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After reading *Accessories After the Fact: The Warren Commission, the Authorities and the Report* by Sylvia Meagher, I have, for the very first time, serious reservations about the Warren Commission Report and its findings. As an orthodox liberal who anguished through November 22nd and the days that followed, I have always rejected the conspiracy theory of history, particularly in this case. Jim Garrison's pitiful antics in New Orleans could not sway me. Mark Lane and Roy Cohn did not convince me.

Sure there were loose ends and curious inconsistencies in the Report, but the basic conclusion seemed right, if bizarre, because they said so, and *The New York Times* agreed. Now, with Richard Nixon, Watergate, and the CIA disclosures, to distrust the Commission's findings does not seem so unreasonable—especially after going through Meagher's massive indictment of the Report, the Commission's investigative methods, the Dallas police, and the media. She tears into the evidence, the theories, and the people involved, revealing glaring contradictions and unexplained gaps: What is the Cuban connection? How could Kennedy have been shot front and back from the same location? Why was Oswald arraigned for Tippit's murder, not Kennedy's, with this subsequently denied by the Dallas police? Why did the FBI deny its relationship to Oswald? Why did the media leap on the Commission bandwagon?

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Besides discrediting a great deal of Commission activity and asking many (still) unanswered questions, Meagher's information allows the reader to hypothesize a vast bureaucratic conspiracy in the name of "National Security." Believable?

The book is dynamite; well researched (she has provided the only authoritative Commission index) and well written. Beyond its sheer power for the individual reader, *Accessories After the Fact* offers opportunities for classroom assignments, projects and papers, both for individuals and groups. It's also very scary. (Vintage, \$5.95)—P.M.

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