America. I did not tune in to hear the debates. It was all empty and nonsensical to me. Hillary voted for the war. That's all I needed to know. She pandered to lobbyists and the popular opinion. She was not a leader or a visionary.

Barack made a ridiculous statement about bombing Pakistan because someone accused him of being soft on terrorism. It was a hysterical statement borne of inexperience and lack of self confidence (I surmised) and further cemented my opinion that he was not White House

Things continued in this refrain for months. I hardly paid attention to the debates. Hillary became increasingly more threatened by Barack and her husband started a national tour that consisted of him going to town halls and college campuses and calling Barack names and accusing him of being weak and essentially useless. Barack's camp comported themselves with aplomb and did not respond. That made me think that maybe he was more mature than I gave him credit for. The other candidates in the party started dropping like flies. It was now down to him and Hillary.

It was now that things started becoming interesting. Barack began to show that he was putting thought into how he would help the country recover from eight years of Bush. He wisely started emphasizing how he had been against the war from the beginning whereas some of his opponents did not show the same conviction. He and his advisors have been cultivating the image of a Barack who was a true leader and was not afraid to take an unpopular stand for the good of the populace. The thing is: America (and me) is starting to buy this. I have begun noticing that his campaign is consistently conducted with dignity and class (minus the Pakistan bombing debacle) and that he has not swayed once from his positions on Iraq, healthcare and immigration. I won't discuss what they are but rest assured I agree with them mostly. He started inspiring me again. If a black man could motivate a nation that has increasingly sunk into racism and war mongering to remember our humanity and the ideals that made us what we are, then anything was possible.

I watched the last debate. He made nice with Hillary, even said she would be on anyone's short list for vice president. It was all very fuzzy but I believed it. And so that brings me to the voting booth on a rainy day in February. I want this man to get the nomination. I am not sure that he will but the very fact that his name is on this piece of paper is stunning and makes me know that the tide has turned. Let's just hope it's not a riptide and we are not pulled under.

