In Founding Mothers, Cokie Roberts paid homage to the heroic women whose patriotism and sacrifice helped create a new nation. Now the number one New York Times bestselling author and renowned political commentator—praised in USA Today as a custodian of time-honored values—continues the story of early America’s influential women with Ladies of Liberty. In her delightfully intimate and confiding style (Publishers Weekly), Roberts presents a colorful blend of biographical portraits and behind-the-scenes vignettes chronicling women’s public roles and private responsibilities.

Recounted with the insight and humor of an expert storyteller and drawing on personal correspondence, private journals, and other primary sources—many of them previously unpublished—Roberts brings to life the extraordinary accomplishments of women who laid the groundwork for a better society. Almost every quotation here is written by a woman, to a woman, or about a woman. From first ladies to freethinkers, educators to explorers, this exceptional group includes Abigail Adams, Margaret Bayard Smith, Martha Jefferson, Dolley Madison, Elizabeth Monroe, Louisa Catherine Adams, Eliza Hamilton, Theodosia Burr, Rebecca Gratz, Louisa Livingston, Rosalie Calvert, Sacajawea, and others. In a much-needed addition to the shelves of Founding Father literature, Roberts sheds new light on the generation of heroines, reformers, and visionaries who helped shape our nation, giving these ladies of liberty the recognition they so greatly deserve.

My Personal Review:
This book certainly adds to my knowledge and understanding of colonial history. Cokie Roberts has added a useful dimension by concentrating on the women married to our early presidents and showing us, through the language of their letters that they were as courageous, politically astute,
willing to sacrifice, and devoted to promoting the strength of our new nation as their husbands. I'm thinking of Dolley Madison and Louisa Adams (married to John Quincy) here. Portraits of other women are valuable, also, such as the young woman pioneer who literally walked over the mountains in the early 1800s to a new home in the Midwest.

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