

Women
Sex, Scandal,
Intrigue, Power
—New Book
Exposes What
Went On In
White House In
Kennedy Years



LIKE HIS counterpart in the novel, JFK couldn't live without love-making.

MIDNIGHT 7-12-76

All The President's

By HARRY ALTSHULER
MIDNIGHT Staff Writer

The White House in Washington is the loneliest place in the world. Full of people hurrying, driven by their craving for power, for possession, for sex. And able to scratch their itches as only the people at the very top of the heap of humanity can do.

What it's like to live in such an atmosphere; what really happens in the private quarters of the mansion at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. after the diplomatic receptions are over and the lights are dimmed; new light on some of the puzzling incidents of the Kennedys' "Camelot" regime.

All these are the theme of a new paperback expose, "All the President's Women" by Barbara Grahame, just published by Zebra Books.

"The story the headlines and the history books can't tell," it is labeled.

Actually, it's a gathering together of all the scandal about JFK and Jackie Kennedy, as well as other people involved with them, together with some inside information or shrewd guesses about what went on.

It is thinly fictionalized but there's no mistaking exactly whom the book is about.

The President is called "Paul Oates Mat-



JACKIE was held in line by her father-in-law, the book suggests.



MOVIE STAR girlfriend in the book dies pathetically alone, as did Marilyn Monroe.

son." His wife is supposedly named "Allyson," or "Ali" for short. Their backgrounds down to the last detail are parallels of the Kennedys, even to the two children, a girl and a boy.

There is Paul's father, an old man the book calls "Harley Matson;" a New Englander of immense wealth who wants a son in the White House. "We'll start in the House and next time we'll go for the Senate," he tells Allyson. "And then Paul will run for president and he will win."

When she expresses surprise, he explains, "I've been grooming Paul for the White House all of his life, my dear. He needs a wife, and you love each other, Paul tells me, and of course that makes it so much easier. But remember, part of getting to the top is acting as if you belong there. When I was Paul's age I was helping my father run booze in, and what he didn't make off Prohibition, we made off the crash.

"But now it's different. My boy is going all the way to the White House, and his wife is going to help him get there."

At the wedding party, the old man takes Allyson aside and whispers, "I want a grandson and you'd better do it fast. You won't be able to campaign with Paul, later, if you're pregnant."

Allyson meekly delivers on schedule, but later, when there comes a low point in the marriage and she wants to run away, her father-in-law fiercely buys her back — with a

million dollars for her in a Swiss bank account.

The book explains, "She was part of the 'official plan' Harley Matson had devised for his son's success."

But even as president, Paul continues to seek adventures with other women. "Other women, friends' wives and hookers alike, were a daring sort of challenge. Later it had become more than a mere habit, it was a need."

Like JFK, Paul is handsome and appealing enough so that he has his pick of attractive women. "His second year in the Senate, he'd decided to keep a running list of his partners," the book says. "There'd been an ambassador's wife, and three embassy secretaries. There'd been the reporter who'd come to interview him over dinner, and who'd ended up spending the weekend with him at the Hay Adams Hotel.

"There was the young, attractive Washington hostess who'd always included Paul and Allyson on her guest lists. One night at a cocktail party, she'd asked Paul to



JOSEPH KENNEDY master-minded his son's career.

come with her and while Allyson was busy talking to a visiting Russian pianist, his hostess had taken him upstairs.

"There were constituents and college students working at the Matson office for the summer. There were bored wives of friends, and ex-wives, and women who simply enjoyed sex as much as he did."

It all sounds very much in keeping with the book another publisher is rushing into print from the typewriter of Elizabeth Ray (or rather the typewriter of her ghost) about her adventures as the sweetheart of the whole senatorial fraternity. Liz claims she loved one senator because he was so sincere and so tanned, another because he put her on the government payroll, and still another because his wife was away. Or something. Liz just didn't need much of a reason, it appears.

To get back to "All the President's Women," a lot of well-publicized incidents in the Kennedy lifestyle seem to have been worked into the script.

For instance, there's the time when Allyson comes home from a trip.

"Have a good trip?" Paul asked.

"Um," she answered. "The only thing I forgot was to get you a present, but that seems to have worked itself out."

"What are you talking about?"

"Look under your pillow," Allyson said. Paul had a premonition of what was waiting for him. The black lace panties Lynn had tucked out of sight when they had been interrupted the night before, had been neatly torn in half by Allyson, who'd found them.

"Ali, I..." Paul began, but he knew it was useless.

"Save it!" Allyson told him, "and next time, make sure she takes her undies with her when she gets out of here. I wouldn't want any of the servants to think I had such rotten taste in lingerie."

We don't know, of course, how true-to-Kennedy-life the dialogue is, but the incident actually happened in the White House according to reports in Time magazine.

There's also a movie-star girlfriend of the president's in the book, who is remarkably like the late Marilyn Monroe, and dies the same way — pathetically alone at the last moment.

They used to call this sort of book a "roman à clef" — that is, a story with a key. If you had the key, you could figure out who the author was really talking about.

Well, for this one you hardly need a key. It's all out there in the open, and so much of it is based on stories already reported, item by item, that it all adds up to a distressingly familiar portrait of what was going on in the White House during the Kennedy years.