

6223 Azalea Lane  
January 5, 1964

Dear Sylvia,

It seems as though I started to write you a letter ten years ago in stead of shortly after Adlai Stevenson was so rudely attacked in this now infamous city. It was the day that Gen. Walker flew the American flag upside down in front of his house here to protest the city of Dallas's apologia to Ambassador Stevenson. I then became involved in some art work and was doing just that on November 22 at 12:40 when a friend called and told us he had just heard on TV that Kennedy and Connolly had been shot downtown. As the President had been in Fort Worth the night before and I knew he would be in a motorcade here the next day I turned on the set around 10:00 AM but of course they no longer give you live television - they tape the events for later newscasts (the most recent exception being the murder of Oswald). I had originally planned to go downtown that day - do some shopping and see the President at the same time. But I changed my mind because there had been much speculation about demonstrations by the "extremists" Rumor had it that after the embarrassment (Oh boy, how cautiously and tactfully they handle those hoodlums - they being the city leaders) with Stevenson there would be a clampdown on that sort of thing. However, I felt it would be wiser to stay away for a number of reasons - parking and driving conditions would be difficult for one. The day before the assassination circulars were distributed downtown, on the campuses of SMU and two other small colleges in the area. These circulars had a picture of Kennedy and above it was printed "Wanted For Treason". One of the faculty at SMU told me that some of the students informed her that the circulars came from Gen. Walker's garage.

Since the assassination the town is rife with rumors. One of the more recent concerns Oswald. It seems as the story goes that there was a connection between Oswald and Jack Ruby but not a

political one. Ruby is supposed to have been dealing in marijuana from Mexico and that Oswald helped in bringing some in last October when border police had become too inquisitive. Ruby shot him before he could be transferred to the county jail because Ruby didn't have as many pals in the county jail as in the city jail and apparently was kept informed by his police friends as to what Oswald was saying to the FBI and the Secret Service. The whole sordid episode of Jack Ruby is so appalling in connection with the President who was a man of dignity, refinement and honor. I saw the frightful murder of Oswald that Sunday morning on television as I was eating my breakfast. As if the horrendous nightmare of the two previous days was not enough the witnessing of justice southern police style stunned one further into thinking that one had stumbled into a world of madness from which there was no exit. I mean it literally. When you went outdoors that evening there was a deceptive calm about that gorgeous technicolor sunset with the roses still in bloom which gave it all a sinister air. You felt that nature should weep.

This has been a most difficult letter to write so please forgive my ramblings. I will close by saying that everything you may have read about this city is true and more so. I am numb from the reams of copy that I have read and still every morning when I awaken I find it hard to accept the facts. One more thing, I was sickened to hear that school children applauded when the news that the elected President of their country had been brutally murdered in their city and believe me, it was in more than the one school as was reported. A majority of the citizens are appallingly apathetic over the events and keep smugly asserting that "it could have happened anywhere". The murder of Oswald while handcuffed to police officers in the basement of the police station doesn't seem to bother them too much let alone the fact of the infringements upon his civil rights or rather one should say abuse of his civil rights. They have made up their minds as a lot of people around the country that Oswald was guilty and if Jack Ruby shot him - "So What?" I could go on endlessly.

Now its about time for some personal things. How have you been. Did you have a pleasant holiday season? How is Alex I heard from Carrie that he was in the hospital again. Also, please forgive my gaffe about your writing - it is incredibly stupid of me after all these years not to know just what your position is at the UN.

Do take care and let us hear from you very soon  
and I promise a more prompt reply.

Love,

Mama

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but I have been so busy with school and my work  
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