mounted remain in he renowoust just white a material much of which make no more a case closed Amental and to anything but a Ketional upolan ation of November 19 and 20. 102 There was no change in the motorcade route, and there was no doubt about the Elm Street crossing.\* mation Whether Oswald learned of the route on the day first published, twee cute the nineteenth, or on the next day, when he followed his routine Depository it is hard to Depository, it is hard to overestimate the impact of that discovaccount ery. Oswald, who thought his contribution to his revolutionary o simi cause would be the death of Walker, was suddenly faced with the depossibility of having a much greater impact on history and the machinery of government. Failed in his attempts to find happi-Selection youed to ness in Russia or the U.S., rejected by the Cubans, barely able to Wale of make a living in America, frustrated in his marriage, and introver. hounded, in his view, by the FBI, he was desperate to break out of aleks his downward spiral. He had endured long enough the humiliations of his fellow Marines, the Russian and Cuban bureaucrats, the employers that fired him, the radio ambush in New Orleans, Vin Jan the refusal of V. T. Lee and other Communist leaders to acknowledge his efforts and letters. Lee Oswald always thought he was smarter and better than other people, and was angered that others failed to recognize the stature he thought he deserved. Now, by chance, he had an opportunity that he knew would only hapon Thursday, ne had an op

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On Thursday, November 21, Oswald broke his routine of eating a meager breakfast at the rooming house. Instead, he treated

<sup>\*</sup>Some critics charge there were last-minute changes in the parade route and as "proof" cite a November 22 edition of the Dallas Morning News, which had a map of the motorcade that showed the cars proceeding straight along Main Street and not turning onto Houston. They contend that those responsible for the motorcade route altered it at the last moment so Oswald could have a clear shot. There was no last-minute change. Anyone familiar with Dallas traffic would immediately know that the only access from Main Street onto the Stemmons Freeway, the route the motorcade needed to take to get to the Trade Mart, was to turn right from Main onto Houston Street, then proceed one block to Elm, where a left turn would put the car less than a thousand feet from the Stemmons entrance. If the motorcade proceeded straight along Main Street, it would be forced to cross a concrete divider in order to enter Stemmons. In any case, Main and Elm are parallel roads that run through Dealey Plaza. Both afforded Oswald a clear shot from the Depository. Elm Street provides a direct-line shot, while Main Street provides This shaftly with part De things gutters of day aton to his dearing the a longer cross-shot.

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himself to a special breakfast at Dobbs House restaurant. Before 10:00 that morning, he approached Buell Frazier and asked if he could have a ride to Irving that evening as he needed to "get some curtain rods. You know, [to] put in an apartment." His apartment did not need curtains or curtain rods. Both were already in place. It was likely later that day that he used brown paper and tape at the Depository to fashion a bag over three feet long.

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Marina saw Frazier's car stop near the Paine home that afternoon near 5:00, and Lee stepped out. He had not called in advance as usual to ask permission before coming to Irving. It was also the first time he had ever broken his routine and arrived on a Thursday instead of a Friday. "He said he was lonely because he hadn't come the preceding weekend, and he wanted to make his peace with me," recalled Marina. 105 She refused his kisses, and turned her back on him when he spoke. "He tried very hard to please me," Marina recalled. "He spent quite a bit of time putting away diapers and played with the children on the street. He was upset over the fact that I would not answer him. He tried to start a conversation with me several times, but I would not answer. And he said that he didn't want me to be angry with him because this upsets him." He seemed different than she had seen him before, and he told her he "was tired of living all alone," and pleaded, "Why won't you come with me?" "Alka," Marina responded. "I think it's better if I stay here." "He repeated this not once but several times," Marina remembered, "but I refused. And he said that once again I was preferring my friends to him, and that I didn't need him." He tried to induce her by saying he had saved money and would buy her a washing machine. Marina told him thank you, but "it would be better if he bought something for himself—that I would manage." One final time, while on the front lawn, he begged her to join him in Dallas. "I'll get us an apartment and we'll all live peacefully at home." She again refused. "I was like a stubborn little mule," she recalled. "I was maintaining my inaccessibility, trying to show Lee I wasn't easy to persuade."108,