

Obama visit countdown: 4 books for the White House night stand

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View full size AP file In this file photo, President Barack Obama, accompanied by U.S. Secret Service agents, greets people after speaking in East Peoria, Ill., last year.

4 days until Obama visits Kalamazoo

1. “Die Trying One Man’s Quest to Conquer the Seven Summits,” by Bo Parfet, of Kalamazoo, with Richard Buskin. The story of Parfet’s journey through his own insecurities, personal struggles and triumphs in climbing the highest mountain on each continent — Mount Kilimanjaro, Aconcagua (South America), Denali (North America), Vinson Massif (Antarctica), Elbrus (Europe), Carstenz Pyramid (Australia/Indonesia) and Kosciusko (Australia), Mount Everest (Asia) in May 2007.

LIVE VIDEO | LIVE CHAT

Join our live chat at 7 p.m. June 7 on [Facebook.com/MLive](https://www.facebook.com/MLive) to watch and discuss President Obama's speech at Kalamazoo Central's commencement ceremony.

2. "American Salvage," by Bonnie Jo Campbell. A collection of short stories focused on working-class Michigan life; a National Book Award Finalist for fiction, 2009. Included on a list of the 2010 Michigan Notable Books from The Library of Michigan.

3. "Stitches: A Memoir," David Small. An illustrated story of a child who found refuge in books and drawing. Also included on a list of the 2010 Michigan Notable Books from The Library of Michigan.

4. "The Girl Who Ate Kalamazoo" by Darrin Doyle. Doyle paints a portrait of the all-American family — if the all-American family's youngest child ate an entire city in Michigan with a smile, that is.