

# THE WOMAN BEHIND THE ASSASSIN

## 'Fatal Deception' looks at puzzling Lee Harvey Oswald story from wife's eyes.

By PATRICIA BRENNAN  
The Washington Post

What kind of person was Lee Harvey Oswald? Even his Russian-born widow, Marina, who buried him on the day of John F. Kennedy's state funeral, was uncertain about what had been going on in Oswald's life.

Tonight's "Fatal Deception: Mrs. Lee Harvey Oswald" recounts the love story of Marina and Lee Harvey Oswald and their life together in Russia and in Texas, where they settled a year after their marriage. The dramatization is based on Marina Oswald Porter's recollections.

Arrested by Dallas police for killing Kennedy and Dallas Police Officer J.D. Tippit and wounding then-Gov. John Connally of Texas, Oswald, 24, was for a long moment in 1963 the most hated man in the nation. But when Jack Ruby, a Dallas nightclub owner, shot and killed him before he was arraigned for Kennedy's murder, Oswald took with him the answer to a grieving country's still unanswered question: Why?

"Fatal Deception" does not provide the answer, but it does offer a more personal view of the man thought to be the lone assassin. British actress Helena Bonham



NBC photo

Frank Whaley and Helena Bonham Carter play Lee Harvey and Marina Oswald in a new dramatization.

Carter, 27, takes the role of Marina, and Frank Whaley, 30, plays Oswald. Whaley appeared, uncredited, in Oliver Stone's movie "JFK" as an Oswald impersonator. Gary Oldman played Oswald.

Whaley viewed the role as one

### IF YOU WATCH

Show: "Fatal Deception: Mrs. Lee Harvey Oswald" **When: 9 tonight** Channels: KWV (3), WMMR (2)

he could not turn down.

"I became kind of fascinated with it when I was doing 'The Doors' with Oliver Stone," he said. "He first mentioned the whole 'JFK' project, and he made innuendoes [about a possible role for Whaley], so I started doing some research."

Still, he has reservations about Stone's conspiracy theory.

"I believe [Oswald] was involved in some way [in the assassination] — I don't think there's any doubt about that — but there's no way he could have been involved alone. It's all such a web it's almost impossible to get at."

Whaley thinks Oswald "was a very smart guy. He learned a little [Russian] in the Marines, and he had a coach in Russia. It's a very difficult language to learn, and he spoke it almost without accent. We can only guess why he was there."

In NBC's film, Oswald admits to Marina that he tried to shoot

retired Gen. Edwin A. Walker, who died recently at 84. But the movie does not picture that attempt, nor does it dramatize the shooting of John F. Kennedy or visit the Texas School Book Depository, from where Oswald is said to have shot the president from the sixth floor, now a museum.

Instead, viewers watch events of that day on television with Marina Oswald and stay with her as the Dallas police rush into her house to search for Lee's gun, which turns up missing.

She is taken to the Dallas County jail, where her husband is being held, and talks with him over a prison telephone, a window grill between them. He tells her that he is not guilty, that she should not believe "all the so-called evidence against me," and that she should give their daughters a kiss for him. It is the last time she will see him alive.

Marina remarried in 1965.

Ⓜ = stereo ● = television premiere  
(C) = closed caption ✓ = available on cassette