



# First Daughter

*Eric Van Lustbader*

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**First Daughter** Eric Van Lustbader

**Jack McClure has had a troubled life.**

His dyslexia always made him feel like an outsider. He escaped from an abusive home as a teenager and lived by his wits on the streets of Washington, D.C. It wasn't until he realised that the dyslexia gave him the ability to see the world in unique ways that he found success, using this newfound strength to become a top ATF agent.

When a terrible accident takes the life of his only daughter, Emma, and his marriage falls apart. Jack blames himself, numbing the pain by submerging himself in work. Then he receives a call from his old friend Edward Carson. Carson is just weeks from taking the reins as president of the United States when his daughter, Alli, is kidnapped. Because Emma McClure was once Alli's best friend, Carson turns to Jack, the one man he can trust to go to any lengths to find his daughter and bring her home safely.

The search for Alli leads Jack on a road toward reconciliation...and into the path of a dangerous and calculating man - someone whose actions are as cold as they are brilliant, and whose power and reach are seemingly infinite.

Faith, redemption, and political intrigue play off another as McClure uses his unique abilities to journey into the twisted mind of a stone-cold genius who is constantly one step ahead of him. Jack will soon discover that this man has affected his life and his country in more ways than he could ever imagine.

## First Daughter Details

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Author : Eric Van Lustbader

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# From Reader Review First Daughter for online ebook

## Catharine says

This title may end up in my list of the 10 worst books I've read in my lifetime. Usually I can find something good to say about a book. The highest praise I can muster for this one is to say the binding is tight.

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## Jan says

Political intrigue, an old murder and a flawed but immensely likeable ATF agent, Jack McClure, make for an unusual story when the daughter of the soon to be sworn in POTUS is kidnapped. She also happened to be the former roommate of Jack McClure's deceased daughter. Some interesting theories on religion and the masses and government are woven into the story as well which made for interesting reading.

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## April says

RATING:4.5)FIRST DAUGHTER by Eric Van Lustader is an intriguing political thriller set in Washington,D.C..It is well written with a plot that will catch you from the first sentence to the last sentence. The characters are intriguing,and will hold your attention.It has intrigue,mystery,murder,political intrigue,action,suspense,ATF agent,politics,murder,and mayhem. When ATF agent Jack McClure is called into action to help find the president,Emma,he will find a conspiracy that not could effect of power at be but could also destroy everything he holds dear. This is a heart provoking story that combines a personal story with the chilling actions of Washington. It is a fast paced,action packed roller coaster of a story that will keep you on the edge of your seat. A must read for any and all political,suspense,action,and thriller readers. This book was received for the purpose of review from Zeitghost Media.Details can be found at A Forge Book and My Book Addiction Reviews.

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## Mark says

Once upon a time I came upon a book called "the Ninja" and found the book incredible good and indeed the Nicolas Linear series and the Jake Maroc series were very well written and still are in my memory. He writer returned in my interest when het became the continuation novelist for the Ludlum Jason Bourne character. I then found these books tedious and nothing to do with the original trilogy which leaves this continuation behind in its dust.

The first of the Jack McClure books is about the kidnapping of the daughter of the President elect, hence the title. However this book is more about the ATF agents past, the death of his daughter which he still not has worked through, the divorce of his wife, an American President who is basically an religious nut and on his way out of the oval office he wants to keep his legacy intact in declaring atheists as state enemy number one. And in between all of this Jack McClure will have to solve the kidnapping and finds a way to do his thing to find a killer from his young days.

Frankly the whole book is a bit of a mess, you can see the accomplished thriller in this book, but Lustbader wanted to do too much at the same time in one thriller. He does write a very decent thriller but really this one is a bit too much story lines and not enough solutions that will leave you with a satisfactory feeling, perhaps not the best book to return to the reading of original Lustbader material.

This book is followed by four more installments, which I will probably read as I bought the whole series at once. But not immediately.

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## Carey says

The transition of the US President is always a volatile time. No one knows this better than President-Elect Edward Carson. It is one month before his swearing in ceremony and his nineteen year old daughter, Alli, has disappeared. She may have been kidnapped by a homegrown terrorist organization. Finding her is his top priority, and it must be done without anyone in the media getting wind of it.

Carson hand-picks ATF agent Jack McClure to investigate his daughter's disappearance. He has several good reasons for doing so. Jack's daughter, Emma, who died seven months before in a car accident, was Allie's college roommate and close friend. He knows that Jack will do anything necessary to bring Allie home.

Jack has another unique quality. He is dyslexic and while that poses great problems for him when it comes to reading, the way his brain is wired makes him an outstanding agent. He is able to see things in a more complete way than the average person. He can pick up nuances that others might miss, including smells and small details. It has made him very successful in his career and he is a top ATF agent.

It hasn't helped him in his personal life, though. He has not been able to accept the death of his daughter and his marriage has since broken up as well. He is a lost and lonely man. As he begins to investigate Alli's disappearance, striking events from Jack's past begin to crop up. Somehow the case is inextricably linked with Jack's life and as he tries to fit together all the pieces he is pressured from all sides. It's up to him to find Allie and discover the motive behind her kidnapping and he is running out of time.

This thriller has a twisting, intriguing plot and is a fast paced and exciting read. Pick up First Daughter, you won't be able to put it down!

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## Daniel says

Page 15. That's when I knew I was in trouble. The opener to Lustbader's book, FIRST DAUGHTER, has the title character being whisked to her father's inauguration. As she stands on the dais with her family, she reaches into her pocket and lifts out a "vial of specially prepared anthrax."

"And like the contents of Pandora's box, out would come death in amber waves of grain."

I find myself struggling to explain why this line so perfectly encapsulates what's wrong with this book's prose. It wavers between insightful and just plain senseless, and in both cases it is a caustic color of purple. Our author is obviously an intelligent and well-spoken man, but even his best passages are over-flourished and his metaphors are schmaltsy and bizarre ("The early morning was waxy as a spit-polished shoe" is one of

my favorites).

This ties in perfectly with the book's largest theme, which is one of Religion vs. Reason. Most of the other reviews I've read oversimplify Lustbader's central point. He's not necessarily complaining about religion, just about its zealots. The outgoing president of the novel is one of those hypocritical ideologues that are ga-ga about God, someone who will break nine of the commandments just to make sure that you don't break the tenth one. And on the other side is a specious organization named E-Two, an off-shoot of the First American Secular Revivalists (lets call them Motivated Atheists). In between the two we find Alli Carson, the kidnapped daughter of president-elect Edward Carson.

So the book takes every opportunity it can (every single one) to wax philosophical on faith, hope, the spirit, the soul, and belief. It's obvious that Lustbader believes in a world beyond our ken (the book is filled with obtrusive "miracles" that are left vague enough to be debatable), but his quasi-panteism is mostly a distraction from the needlessly complex "intrigue" of the novel. We have double-double agents, a corrupt NSA official, a rogue hitman with his own agenda, and an ATF agent with dyslexia.

Yes. That's Jack McClure, whiz-kid at hunting down criminals, but not so great when it comes to reading road signs or getting along with his estranged wife, Sharon. The novel tries to tie Jack's abusive childhood with the current goings-on, but the connections aren't exactly believable or even rewarding. Likewise, his dyslexia is referenced many, many times as a source of both shame and power. Apparently having dyslexia gives you the ability to make three dimensional decisions in a matter of seconds (Air Force pilots take note!). It's basically a plot contrivance, and one that -- like the religious posturing -- becomes something of a nuisance.

When the story focuses on what it really should be -- a police procedural -- it's not half bad. But the book wants to make several deep and potent points about life and love. That, combined with some of the worst dialogue I've ever read in my life, denudes the espionage of any tension it might have supplied. What you're left with is a messy diatribe against fundamentalism and a bunch of gibberish comparing the church to a brain-washing assassin.

Okay. And some unintentionally funny metaphors.

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## **Bill says**

I'd have to categorize this book under "Credulity Yoga" because it stretched mine to the edge of its endurance. The hero's back story is just ... bizarre, the African-American characters are straight out of bad blaxploitation, there's a touch of the White Messiah I hate so much, and how the hero's history in the ghettos of DC are somehow related to the plot of kidnapping the president-elect's daughter still has me scratching my head.

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## **Sarah says**

First Daughter is the first book in an ongoing political thriller series featuring Special Agent Jack McClure.

The teenage daughter of the next president-elect, Alli Carson, has gone missing right before her father is

scheduled to take office. Her father, Edward Carson, seeks an old friend to aid in her missing-persons case -- Special Agent Jack McClure. Carson believes McClure is fit for the job because Alli was once best friends with McClure's late daughter Emma, who died in a car accident. As McClure investigates Alli's disappearance, the current president rallies against an atheistic group he thinks is related to terrorism, also blaming them for Alli's apparent abduction. McClure, who also suffers from dyslexia, welcomes the case as a distraction from mourning his daughter Emma and stops at nothing to find and rescue Alli.

First Daughter reminds me strongly of the experience I have while flipping through channels on a lazy Sunday afternoon and hearing a brief part of the ranting religious programs on public broadcasting. The religious sub-plot is annoying and really hinders any other potentially exciting plot-points. The novel is extremely ridiculous and over-the-top, with melodrama highly superseding anything important you might catch in the story-line. McClure's dyslexia is glorified and gives him the power to see his dead daughter's ghost in addition to making him awesome at being a special agent. There's nothing exciting about Alli's predictable case of Stockholm Syndrome either and finally, the focus on religious opinions is a total snore; just overall insignificant and dull...basically old news in this society of ours.

First Daughter is easily a thriller you can afford to pass up, although Lustbader has written works of far better quality; most specifically his series featuring Nicholas Linneer. The Linneer series begins with *The Ninja* (1980) and follows with *The Miko* (1984). If you just love reading political thrillers, I highly recommend checking out novels written by Phillip Margolin, who is a wildly talented storyteller.

Read more book reviews at <http://dreamworldbooks.com>.

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## **Angus Mcfarlane says**

A new detective hero, a dyslexic with a sixth sense for reconstructing disconnects to find the non intuitive insights that solves crimes - or prevents them from happening. Domestic troubles of course, with an additional tough streets backstory to fill the gaps. The plot taps into the highest levels of US government with a common first daughter link, and targets aspects of the religious dogma which drives political agenda (to whatever extent). And the bad guy is on a mission to respond to this for motivations of his own which also unravel slowly chapter by chapter. There were bits that were unconvincing somehow, the journey from semi-delinquency to trusted secret service agent relatively undisclosed - something for future books I guess. I found the background contrived at some points, as if trying to fit Jack in between the types already taken by others.

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## **Connie says**

This is #1 in a Jack McClure Novel.

This one started off very hard to read for me. I don't really care for religious zealots in a mystery that I am reading. However, about half way through, I actually started wanting to finish the book and find out how it all played out. I had trouble with the book jumping from one time frame to another without some better description. I wish when jumping from one time to another it would be better annotated.

It was intense in the last 100 pages and I had hard time putting it down, but because it took so long to get

there I almost gave up. I am glad that I didn't though as I really got to know Jack a whole lot better.

I am giving this 4 out of 5 stars.

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### **Jessica at Book Sake says**

First Daughter had me struggling from the beginning with confusing plot lines, characters with several names and various government agencies to try and keep straight. It had a great teaser to start off with, but then it launched into so many characters even different time frames that I had to re-read several chapters to try and understand the relevance. There was also a strong underlying anti-religion/super religious battle going on that really wasn't of interest to me. While those charged political issues can add to a story, in this case it felt overbearing. I have the newest book in this character's series and it doesn't seem to have the same political message to it so hopefully I will enjoy it more. The one thing that I did find interesting about this book was the psychological aspect of the kidnapper/kidnaped relationship and how one could get to that point of Stockholm syndrome. Other than that brief spark of interest I found the rest to be typical and overly preachy, which automatically puts a bad taste in my mouth.

Reviewed by Gabi for Book Sake. <http://booksake.blogspot.com>

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### **Eh?Eh! says**

was this part of a series? very unfinished feel, as if missing lots of backstory. doesn't make sense.

the dyslexic hero is supposedly able to process his surroundings and deduce things beyond normal comprehension, not quite based in logic as Sherlock Holmes. the soon-to-be first daughter is kidnapped and must be found before inauguration. the lame-duck president is fanatically religious and determined to somehow maintain control/set things in place to prevent the new more liberal president from 'destroying' the nation...this whole theme seems to trail off into nothing.

the kidnapper is some super-secret loose cannon spy who is protected by the government as a resource but is a crazy murderer. never explained how he knew all the personal secrets from the hero's past back to his childhood.

crappy thriller written just to sell. no real art to the writing, half-hearted attempts to be interesting. boo!

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### **Carmen says**

What a change of pace from the series of books that I had been reading -- and I loved every page, every line of it. Lustbader writes with such brilliance and suspense that it captivates you from the very beginning until the very end. The twist of McClure having dyslexia is impressive as Lustbader allows it to become McClure's unique weapon and not just as a lame attempt to defend those with his mental disorder. His writing is well-written, the research that went into it well-gathered and he explains all the government terms and procedures so well that you can understand it even if you're politically-disabled. The story was woven with characters and plots that were all interconnected beautifully and it kept you guessing. The conspiracies

and betrayals in the novel portrayed the dark side of the government. This portrayal of the things people do with their power and selfishness is so realistic that it might even sadden you that it seems hard to really trust anyone in the book. This novel was compelling, suspenseful and can't-stop-turning-the-page-cant-yet-sleep-until-its-done-going-to-have-dreams-about-it good! Definitely a MUST READ for everyone, for those who love suspense, and even for those who don't.

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## **Norm says**

I liked it ... I didn't like it.

I went back and forth this way, my feeling and mood for the book shifting from chapter to chapter.

One one hand, his description of the main character's battle with dyslexia was first rate and eyeopening. Likewise, the discussions about separation of church and state, and of how church and state keep the masses in line with fear was awesome.

But then he ruins this when his characters react in a weird way to something, with no explanation; or a few parts that made me read a couple times to see what I missed due to incongruities.

Overall, I kept turning the pages ... and I guess I liked it enough ... but, well (shrug).

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## **Jamie says**

I had never heard of this author until I recieved this book as well as the sequel, review coming soon, in the mail from the publisher. I've only read a couple of thrillers so far and this is one that I really enjoyed a lot. The synopsis of the book says a LOT about the story so I'm going to tell you what I liked about the book and hopefully not giveaway too much.

Number 1 I liked the characters....All the characters in my opinion were pretty great. Even the "bad guy." My personal favorite was Jack himself....He's a "broken" man who is trying to reconcile all the wrongs and hurts of his past.

Number 2, I loved how much of a fast paced read it was. Being that I have such eclectic tastes in books, if a book doesn't grab me and suck me in right away I get bored with it and have a tendency to move on to something else. That soooo did NOT happen with this story....I got sucked in right away and I had a very hard time putting this book down!

Number 3, all the twists and turns....Liked them a lot. Though there were a few times some of the twists and turns ended up confusing me, I was able to right myself again pretty quickly. The author kept you guessing "who done it?" all the time.....I literally figured it out at the same time that Jack did.

Overall, I really enjoyed reading First Daughter. My only "problem" with the book was some of the twists and turns. But as I said above even in those few instances I was able to right myself again pretty quickly. I defiantly recommend reading this book....Even if you aren't into thrillers....It may be classified as a "thriller" but it is also a redemption story.



