



Laura Krauss Melmed

Capital!
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Imagine yourself on a journey. You have been driving on dusty roads all night. As the sun rises, you find yourself on a broad avenue lined with tall, leafy trees. Clear morning light gleams on white marble buildings. A grand domed structure with shaded grounds stands before you.

A long time ago, on a trip from the southern part of the United States to the north, I rode through this beautiful scene in Washington, D.C. Several years later, I was lucky enough to move here.

Washington, D.C. is the capital of our country, headquarters for the president, Congress, and the Supreme Court. But since our government is a democracy, each of us plays an important part in it. So whether you live in Anchorage or Detroit, on a farm in Nebraska or a small town in Mississippi, Washington is yours to be proud of.

The places in *Capital!* range from inspirational sites like the Lincoln Memorial, to places of solemn importance like the Holocaust Memorial Museum, to popular spots like the National Zoo. All of them together make Washington a city like no other. If you have been to Washington, you can use this book as a remembrance of what you saw and did. If not, I hope that one day you will have the chance to visit or to live here, so that you can explore for yourself, from A to Z, your very special capital, Washington, D.C.