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Weinstein Author Series Event Offers an Irreverent Look at George Washington with *You Never Forget Your First*

Presidential historian Alexis Coe's myth-crushing biography reveals that Washington is not quite the man we remember.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PLEASE NOTE: This talk has been changed from an in-person event to an online event.

(Richmond, Virginia) – The Library of Virginia's **2021 Carole Weinstein Author Series** (www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein) continues with a free online talk by presidential historian and *New York Times* best-selling author Alexis Coe on November 17 at 6:00 PM. Her book *You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington* mixes thorough research with compelling storytelling in a humorous and highly readable format.

The Carole Weinstein Author Series supports the literary arts by bringing both new and well-known authors to the Library of Virginia. **Free and open to the public**, the series focuses on Virginia authors and Virginia subjects across all genres.

For more information, contact Dawn Greggs at 804.692.3813 or dawn.greggs@lva.virginia.gov.

Wednesday, November 17, 2021 | 6:00–7:30 PM

Online | Free, but registration required: www.lva.virginia.gov/public/weinstein

ALEXIS COE

You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington

Alexis Coe is a historian and the author of the narrative history book *Alice + Freda Forever: A Murder in Memphis* (and a consultant on the movie adaptation). Her second book, the *New York Times* best seller *You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington*, cracked open the scholarship around George

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Washington and was named as one of *Time* magazine's 100 Books to Read. Coe is a consulting producer on Doris Kearns Goodwin's three-part George Washington series on the History Channel. She is the host of the podcast *No Man's Land* and co-hosted the podcast *Presidents Are People Too!* Coe has served as a project-based oral historian at the Brooklyn Historical Society and as a research curator in the Exhibitions Department at the New York Public Library. She curated the ACLU's *100 Years* exhibition and was the assistant curator of the New York Public Library's centennial exhibition in Bryant Park. She has appeared on CNN, the History Channel, C-SPAN, and CBS, and lectured at Columbia, West Point, Georgetown, Sarah Lawrence, New York University, the New School, the University of San Francisco, and other colleges. Coe has given talks sponsored by Hulu, Chanel, and Madewell. Her work has been included in *The Best American Essays* (about living a feminist Walden in California) and *The Best American Travel Essays* (the *New Republic* sent her on a seven-day, multi-state wagon ride to reenact the Gold Rush), and her essay on how marriage helps male professors get ahead was one of *The Atlantic's* Great Debates of the Year in 2013. She has contributed to the *New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *New Republic*, the *Paris Review*, *Elle*, and many others.

About You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington

In this instant *New York Times* best seller, Alexis Coe takes a closer look at our first—and finds he is not quite the man we remember. Young George Washington was raised by a struggling single mother, demanded military promotions, caused an international incident, and never backed down—even when his dysentery got so bad he had to ride with a cushion on his saddle. But after he married Martha, everything changed. Washington became the kind of man who named his dog Sweetlips and hated to leave home. He took up arms against the British only when there was no other way, though he lost more battles than he won. After an unlikely victory in the Revolutionary War cast him as the nation's hero, he was desperate to retire, but the founders pressured him into the presidency—twice. When he retired years later, no one talked him out of it. He left the highest office heartbroken over the partisan nightmare his backstabbing cabinet had created. Back on his plantation, the man who fought for liberty confronted his greatest hypocrisy—what to do with the men, women, and children he owned—before he succumbed to death. With irresistible style and warm humor, *You Never Forget Your First* combines rigorous research and lively storytelling that will have readers—including those who thought presidential biographies were just for dads—inhaling every word.

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ABOUT THE LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

The Library of Virginia is one of the oldest agencies of Virginia government, founded in 1823 to preserve and provide access to the state's incomparable printed and manuscript holdings. Its collection, which has grown steadily through the years, is the most comprehensive resource in the world for the study of Virginia history, culture, and government with over 130 million items in the collections. The Library also engages the public through in-person and virtual events, education programs, and online resources that reach nearly 4 million individuals each year throughout the commonwealth and beyond.

November 3, 2021