

The Kid Who Became President

Dan Gutman

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Judson Moon, a thirteen-year-old boy from Ohio, has won the Presidential election of the year 2000. Moon's assistant and best friend Lane, a young whiz kid who loves to take on challenges, helped him find loopholes (discussed in the prequel, *The Kid Who Ran for President*), through which he was able to run for the presidential election, and now has become his Chief of Staff, the closest aid to the President. Moon's "First Babe" is Chelsea Daniels, a ridiculously gorgeous girl with the I.Q of a rock, always spoilt by her ravishing good looks as well as excessive wealth. Moon's Vice-President is Ms. June Syers, an old black woman who used to be Moon's babysitter and is the most intelligent woman Moon knows. Moon joins office with an approval rating of 92%, often called the "honeymoon period" of the presidency. Guarded by Secret Service Agent John Doe, Moon begins his job as President by attempting to abolish homework, one of his main campaign promises, yet Lane mocks him for his insolence and begins to help him with other Presidential duties, such as attending formal banquets as well as entertaining foreign ministers and guests. Soon, Moon begins to be the bud of the press' wrath, getting bashed for simple mistakes and accidents. The economy is in the gutter, unemployment is on the rise, and Moon realizes that legitimately, the President is not the all-powerful being we consider him to be, he is almost the country's cheerleader. A hurricane hits the South and Moon sends Chelsea, hoping to salvage her image as a blonde airhead. Chelsea returns stunned by the disaster and disparity of the hurricane and the people it leaves homeless, but no one believes she has truly changed; and as if things can not get any worse, Moon is the target of an assassination attempt in which Agent Doe takes a bullet in order to save him. Moon now has to face Supreme Commander Raul Trujillo, a Cantanian dictator who has been gathering troops along the border of Boraguay, an oil-producing nation and a friend of America. Moon, ambiguous about what to do, sees the ghost of Abraham Lincoln in the Lincoln bedroom (as many Presidents have actually said) and is told to "use his strength". Moon requests a meeting with Commander Trujillo, deciding to play a video game rather than having a war, the winner of which gets his way. Moon wins, returning to America as a hero before quitting in his annual State of the Union Address.

One of my personal favorites, this book has always caught my interest from page to page. Being a young kid from India who has always dreamt of becoming President, reading a book with a similar character in mind always leaves my mind in ecstasy and wonder of a vivid imagination. Moon is just an average teenager and not even that smart, yet he still manages to save the day, and believe it or not even though this seems a children's book adults can learn a lot from it too. This book shows how much we take our president for granted, criticizing the man without having even a single clue of his true powers or the true efforts he can put in towards his work. I recommend this book for anyone, no matter what the age, race, or gender because no matter how you see it, you will realize this book applies to everyone's lives.

Recommended Titles:

The Kid Who Ran for President – Dan Gutman

Honus and Me – Dan Gutman