

# Wine and Raises

## Think What a Wife's Secretary Could Do to Your Own Menage

By Art Buchwald

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THE MEMOIRS of Jackie Kennedy Onassis's secretary, Mary Gallagher, have titillated the world. Jackie's most secret thoughts and observations soon will appear in book form, after being serialized in the Ladies Home Journal.

I was as fascinated as anyone to read about Jackie's money problems, her attitude toward her White House guests, her penchant for clothes and her method of handling gifts sent to her for her children. I'll admit that at first I was critical of Jackie's behavior, but then the thought occurred to me what would happen if my wife had an upstairs secretary and the secretary wrote about all the things my wife did. It would go something like this:

"Annie Buchwald was quite lavish with money and never seemed to be able to make the books balance. Mr. Buchwald called me in one day and said that he was sick and tired of paying all of Mrs. Buchwald's bills and he wanted a complete record of everything she spent.

"When I informed Annie of this, she became enraged and told me to tell the caterer that the next time we had a party, he was to use leftover wine from glasses to refill the glasses of people still drinking.

"I ALWAYS worked upstairs in the bedroom, so no one knew that Annie had a secretary. Once the people from Newsweek came to the house to interview Annie, and she made me hide in the broom closet. She wanted everyone to think she answered her own mail.

"Annie could be kind, and at other times she could go into fits of rage. Once, I remember, the Salvation Army came to the door and she cleaned out the attic. But another time, when Mr. Buchwald lost \$100 at poker, she wouldn't talk to him for two days.

"It was difficult to get work done because Annie was always on the phone, either talking to her friends or

to her sister. I remember one hot day when we had to write a letter to Sears Roebuck about a broken washing machine and she said, 'Let's not work today, it's so lovely outside.'

" 'Wonderful,' I said. 'What should we do?'

" 'Why don't you clean the swimming pool?'

"It was this kind of thoughtfulness which made me want to work for Annie forever.

"But money was always a problem. I once asked her for a raise and she said, 'Of course, you need one. Ask my husband.' I asked Mr. Buchwald and he said I should ask Annie. I went back to Annie and she became furious and said, 'If I give you a raise, it will have to come out of my own pocket.'

"I went back to Mr. Buchwald, who said, 'I don't know what we'd do without you, Margie.' And I said, 'Does that mean I can have a raise?' And he said, 'Yes, but the next time we have a party, tell the caterer to mix ginger ale with the white wine. No one will know the difference.'

"I THINK one of the things that got Mr. Buchwald particularly mad was Annie's extravagances when it came to redecorating the house. Annie never seemed to get it the way she wanted it. One time she told Mr. Buchwald she wanted new slippers and he got infuriated and said, 'That does it. From now on we're not going to serve any wine.'

"I don't know what happened to turn Annie against me. One day she called me up and accused me of telling The Washington Post Society Editor that we weren't serving wine any more at our house. I protested that it hadn't come from me, but she was in such a state she wouldn't believe me.

"So I decided to write these memoirs. It will be a good lesson to her, and it will make her think twice about hiring another personal secretary."