LORENAA. HICKOK

## RELUCIANT FIRST LADY

INTIMATE STORY OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S EARLY PUBLIC LIFE

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Also by Lorena A. Hickok

The Story of Helen Keller's Great Teacher, Anne Sullivan Macy

RELUCTANT FIRST LADY



By LORENA A. HICKOK

ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS

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Printed in the United States of America by The Cornwall Press, Inc., Cornwall, N.Y. One day quite a few years ago, one of Mrs. Roosevelt's grandsons, then aged five, asked the late Malvina Thompson, her secretary:

"Tommy, who is Grandmère?"

"Why, she's your grandmother, of course," Tommy replied.

"I know that," he said patiently, "but who is she? Daddy listens to what she says. You do what she tells you to do. Everybody stands up when she comes in. Who is Grandmère?"

To that little boy, now a young man, and to all her other grandchildren, this book is dedicated, with affection.



#### RELUCTANT FIRST LADY

AN INTIMATE STORY OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT'S EARLY PUBLIC LIFE

#### By Lorena A. Hickok

AUTHOR OF The Touch of Magic

ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS

LORENA HICKOK is in a unique position to write the story of Eleanor Roosevelt's transition from a private individual to First Lady of the land. As a newspaper reporter, she had known Mrs. Roosevelt since Al Smith's campaign for President, and she was assigned by the Associated Press to cover her during her husband's presidential campaign in 1932. With this new assignment, the two shortly became, as they have remained, very good friends.

The author was at Mrs. Roosevelt's side throughout the momentous days of the campaign, election and inauguration. A frequent guest at the White House, she witnessed the adjustment of its new mistress to the occupancy of that residence. Together, they took the last trips that Mrs. Roosevelt attempted in a vain effort to preserve her anonymity. Reluctant First Lady gives a fascinating and heartwarming insight into the problems and sacrifices that confront an active private citizen, wife and mother, whose husband becomes President of the United States.

DODD, MEAD & COMPANY

The person who will read this story with the greatest joy will be Helen Keller herself, but many people will gain insights into the beauty of the human soul as they read this book.

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

### THE TOUCH OF MAGIC

THE STORY OF HELEN KELLER'S GREAT TEACHER: ANNE SULLIVAN MACY

#### By Lorena A. Hickok

AUTHOR (WITH ELEANOR ROOSEVELT) of Ladies of Courage, ETC.

Illustrated with a frontispiece portrait

THE PROSPECTS of life seemed bleak for Anne Sullivan when she received Captain Keller's offer to teach his daughter, Helen. The challenge was formidable as the child was deaf, dumb and blind. But, threatened with blindness herself, and terrified of having to return to the grim institution that had been her home, it was an answer to Anne's prayers.

Out of the tumultuous first days, Anne Sullivan brought order to the life of the tormented girl and, through the sense of touch, illuminated it with the power of communication. The specter of poverty, the discouragements and triumphs, Anne's own unsuccessful marriage, all served only to strengthen the bond between Helen Keller and her "other self."

Lorena Hickok traces the moving course of the extraordinary relationship that developed between teacher and pupil in a book that cannot fail to stir the hearts of readers.



Photo By A. David Gurewitsch

LORENA HICKOK was born in East Troy, Wisconsin; graduated from Battle Creek High School; and attended the University of Minnesota.

She worked for twenty years as a newspaper reporter, covering everything from politics to football. Among the papers on which she served are the *Milwaukee Sentinel* and *Minneapolis Tribune*.

From July, 1933, to January, 1937, she was a confidential investigator for Harry Hopkins and in 1939 she was in charge of promotion work among children and schools for the New York World's Fair.

For five years she was with the Democratic National Committee in Washington, D.C., first as assistant to the publicity director and then as executive secretary to the Women's Division. She was assistant to the vice-chairman of the New York State Democratic Committee for three years.

Miss Hickok has written biographies of Franklin D. Roosevelt, Eleanor Roosevelt and Helen Keller for young readers, and she collaborated with Mrs. Roosevelt on *Ladies of Courage*. She lives in Hyde Park, New York, where she is working on her next book.

