

"EMOTIONAL, ENTHRALLING AND INSPIRING. IT'S ALSO VERY FUNNY." —ALYSSA MASTROMONACO

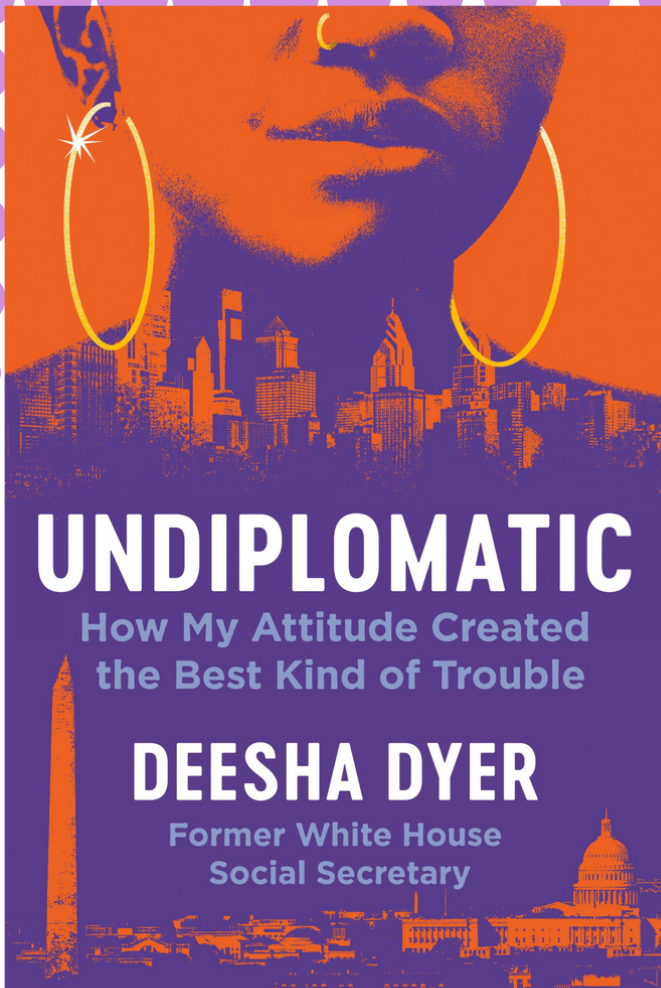
LEGACYLIT 

UNDIPLOMATIC BOOK CLUB READING GUIDE

ENTER FOR A CHANCE TO GET A SIGNED BOOKPLATE!

In celebration of the publication of *Undiplomatic*, we're offering signed bookplates to the first 50 readers who ordered the book (Proof of purchase required) and fill out the form below. Click below to request!


[GET A BOOKPLATE!](#)



INCLUDING:

- Discussion Questions
- Photos
- Lessons from The White House
- Exclusive Book Playlist


DISCUSSION QUESTIONS




When Deesha applied for the White House Internship, she didn't think she would get the position but applied anyway, and got the job! Have you ever gone after a role you weren't sure you'd get? Did you get it? How'd you feel?




Music, specifically hip-hop, plays such a big role in Deesha's life. Songs by artists like Missy Elliott, A Tribe Called Quest, the Roots, Rakim, and Nas were the soundtrack to her life. What music artists do you think would be on the soundtrack to your life?



In Chapter 5, Deesha says "The thing about imposter syndrome is that even when you're managing it well, possibly even fooling yourself into thinking you have overcome it, it creeps right back up when challenging or new situations arise." Why, according to Deesha, does that happen?



Change isn't just the name of the Rottweiler in Deesha's story but a major theme of the book. Aspiring (and ultimately successfully) making BIG positive change in the world was one of her driving forces - even when she felt aimless. What kind of BIG positive change do you hope to make in the world?



At the end of *Undiplomatic*, Deesha again battles feelings of disappointment and rejection when she doesn't land the new job she hoped for - but accepts herself as a "complicated creature of contradictions, revelations and evolution." What did that tell you about her growth over the course of the book?



A Young Deesha at her desk



Photo by Ellen Shope-Whitley



Deesha at the White House!



Courtesy of the Obama White House

*Deesha working with President Obama
as Social Secretary*

8 THINGS DEESHA LEARNED AT THE WHITE HOUSE

1 Always have your core family and friends closest to you. They help love on you, keep you grounded, tell you the truth, and allow you to unwind, be yourself and relax in the midst of chaos. (Michelle Obama calls this her 'kitchen cabinet'.)

2 Think through all options before making a decision. We are quick to rush to a decision based on our experience or perceptions, which makes sense, but try thinking outside the box, outside the status quo in order to explore other solutions, choices or paths that may have not been obvious to you.

3 When someone makes you upset or makes you feel a certain type of way that isn't good, evaluate what it is that allows you to give them access to make you feel that way? Why do they have so much power over how you see yourself?

4 Worry, nerves and anxiety are a natural reaction to vulnerability.

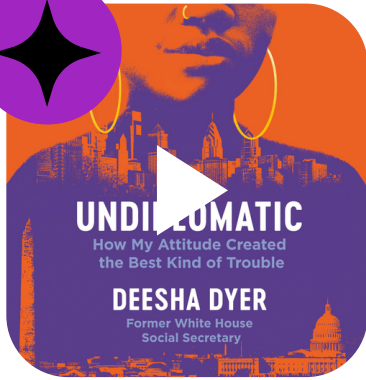
5 Allow yourself to make mistakes and be kind to yourself when you do - it's the only way you'll learn.

6 As hard as it is to practice, there is a time and a place for reactive outrage and defensiveness. Standing down doesn't mean giving up, it sometimes means strategizing to make the smartest decision and best move that will have the greatest impact.

7 Reward, lift up and thank those with the thankless jobs - the nurses, teachers, front-line workers, social workers, janitors, farmers, etc.

8 It is your responsibility to help each other. We all got to where we are because someone helped us. It is our obligation and honor to pass that on.

***** Bonus - Sometimes you have to let people go.



UNDIPLOMATIC

Playlist

20 Songs

Listen while you read!



Love Rain (Head Nod Mix..

Jill Scott, Mos Def



Floetic

Floetry



The Next Movement

The Roots, DJ Jazzy Jeff, ...



In Time - Maw Mix

DJ Jazzy Jeff, V, Masters At ...



Closer

Goapele



Around The Way Girl

LL Cool J



LISTEN HERE