**Press Release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Bruce L. Bortz, Publisher  
Bancroft Press  
bruceb@bancroftpress.com  
410-627-0608

**Acclaimed Young Adult Novel "Running Mates" by Emily Locker Featured in *First for Women* Magazine's Prestigious YA Roundup**

**Los Angeles, CA, July 6, 2024** – Bancroft Press is thrilled to announce that *Running Mates*, the debut young adult novel by Emily Locker, has been honored with a spot in *First for Women* magazine's highly regarded feature, "10 Young Adult Novels That Will Make You Feel Like a Teenager Again." This recognition places *Running Mates* among some of the most compelling YA reads of the year, highlighting its relevance and appeal to both young and adult readers.

In the article, *First for Women* praises the novel for its "rich character arc and relatable life drama," noting the unique blend of political and personal themes that make it a standout in the genre. The story, which follows Annabelle Morningstar and Gabe Delgado as they navigate their budding romance amidst the political tensions of their divided town, has resonated deeply with readers and critics alike.

*First for Women* magazine has a significant reach and impact, with a strong circulation. The magazine is published by A360media in the U.S. and had a circulation of over 1.3 million copies as of recent data. The magazine focuses on women's lifestyle content, including health, beauty, diet, and family, and it is known for its practical advice and inspiring stories​

**About *Running Mates***

*Running Mates* is a contemporary young adult novel that delves into the complexities of love, politics, and personal growth. Set in the politically charged town of Edgartown, North Carolina, the novel tells the story of Annabelle Morningstar, a passionate high school activist raised by her two mothers, and Gabe Delgado, the son of a conservative Cuban senator. Despite their polarized upbringings, Annabelle and Gabe find themselves drawn together through their shared passion for cross-country running and their mutual love for a local bookstore facing unionization.

Through its engaging narrative and well-developed characters, *Running Mates* explores themes of ideological divides, youth activism, and the power of empathy and compromise. It has been praised for its timely social commentary and its ability to resonate with readers of all ages.

**Praise for *Running Mates***

* “*Running Mates* is a fun, exhilarating sprint from start to finish. With a pitch-perfect blend of drama, humor, and romance, author Emily Locker takes readers on an exciting romp with a couple whose star-crossed love story crackles with chemistry and will-they-won’t-they tension.” – Soman Chainani, Author of the Bestselling *The School for Good and Evil* Series
* “Charming, fast-paced, and heartwarming story of young love facing political discord and parental expectations. Locker captures the complexities of ideology meeting real life.” – *BookLife/Publishers Weekly*
* “This YA novel deep dives into the complexities of activism. It’s a great read (or listen) for anyone who wants a dose of empathy in their summer.” – *Parents Magazine*’s 2024 Ultimate Summer Reading List for Teens and Tweens

**About the Author**

Emily Locker is a DC-based psychotherapist who works with college and high school students. She is passionate about helping young people navigate the challenges of growing up in a complex and often divided world. *Running Mates* is her debut novel, and she continues to write stories that explore social and political themes through engaging and relatable narratives.

**About Bancroft Press**

Bancroft Press, based in La Crescenta, CA, has been a top-ten indie publisher since its inception in 1992. Known for its diverse range of publications, Bancroft Press has a reputation for producing high-quality books that often receive critical acclaim and have been optioned by Hollywood producers. The press publishes 4-6 books annually, covering genres from memoirs to mysteries and young adult novels to history and biography.

For more information about *Running Mates* and to schedule interviews with Emily Locker, please contact Bruce L. Bortz at bruceb@bancroftpress.com or 410-627-0608.

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For further details, visit [Bancroft Press](http://www.bancroftpress.com) and [Emily Locker's website](http://www.emilylocker.com).

"#RunningMates #EmilyLocker #YoungAdultBooks #YAFiction #FirstForWomen #BookFeature #BookRecommendation #YARomance #PoliticalFiction #SocialCommentary #YAReads #BancroftPress #BookRelease #NewBooks2024 #BookLovers #MustRead #BookCommunity #ReadersOfInstagram #Bookstagram"