obama. Her grace, dignity and character are gifts from above the sky. *Becoming* is an interesting story she has shared to the world. "Your story is what you have, what you will always have and it is something to own," she says.

In this book, Michelle tells us how she grew up on the South side of Chicago in a family of four; her brother Craig, mother and her disabled dad, who moved around as if there was nothing wrong with his body. Coming from a humble background, she was lucky enough to go to the best schools; Princeton University and later in Harvard Law School. Michelle never limited herself, she worked very hard and emerged to be among the best students. She pursued different careers like being an Attorney at Chicago law firm, a Lawyer, Vice President at a hospital, a director of nonprofit organization. Amazingly, Michelle has so much resilience where she strives hard and ends up becoming the ever first African American First Lady of the United States and the first black family to stay in the White House. This is such a big honor regardless of her skin color. I am moved by how she started *the Let's Move campaign* regardless of facing great opposition at the beginning of it. She wanted the kids to stay healthy in schools and reduce the obese cases around the country. She designed a White House garden as a symbol of nutrition and healthy living. By the time she leaves the White House, 45 million kids were eating healthy and physical activities were included in the school program. Inviting kids to the White House garden filled her with hope and also gave her more energy. Visiting the Military hospitals every now and then in her term as the first lady showed incredible love to the military's fraternity.

I was also moved by how she mentored the young girls in many schools. Encouraging them to believe in themselves more and empowering girls and women that education is worth working for, and one can be anything she wants to become in this world with determination and creating a bigger picture of whom they want. Michelle also talks of her husband Barack Obama and explains how they met and his extraordinary political career journey. Americans chose hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord and elected him to be the 44th president of the United States. After becoming the First Family, life changes drastically.

Michelle talks of how she is in a new beginning in a new phase of life. The journey does not end, she has a lot to learn and give to the world. A challenge is issued to us at the end of the story: Who are we and who do we want to become? I highly recommend this groundbreaking story to every young girl who thinks she can't make it in life, it's going to open up her mind and inspire her a lot. I learnt that great leaders are readers and determination and persistence should be alive in our lives daily, we should never let this die in us.