THE PRESIDENT'S CHOICE · THE SECOND TERM · BOOK EIGHT

Karoline Leavitt

Never Surrender

Karoline Leavitt, Her Loyalty to President Donald J. Trump, and Her Historic Tenure as White House Press Secretary

by Robert Miller

Free Sample · Author's Preface and Chapter One

The President's Choice · The Second Term · Book Eight

International Publishing Corporation

Washington, D.C.

Copyright © 2026 by Robert Miller. All rights reserved.

An independent work. It has not been authorized, reviewed, or endorsed by its subject, by President Donald J. Trump, or by the White House.

Author's Preface

Every administration has a face, and every administration has a voice. The face belongs to the President. The voice, more often than Americans realize, belongs to the press secretary: the person who walks through the blue doors of the James S. Brady Press Briefing Room, steps up to a lectern bearing the seal of the White House, and explains to the nation and the world what its government is doing and why.

For nearly twenty months, from January 20, 2025, until August 27, 2026, that voice belonged to Karoline Leavitt. She was twenty-seven years old when she took the job, the youngest person ever to hold it. She came not from an Ivy League university or a television network but from Atkinson, New Hampshire, a town of a few thousand people where her family ran an ice cream stand and her father sold used trucks. She left the job at twenty-nine, the mother of two small children, having become the first press secretary in American history to serve while pregnant and the first to give birth while holding the office.

This book is about two things that defined her service. The first is loyalty. Karoline Leavitt worked for Donald J. Trump in some capacity for most of her adult life. She answered his mail as a college intern in 2018. She helped write his words and defend his record as a junior press aide in his first term. She spoke for his super PAC when many in Washington had written him off, and she spoke for his campaign through two assassination attempts and a historic comeback. When he returned to the White House, she stood at his podium and defended him, day after day, with a conviction that never appeared to waver. When she left, he called her one of his most trusted aides and asked her to remain one of his top outside advisers.

The second is competence. Loyalty alone does not make a good press secretary. The job requires command of an enormous range of

subjects, from tariff schedules to troop deployments to the details of a budget reconciliation bill. It requires stamina, composure under hostile questioning, quick judgment, and the discipline to say exactly what the President wants said and nothing that he does not. It requires managing a staff, coordinating with dozens of agencies, and making decisions about press access that will be second-guessed by the most powerful news organizations in the world. By the measure that mattered most to the man she served, Karoline Leavitt did all of this exceptionally well.

Readers should know where this book stands. It is an appreciation, written from the point of view of those who admired her work and who believe that her tenure deserves to be recorded in detail. It is not a neutral chronicle, and it does not pretend to be. But an appreciation that ignores criticism is not worth much, so a later chapter sets out the most serious objections her critics raised, in fairness to them, alongside the answers her defenders gave. A reader who disagrees with the conclusions of this book should still find in it an accurate account of what she did and said.

A word on sources. Everything in this book is drawn from the public record: White House briefing transcripts, official statements, her own public remarks and social media posts, and reporting from news organizations across the political spectrum. Where her words are quoted, they come from published sources listed in the bibliography. I have not invented dialogue, imagined private conversations, or put words in anyone's mouth. Where the record is thin, I have said so.

Karoline Leavitt's story is, in the end, an American story. It is about a young woman from a working family who believed in a cause and a leader, worked harder than anyone around her, and found herself, before her thirtieth birthday, speaking for the most powerful office on earth. Whatever one thinks of the President she served, that story is worth telling.

Robert Miller

Washington, DC
November 2026

Part One

Formation

Chapter One

Atkinson — An Ice Cream Stand and a Work Ethic

A Small Town on the Border

Atkinson, New Hampshire, sits in the southeastern corner of the state, close enough to the Massachusetts line that many of its residents cross it every day for work, school, or shopping. It is the kind of place that national reporters pass through every four years on their way to a diner in Manchester or a town hall in Exeter, and then forget. The town has a few thousand residents, a handful of churches, a historical society, and the rhythms of a community where people know one another's families going back generations.

Karoline Claire Leavitt was born there on August 24, 1997, the youngest of three children of Bob and Erin Leavitt. Her arrival came in the last years of the twentieth century, in an America that was prosperous and at peace, and that had little idea of the political upheavals ahead. Bill Clinton was in his second term. The internet was still a novelty in most homes. A New York real estate developer named Donald Trump was a celebrity, an author, and a fixture of tabloid pages, but almost no one imagined him as a future President.

New Hampshire, however, was already a state that took politics personally. Its first-in-the-nation presidential primary means that its citizens meet candidates face to face in living rooms and VFW halls, ask them hard questions, and expect real answers. Children in New Hampshire grow up seeing would-be Presidents at the county fair.

The state's motto, "Live Free or Die," is not a slogan people say ironically. It is printed on every license plate, and it shapes a political culture that is skeptical of distant authority, protective of individual liberty, and proud of its independence.

That culture left a mark on the youngest Leavitt. Years later, when she ran for Congress, she would speak of New Hampshire values in terms that were not abstract: low taxes, local control, personal responsibility, faith, and family. They were the values of the town she grew up in.

The Family Business

The Leavitts were a small-business family. They operated an ice cream stand, a seasonal business of the sort that dots the roads of New England every summer, drawing families after Little League games and teenagers on warm evenings. Her father also ran a used truck dealership in neighboring Plaistow. Neither business made anyone famous. Both demanded long hours, careful attention to costs, and the constant work of keeping customers happy.

Karoline worked at the ice cream stand as a girl. Scooping cones is the kind of job that politicians like to mention in campaign biographies, and it would be easy to dismiss as a stock detail. But anyone who has worked behind a counter on a hot July night knows what it teaches. A line of impatient customers does not care how tired you are. A mistake on an order has to be fixed with a smile. The cash drawer has to balance at the end of the night. The ice cream does not order itself, the freezers do not clean themselves, and if the weather turns cold for a week, the family's income for the season takes a hit that no government program will make up.

She later spoke of the experience as formative, crediting it with teaching her the value of hard work and the direct link between effort and reward. It also gave her an understanding of the pressures that small-business owners face from taxes, regulations, rising costs, and

economic downturns. When she later defended President Trump's economic agenda, including his tax cuts and his push to reduce federal regulations, she was not speaking only from a policy memo. She was speaking from the counter of a family business.

The used truck dealership taught a different kind of lesson. Selling vehicles means negotiating, reading people, and knowing a product well enough to answer any question a customer might throw at you. It means building a reputation in a small community where word travels fast. These are, not coincidentally, many of the same skills required of a press secretary: know your material cold, read the room, answer hard questions directly, and protect your principal's reputation.

A Catholic Household

The Leavitts raised their children in the Roman Catholic faith, and religion was not a Sunday-only matter in their home. Faith would become one of the defining features of Karoline Leavitt's public life. As press secretary, she frequently wore a small cross necklace at the podium. She spoke openly about prayer, and before at least one briefing she was recorded praying with her staff, asking for the strength, knowledge, and ability to articulate her words. When she announced her second pregnancy in December 2025, she thanked God for what she called the blessing of motherhood, which she said she believed was the closest thing to Heaven on Earth.

Her Catholicism was not a political pose adopted for a conservative audience. It was rooted in a childhood of parish life, sacraments, and Catholic schooling. It shaped her views on family and on the dignity of work, and it gave her what many people of faith describe as a sense of perspective: the conviction that a bad day in the briefing room, or even a lost election, is not the measure of a life.

Growing Up in the Shadow of Boston

Southern New Hampshire is part of the greater Boston media market. Children there grow up watching Boston television, rooting for the Red Sox, the Patriots, the Celtics, and the Bruins, and absorbing a regional culture that is sharply competitive and quick with a comeback. Boston sports talk radio, in particular, has long been a school for verbal combat: hosts and callers who argue at high speed, interrupt one another, and never concede a point without a fight.

There is no record that Karoline Leavitt was a talk-radio caller. But those who watched her spar with reporters in the briefing room often remarked on a certain New England directness in her style, a willingness to say plainly that a question was unfair or that a premise was false. It is a style common to people who grew up around the dinner tables and ballfields of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, where conversation is a contact sport.

The Youngest of Three

Being the youngest child in a busy family often produces a particular kind of person: someone who learns early to speak up to be heard, to hold her own in arguments with older siblings, and to make her case quickly before the conversation moves on. Psychologists debate how much birth order really matters, and this book will not settle that debate. But it is worth noting that the woman who became famous for rapid-fire responses and a refusal to be talked over grew up as the youngest voice at her family's table.

What is certain is that her family supported her ambitions. Her parents and siblings would appear at her campaign events in 2022, and her family remained a constant presence in her life through her time in Washington. When she stepped down as press secretary in August 2026, she spoke of her own children and of the kind of mother she wanted to be, values she plainly learned in Atkinson.

The Working-Class Message

It is worth pausing on why these early details matter to the larger story of her service to President Trump. Donald Trump's political rise, beginning in 2015, was built in large part on a promise to working Americans who felt that the political establishment of both parties had forgotten them. He spoke to factory workers, truck drivers, small-business owners, and families in towns that had lost jobs to globalization. Critics argued that a billionaire from Manhattan was an unlikely champion of the working class. His supporters answered that he was the only national figure who seemed to be listening.

For an administration built on that message, a press secretary who came from a family business in a small New England town was more than a biographical curiosity. She was a living example of the voters the President claimed to represent. When she spoke about the price of groceries, the burden of inflation, or the struggles of small-business owners, she could draw on her own experience. That authenticity was part of what made her an effective messenger, and it was part of why Donald Trump chose her.

Character Formed Early

When people who knew Karoline Leavitt as a girl were asked about her in later years, the qualities they described were consistent: hardworking, competitive, confident, and serious about her faith. These are not unusual traits in a successful person. What was unusual was how early they appeared and how steadily they held. She did not, by any account, drift through her teenage years unsure of what she wanted. She seemed to know from early on that she wanted to work in communications and politics, and she pursued that goal with a single-mindedness that would carry her to the White House while most of her peers were still finding their first jobs.

The road from Atkinson to the West Wing ran through a Catholic high school in a struggling Massachusetts mill city, a small Benedictine

college in Goffstown, and a summer internship in a White House office that most Americans have never heard of. Each step built on the last. But the foundation was laid at home: in a family business, a Catholic parish, and a small town that believed hard work would be rewarded.

CONTINUE READING

The President’s Choice

Portraits of the people who served
President Donald J. Trump.

Karoline Leavitt — The President’s Choice · The Second Term · Book Eight — publication date and price to be announced.

ipcnews.org · ipc.asia

orders@ipcnews.org

International Publishing Corporation

Washington, D.C.

© 2026 Robert Miller. All rights reserved.