The Obamas

The centrality of the Obama marriage to the president's political success and future potential will be reflected in the White House. Michelle Obama is beginning to gauge her ability to affect the administration.

The questions they have long debated over the course of their partnership. The administration is Barack Obama's test, Michelle Obama is beginning to gauge her ability to affect the question. "I am so not interested in a lot of the hard decisions that he's making," she said, drawing on her experience as a lawyer. But even as they serve as sources of continuity for each other, the president and his wife are also becoming a new pair of leaders, a new center of power. The Obama date-night tradition stretches back to when Barack was a senator, but it has evolved as they have entered the White House. They are no longer as easily available to each other. Like every other modern couple, the Obamas are struggling to find a balance between career and family. They are also grappling with the ways in which their new roles as first lady and president have altered their relationships.

Michelle Obama accepted that she was not going to have a conventional marriage, that her husband's career is ahead of hers. Michelle Obama has always been a fighter, a woman who has struggled to figure out where she fits in her husband's organization. Political operatives have a tendency to see her as a personal assistant or a gatekeeper. She is much more than that. She is a wife, a mother, a politician, and she is beginning to see herself as a leader.

"By having to work hard at it, it strengthened their marriage." Michelle Obama has always been a fierce advocate for her husband's career. She has always been a person who has been willing to make sacrifices. But she has also been a person who has been willing to fight for what she wants. She has always been a person who has been willing to take risks. She is a woman who has always been willing to take on challenges. She is a woman who has always been willing to be a leader.

"I would say the one time during our stay here in the White House when we were really thinking about leaving was when we were talking about health care," Michelle Obama said. "We were talking about the possibility of me running for office, and then I thought, 'I don't want to leave my husband.'" Michelle Obama has always been a woman who has been willing to take on challenges. She is a woman who has always been willing to be a leader. She is a woman who has always been willing to take on risks. She is a woman who has always been willing to be a fighter. She is a woman who has always been willing to be a leader.

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