

The Story of the Kennedy-Look Battle

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By JOHN CORRY

The suit that Mrs. John F. Kennedy brought against Look ended when the magazine revised some passages in its serialization of "The Death of a President" by William Manchester. The controversy lingers.

Mrs. Kennedy and her colleagues say they behaved honorably in the argument; the editors of Look say they did, too. Both sides point to the same letters, the same memorandums, the same conversations; both interpret them differently.

No one at Look or at Harper & Row, which will publish Mr. Manchester's full

account of the assassination of President Kennedy, is precisely sure of what happened. Neither are the Kennedys. Nearly everyone is annoyed, however, and nearly everyone has forgotten that it all began with a book.

Following is the story of the controversy as told by some of the participants:

The editors of Look first saw "The Death of a President" last July 18. That morning, Don Congdon, Mr. Manchester's literary agent, passed out Thermofax copies of the manuscript to six magazines—Life, The Saturday Evening Post, Ladies Home Journal, McCall's, Good

Housekeeping and Look.

Each magazine except Life received a single copy. Life had requested an extra one for an editor who was ill and wanted to read it at home.

No one else received a manuscript from Mr. Congdon, who asked each magazine to treat it discreetly.

Mike Land, a senior editor at Look, read that magazine's copy first. The manuscript from which all the copies were made had been edited by John Seigenthaler, the editor of The Nashville Tennessean, and Edwin O. Guthman, the national news editor of The

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