



# **Sarah: How a Hockey Mom Turned Alaska's Political Establishment Upside Down**

*Kaylene Johnson*

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# Sarah: How a Hockey Mom Turned Alaska's Political Establishment Upside Down

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**Sarah: How a Hockey Mom Turned Alaska's Political Establishment Upside Down** Kaylene Johnson Sarah Palin, 42, a hockey mom and former small-town mayor, thought her dream of making a difference in the male-dominated realm of Alaska politics was over when she went head to head with the powerful Republican governor over issues having to do with ethics and openness in government. Yet, the former prep basketball star could not shake a feeling that she was destined for something bigger. This is the story about how the biggest political upset in Alaska history propelled Sarah Palin into the governor's office where shed was the youngest and first women to serve in the state's highest office.

## **Sarah: How a Hockey Mom Turned Alaska's Political Establishment Upside Down Details**

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Author : Kaylene Johnson

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# **From Reader Review Sarah: How a Hockey Mom Turned Alaska's Political Establishment Upside Down for online ebook**

## **Michele says**

### **A Character Sketch**

I felt I needed to get my hands on this book in order to learn more about this person who has been thrust into the national spotlight and may soon hold an extremely high position in the U.S. Government. Her selection came as a surprise and I had to try and understand why John McCain chose her, other than because she brings excitement and intrigue to the ticket.

This brief book, a character sketch, is written in a straightforward style. It holds Sarah Palin in a very positive light. (Initially published before her selection as the GOP running mate, this version has been renamed and scooped up by people like me as an attempt to get to know her.) She is portrayed as an ordinary mom (a hockey mom) who, according to her father, has had an impenetrable stubborn streak since childhood.

The family came to Alaska from Idaho in 1969. She is the daughter of a teacher (and part time hunting/fishing guide) and a school secretary. They lived modestly. Her highlight real in public life includes a captain's position on the high school JV basketball team, the beauty queen title "Miss Wasilla," and stint on the city council. This was her introduction to the good old boys network, which she has spent the rest of her career pushing aside. She was elected president of the Alaska Council of Mayors, chaired the gas and oil conservation commission and gained a reputation as a reformer. Next step: the Governor's office, which she's held for two years.

Does this brief introduction to this head-turning politician enable the reader to decide whether or not she's qualified to be a heartbeat away from the highest elected office in the land? No. Is it an interesting read? Yes. All party politics aside, she's a fascinating woman. And right now, this slim book provided more information than I could get anywhere else.

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## **Surfergirl says**

This is an easy read and gives a quick overview of Sarah Palin's life, from youth to her role as governor of Alaska. The book is obviously written to portray her in a positive light.

If you love her, you will likely love the book and finish it with the belief that she is a tough woman who stands up for what is right. There's no question that she didn't allow the good 'ol boys of Alaskan politics to push her around or keep her quiet.

If you don't like her, you will likely hate the book and find it annoying. There's no mention of troopergate, although it may have been unresolved at the time of the writing. The author glosses over some of her less popular actions, but mentions them, just the same.

It's really such a quick, easy read. If you have any desire to learn more about Sarah Palin, it's worth the short investment of time to check it out, whether you love her or not.

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## **Bonnie says**

Interesting insight into who she is and how she got where she is today. I really enjoyed it.

Quote from her inaugural address: "And to my family, our big family, I love you. Ya'll cleaned up real well today. . . I don't see a Carhart in the bunch."

I love it!

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## **Kirt says**

She carries nick names like "Barracuda" and "Pitbull with Lipstick" for good reason. If I could have my wish granted to throw out all the good-old-boy career politicians and replace them with fresh leadership, I would put a Sarah Palin clone in every seat on both sides of the aisle. Tough, honest, smart, hard-working, genuine and in touch with her people. I wouldn't worry about partisanship or ideology if we had national leaders and lawmakers cut from such cloth. This book isn't going to win any awards, but it makes clear the no-nonsense get-er-done credentials and spirit of this woman. A short, light read.

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## **Teri says**

When we first heard about this book on our local news, that the little known publisher from out of Washington State, had run out the last 3000 copies, I knew I needed to have our Regional Library purchase this book. This book was rushed out in paperback last month just in time. This little book is a quick read, just a bit over 100 pages, but it has a lot to reveal about Sarah. Even though she's young, her politics are fresh, and she has come up through the grass roots to win the hearts of thousands in Alaska. She is full of tenacity, is honest to a fault, which is what we need to get this country back to where it was. She is for total reform, esp in ethics in government. This is a story of a down-to-earth woman with energy and idealism. If you want to know more about Governor Sarah Palin, read this little gem of a book. You'll be glad you did!!!!

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## **Lisa says**

This book isn't going to win any awards, but it is informative and (my favorite) easy to read. The author lists all of her sources. If you are looking for dirt, your aren't going to find it here. You will find Sarah's background and accomplishments. Accomplishments? I know many of you in the far left camp think she has none, read this and you will see a successful woman who even won over democrats in Alaska by taking on corruption in the Republican Party.

Frankly I'm tired of the mindless mantra about how stupid Sarah Palin is. Ask yourself, what kind of person would think the U.S. Governor with the highest approval rating is stupid. If that is you, you have been listening to the far left press for too long. They hate her because the press loves elitists that went to

Columbia, Harvard, Yale, etc. She may be down to earth, but she is effective. The one thing that I like about Sarah the most is that she believes being elected or appointed to public office means you serve the people-- not to serve yourself and gather accolades from the press.

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### **Elaine says**

Anyone who has spent a minute or two on my blog knows that I really like Sarah Palin. Reading this book just solidified how I already felt about her and gave more substance to it. She is a good person who stands firm for what she believes is right and I so very much admire that about her. She's humble and frugal (despite what the media would have you believe). She's tough and strong, yet caring and compassionate.

The great thing about this book is that it was written/published BEFORE Sarah became a candidate for vice president. It was written by an Alaskan, about Alaskan politics and their governor who rocked the world of corrupt politicians who were only out for themselves. She doesn't fit the mold of a typical politician and I love that about her. She isn't afraid to stick up for what is right and make things happen.

There are some dry parts in the book, only because I'm really not into politics... mainly because I don't understand it well. I'll admit some things discussed in the book about the corruption and the bribes and under-the-table deals were over my head, but I got the general idea that people were being unethical and even breaking the law, and Sarah stood up to these people, took a stand for what was right, and made big changes in the state of Alaska. Instead of sitting around the dinner table and complaining, saying that someone should do something, she did something. She made a big difference just because she felt it was the right thing to do.

The book included many photographs of Sarah growing up and of her family. I am impressed with the life she has lead. I also enjoyed reading her inaugural speech that was printed at the end. She seems like the perfect balance of a down-to-earth mom and go-getter, intelligent woman. I like that.

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### **Michelle says**

It was a very fast read. Nothing to write home about. She gives reasons why she gave her kids the names they have. She also passed some pretty common-sense type laws, like notifying the victim when the criminal gets out of jail. It ends with her being Governor in the epilogue. Then it has her commencement speech, which I got bored with and didn't finish.

It left me with this point to ponder.....If her and her family are such church-going, spiritual people, why did her daughter become pregnant out of wedlock??? Hmmmmmmmmm.

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### **Andrew says**

Many years ago, while doing a web search for books about "hockey", the keyword search also turned up a few other assorted books. One of those was about the new governor of Alaska : "Sarah: How a Hockey Mom Turned the Political Establishment Upside Down", by Kaylene Johnson. I'd never heard of this woman before, but made a mental note that one day I was going to need to pick up this book and learn more about

this woman.

Since that day, the entire nation has heard of Mrs. Palin, thanks to her run for Vice President, her miniseries and news commentator appearances on television, and many other media opportunities. Many books have been written about her – including at least one BY Mrs. Palin. Still, I remembered this book about her early days – and when I stumbled across it at the used book sale at our local library, HAD to snatch it up.

Kaylene Johnson paints a nice picture of a young woman growing up in Alaska, of taking a strong political stance at one point in her life and watching its direction – but not its purpose – change from that point forward. She discusses Ms. Palin's early days, her family life, and her rise in local and state politics.

In general, the book presents a nice little picture of a local politician's rise from obscurity to the state level. However, it does have a few significant (in my opinion, anyway) shortcomings:

1)The publisher, Tyndale, specializes in Christian material. As such, the author includes a chapter describing Mrs. Palin's beliefs and faith in G-d. However, this chapter has a distinct “shoe-horned into the book I REALLY wanted to write” feel about it. In my opinion, the publisher should have either insisted on a book that truly described a Christian woman's life, OR (my preference) it should have allowed the author to simply write a totally secular biography.

2)The author takes an obvious pride in describing how gubernatorial candidate Palin refused to be trapped by the other candidate's insistence that she cite specific facts and plans; instead Palin proudly stood on the more general platform of “change”. In my opinion, I fully EXPECT my elected leaders to be versed in the facts – although I don't insist that they have them memorized; as long as they can get access to them within reasonable time frame. But I DO expect to have my leaders to have a plan of action; I don't consider the general “I'm going to change things!” to be the point of pride that the author does with her subject.

It's a short read – I finished it during a plane flight. It's a pleasant read. It's just not a perfect read.  
My rating: A solid 3 stars.

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### **Geo Hendrick says**

Wonderful! A woman with ethics! Who stands up for what is right!

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### **Melanie says**

This was better than I expected. Since I'm not much of a biography reader or fan of political books, I expected it to be super boring, but it wasn't and I actually found some things interesting.

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### **PlatKat says**

This book reads like a typical story of a slightly below average female student that used athletics and religious devotion to compensate for her scholastic shortcomings. However, we don't get much insight as to Sarah's real personality. The book mostly consists of a fleshed-out timeline rather than interesting anecdotes. The author of this book must be from Russia--Sarah's so nearby, but we have no detailed information...

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### **Jill says**

Ok I can't do it anymore. I tried. The book is written like a third grade book report, and I just cannot read anymore.

It doesn't mean that I don't want to learn about Palin. I just need to read something legible. Done done done.

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### **Astin says**

I read this book the day Sarah was picked as John McCain's VP. Up until that point, I knew only what I saw in the gubernatorial debates and in the papers - I tend to stay away from politics in general. With the VP announcement, I decided it was time to do my research so I could offer up a proper Alaskan opinion. Kaylene Johnson paints the picture of an admirable woman with an upbringing I can really identify with. Her political timing has been like a fairy tale, especially the gubernatorial election. This book was written in the aftermath of that election, and is a very quick read if you want a 'Sarah' primer without the post-VP discussion.

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### **Rhonda says**

Whether you are Democrat or Republican, after reading this book, you will have come to know Sarah Palin's life in a way that is certain to make you like her as a person, daughter, wife, mom and productive member of society. She is definitely a "mover & a shaker" as records of her time of public service in Alaska will easily testify.

The book is an easy read and can be completed in one evening. It is factually based, well written and takes a no-nonsense approach. You find out that Sarah is as real as she seems on tv and the book shows that what we see now is how Sarah has always been. You feel like maybe she's the gal next door.

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