

# Saturday Meanderings



From the Garden

I hope this blog post finds you having a delicious cup of coffee (or tea) and a relaxing morning. Thanks for joining me for Saturday Meanderings as we chat about all things good this week!

I cannot tell you how much I enjoy hearing about your home projects or trying a recipe I've shared. My sweet neighbor, Tevia, got inspiration from the stenciled bathroom tile floor in our pool house. She tackled her guest house bathroom floor. Isn't this amazing?



before



And now, she just completed her laundry room floor, using a different stencil but with only one color. It looks completely different! Wow!



Before



## Great Customer Service



Nespresso Breville Creatista coffee machine

I love my coffee every morning and two years ago, my family bought a [Nespresso Breville Creatista](#) coffee machine for my birthday. Multiple times a day this coffee machine is creating lattes, cappuccinos, you name it. Recently, though, the water

tank in the back was leaking intermittently.

So we call Nespresso's customer service and they conduct a leak test over the phone (took 20 minutes) and quickly sent a replacement tank. However, when it arrived, it was the wrong size. So I call again. Apparently they have discontinued this model and no longer have a replacement tank. So what did they do? They sent me a brand, new machine at no cost! [This particular model](#) retails at \$599.99! How nice that Nespresso stands by their products.

## Pretty Things and Images

Look at this spectacular photo of a chrysanthemum. I'm not sure I've ever truly appreciated the beauty of this flower. Wouldn't this make a spectacular painting?



Photographer unknown

If you shop at Target, check out these cute rain boots from Smith and Hawkin. Click [here](#) for the link.



Cindy Hattersley from Cindy Hattersley Designs recently posted this picture. These are the last of her roses and the way they are captured on her new iPhone 12 is amazing. See her blog post [here](#).



Photo by Cindy Hattersley

# My Painting Aspirations

Last year, I didn't paint as much as I would have liked. So this year, the plan is to schedule time to each week to paint. I would like to attempt painting animals. Here is some inspiration.



Art by [Carol McArdle](#)



Painting by [Teresa Elliott](#)



[Cheri Christensen](#) artist

## On My Bucket List



Visiting the People's House during Christmas is on my bucket list. I have been by the White House but never inside. My sweet friend, Effie went this year and shared these pictures. I meant to post them during the holidays, but they are lovely no matter what time of year it is.



Look at the rose garland and this bouquet with Abraham Lincoln overseeing it all



The theme is America the Beautiful. So often we forget that living in this country is such a privilege and in spite of its problems and political differences, it is certainly the best nation in the world.



The Gingerbread House in the State Dining Room

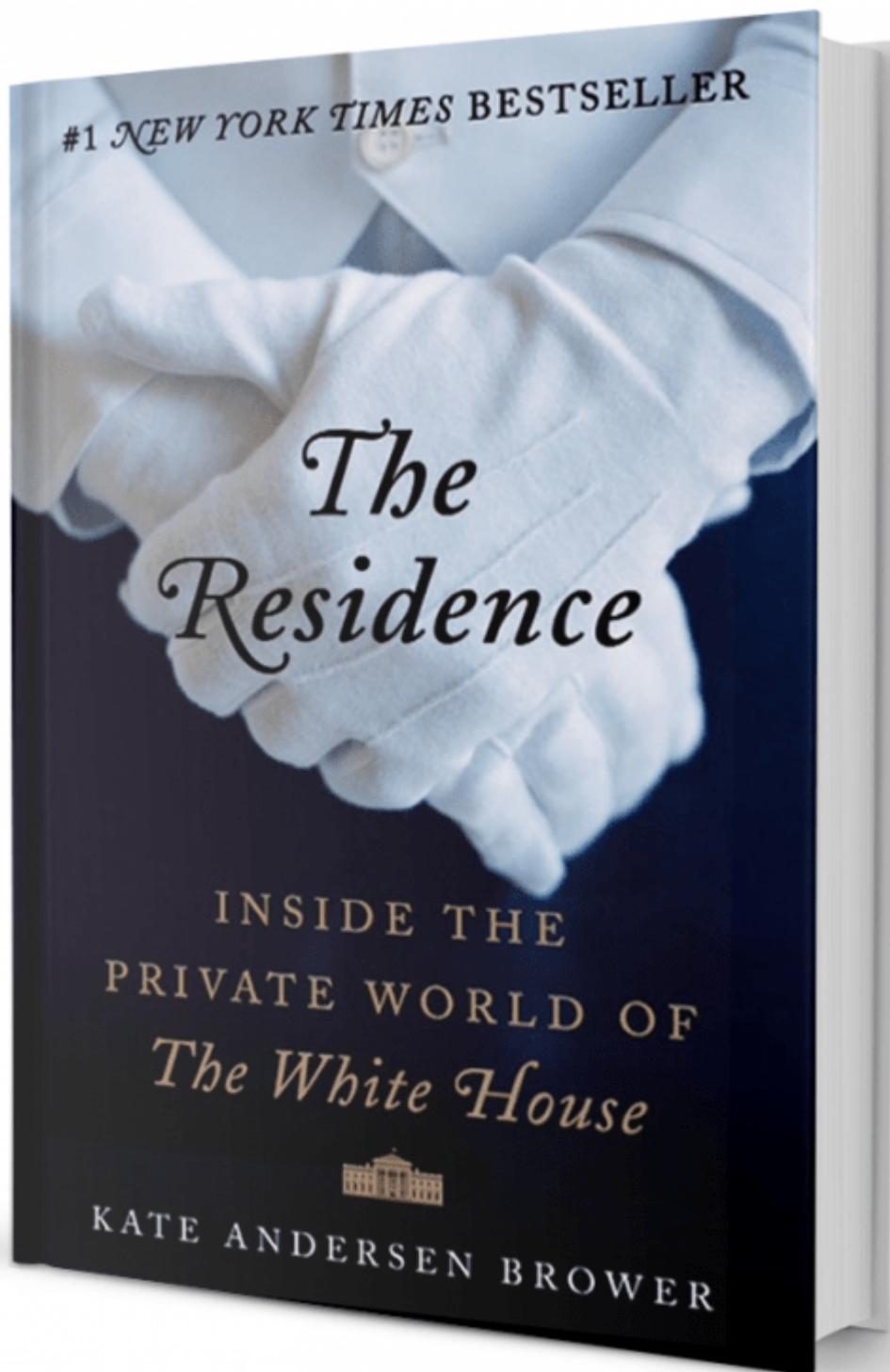
This delectable wonder replicates the West Wing, Executive Residence, East Wing and for the first time, the Rose Garden and the First Ladies' Garden. Constructed from 275 pounds of gingerbread dough, 110 pounds of pastille dough, 30 pounds of gum paste, 25 pounds of chocolate and 25 pounds of Royal icing, every detail is an exact replica.



Brochure illustrated by Carole Biggio

She also sent me the accompanying book, illustrated by [Carole Biggio](#), which for a budding artist like me, is a dream to have.

As politicians come and go, the White House staff mostly remains. If you haven't read this book by Kate Andersen Brower, you will find all the stories interesting. The Residence can be found [here](#).



To close, I have a short, funny video of Cooper. Life with our dogs is a constant adventure!

Have a spectacular weekend!

*Mary*