



UNIT 3 - INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE



A house or a home? (2)

For eight years, I lived in the White House, a place with more stairs than I can count—plus elevators, a bowling alley, and an in-house florist. I slept in a bed that was made up with Italian linens. Our meals were cooked by a team of world-class chefs and delivered by professionals more highly trained than those at any five-star restaurant or hotel. Secret Service agents, with their earpieces and guns and deliberately flat expressions, stood outside doors, doing their best to stay out of our family's private life. We got used to it, eventually, sort of—the strange grandeur of our new home and also the constant, quiet presence of others.

The White House is where our two girls played ball in hallways and climbed trees on South Lawn. It's where Barack and I sat up late at night, poring over briefings and drafts of speeches in the Treaty Room, and where, Sunny, one of our dogs, sometimes pooped on the rug. I could stand on the Truman Balcony and watch the tourists posing with their selfie sticks and peering through the iron fence, trying to guess at what went on inside. There were days when I felt suffocated by the fact that our windows had to be kept shut for security, that I couldn't get some fresh air without causing a fuss. There were other times when I'd be awestruck by the white magnolias blooming outside, the everyday bustle of government business, the majesty of a military welcome. There were days, weeks, and months when I hated politics. And there were moments when the beauty of this country and its people so overwhelmed me that I couldn't speak.

Becoming, Michelle Obama, 2018

1- Spot the different lexical fields in the text:

- Highlight the words referring to the notion of house.
- Highlight the words referring to the notion of home.

2- Identify the author's point of view:

- Draw a parallel between this text and Truman's quote: "The White House is the finest prison in the world." Underline the lexical field of prison.
- How did Michelle Obama feel when she was living in the White House?