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*Speaker 1:* Means that we had and in thinking about that, I thought, well, the eight years in the White House is the least of my story. You know, it doesn't really explain anything. So I felt like I had to give people the context of my life. I had to introduce them to that little girl, Michelle Robinson, and give them a sense of what the sights and sounds of that little girl's life was like, how she would then be able to hear me. So this book is really just an extension of that belief that we have to share those stories with each other if we're really going to break down the barriers at night. And we told stories about our day. And when you grow up with parents who not only respect your voice, but enjoy your voice. That's how I felt in our home, that my parents thought we were brilliant and funny and they wanted us to you know, I say in the book my parents hours on end, just playing alone. And in thinking about this question, I start being respected in my home. So I went out as trivial as passion, you know. So explaining that to a working class family, how you're going to walk away from a solid career and a solid career in elementary school, you go to college, you get a major and life choice to educate myself about who I was. School didn't teach me that. All those degrees, all those fancy schools didn't help me connect into who I needed to be as a person. So I had to read about was it kids or was it working with kids or was it mentoring? Was it education? I didn't know I hadn't explored it because I was on the paperwork to talk to people who were doing things that they think are interesting because most kids are intimidated about approaching you, for example, and saying, Holly, you've done some swerving. Tell me that we ever stop evolving. Is it just as the love you feel for your partner? It evolves in it. It has so many different layers, right. It's the it's the first love that you feel when you're you're giddy and you're falling and childhood and upbringing, which was very different from mine. That was a curiosity. You know, we grew up with the solid stability of the four of us at the dinner table. My father had a job. My mother stayed at home. They were we were very traditional. It wasn't just his life. It was the choices he was making with it. The fact that when we worked together in the law firm, I fell in love with the fact ups and we've raised two beautiful children. And there's the love that comes when you see the man that you love care for your children. The fact that he is a good father to my daughter and growing and falling in love, married couples to be open of a strong professional woman who was a single parent, who was doing a phenomenal job as a mother and was just a boss at work and watching her balance that and not losing herself in either role. You know, I talk about how I'd sit in a meeting with her and she'd be in the midst of, you know, business leaders sitting around the table, the mayor on the phone and her secretary would call and say, our daughter just got home from school and wanted to talk, sort of think about how I wanted the White House experience. I was tired of trying to make the balance work. So what led me what gave me the courage to walk into that? The president of the hospital's office with my child was that I didn't want the job and I was just going out of a favor. So I felt like I had nothing to lose. And that also taught me that it's a shame that I had to be pushed to the corner for me to three things. I would have never had the courage to do it. And I think many women sit on their talents and their gifts because they're afraid to make that sometimes were too polite in the professional world and in many women don't have the luxury or the leverage to make the kind of demands I that I did because I had the option of staying home because my husband brought in it run. So I had to sort of take off my moments where I had to take it in and look out at the massive crowd that was there and sort of the energy and that hope, the fact that millions and millions of people stood out in the freezing cold to see him take the oath of office and a business was a part of the community. The owners lived in the community and employed workers. They they knew the people there. So when they made decisions, it was hard to look beyond the fact that your decisions impacted your neighbors and your family. The bottom line, which is one of the things I always tried to do. So with health and nutrition, for example, my argument to food manufacturers was get ahead of the curve because of the people who are buying them. And then we tried to focus on the customer and. Tell them you have power in this, you know, that what you buy is what they'll make and if you buy junk, they'll make junk. So it wasn't just the advocacy, but we tried to put our selves in the neighborhoods where a kid could live five minutes from a museum and never think they could go into it doors and feel like all that wonderful stuff that they saw on TV that we do the military greetings and the state visits and the dinners and the music performances. I wanted as many kids as possible to feel like they belonged in those chairs, too. And the only way to do that was to open it up and invite them in. I wanted kids running all over the South Lawn. I wanted kids to talk about how they regularly came and helped build that garden. Are a little frightening for you, like sending them off to a way on it just physically to know that she could endure something that hard and be away from home in a different country. Learning a different language isn't theirs. But if they are put in circumstances where they see hardship and they they, you know, whether it's in their communities or through volunteerism, you know, exposing them to all the different challenges that other people face, even if it isn't their challenge. So service was a huge part of it, you know.