

AFTER 30 years of controversy over the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, little is known about Lee Harvey Oswald, the man believed to have killed him. He has become little more than a faceless figure on the pages of history. Now new information on Oswald's sex life prompts a fresh look at events leading to the President's murder. Did personal problems — particularly his troubled, sexually unsatisfying marriage to his Russian bride — drive Oswald to murder the President?

OSWALD'S father died before he was born, in October, 1938, in New Orleans. His mother, Marguerite, whose relatives and friends included people on the fringes of the underworld, had two older sons to support. Finding it hard to cope, she sent 3-year-old Lee to a home for a year. It was a traumatic experience. A fellow inmate claims young Lee more than once witnessed sex between a staff member and teenage girls.

When Lee was at home — until he was 11, according to his half-brother John — the boy slept in the same bed as his mother. "If this arrangement had a bad effect on Lee," his brother Robert has said, "I'm sure mother didn't realize it. She was simply using all the space she had."

The young Oswald was bright, but suffered from dyslexia and had trouble with spelling. At 19, he was a persistent truant from school, and spent several weeks in a juvenile detention center. Case records show that Oswald was considered a "seriously detached, withdrawn youngster" who "volunteered almost nothing about himself spontaneously." He said his mother "never gave a damn" for him.

In 1956, when he joined the Marines, a fellow recruit described Oswald as a "naive and innocent boy ... a virgin." Two Marines, Daniel Powers and David Christie, suspected he was homosexual. He had taken friends to a gay bar and appeared to have been there before. In Japan, he patronized a hangout for transvestites.

But soon Oswald was having heterosexual sex. His friends cheered him on as he went with his first woman, a Japanese bar girl. He later recalled encounters with eight different women in Japan. The first, nearly twice his age, taught him about sex. He left another because he feared he would catch a venereal disease. He did later contract gonorrhea and urethritis, incurred — according to a comical entry in his service record — "in line of duty, not due to own misconduct."

Oswald stayed longest with a woman who cooked for him. "But she was fat," he recalled. "I soon got tired of her, and she bored me." It was different with a glamour hostess at the Queen Bee, a Tokyo nightclub. "He was really crazy about her," said Zack Stout, a Marine buddy. Another, Dan

ONLY IN STAR...

OSWALD KILLED JFK TO IMPRESS WIFE



WHAT TV MOVIE DIDN'T SHOW!

Oswald and his Russian wife, Marina, were outwardly happy (left) but they were living apart when he shot JFK. Helena Bonham Carter plays Marina in this week's new TV movie, *Fatal Deception* (right).

After 30 years, devastating new information unearthed by best-selling Kennedy biographer Anthony Summers...

Powers, remembered him spending time with a striking Eurasian woman, said to have been half-Russian.

By the time he left the Marines in 1959, Oswald was a Marxist. He defected to the Soviet Union within months. While the Russians decided what to do with him, his only known companion was a buxom young Soviet tourist guide, Rimma Shirokova.

In 1963, in her first interview with a western journalist, Shirokova recalled that when she visited Oswald in his hotel room, he made a pass at her.

"He tried to be close to me, but he wasn't my type. Certainly I was coquettish — I was young. But he saw there was no response from me. I know he would have been glad if we could have had a romance. He liked me, and I think he may have wanted to marry me," she said.

Oswald recalled: "She thought I was just a little boy, and she wouldn't have me."

In Minsk, where the Russians sent him to live, he had a succession of

girls. He even recorded his conquests in notes found after his death:

"Enna — 23, blond, frail, from Riga ... liked fancy clothes, well-made shoes and underthings. We began to get very close, culminating in intercourse on Oct. 21. She was a virgin and very interesting."

"Nell — large, 5-ft. 11-in., 160 lbs. large, fruitful breasts, hips wide and heavy but very pleasantly proportioned. Gentle, kind, womanly and understanding ... her passions were proportioned to her size. A fact to be found out only after a great deal of research."

"Ella — a silky, black-haired Jewish beauty with fine dark eyes, skin as white as snow, a beautiful smile ... her only fault was that at 24 she was still a virgin, but entirely her own desire ... I proposed marriage to her on several occasions and loved her with all my heart, but she would not have me."

"Ella" was Ella German, who remembers her dates with Oswald as "relaxed and full of fun. We talked a lot. He often took me to the theater

and concerts. That was very nice, and I think it shows that he wasn't a very coarse person. Soon after we broke up I learned that he had got married. I thought on the whole he did it to get his own back on me."

The woman Oswald married was Marina Prusakova, a 19-year-old pharmacist. Unlike the two other women he had considered marrying in the past year or so, Marina accepted his proposal just a month after meeting him at a dance. They wed less than two weeks after becoming engaged, and Marina conceived her first child, a daughter, within two months.

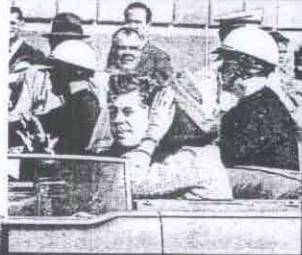
Marina has claimed her sex life with Oswald was unsatisfactory. Once she became pregnant, her husband's lovemaking repelled her. Because he was prone to premature ejaculation, the couple turned to oral sex rather than regular intercourse as a way of reaching orgasm. Marina frequently teased Oswald about his shoulders, which she considered "weak" and "womanly."

For his part, Oswald was an insecure, jealous husband. "Women are all the same," he would say, whenever he heard of another woman's infidelity. Yet, according to Marina's biographer, Oswald feared that he himself was "less than he should be as a man."

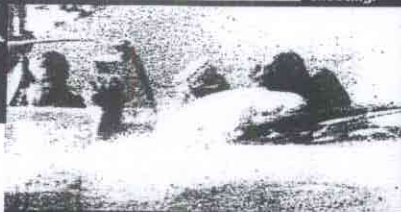
Rimma Shirokova, on a visit to Minsk from Moscow, saw at once that the couple was unhappy. "Marina complained that Lee behaved badly," she recalled. "She said he was rude with her, and even hit her sometimes. When Lee came in, I quickly saw that he had changed — and not for the better. He seemed disillusioned."

TOP-SECRET FILES REVEAL...

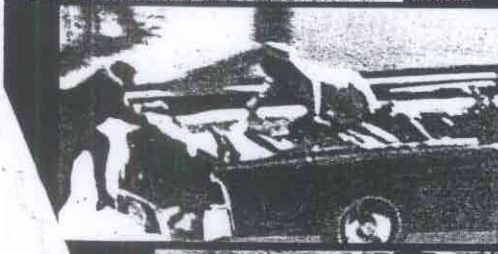
DAY MY HUSBAND DIED— IN JACKIE'S OWN WORDS



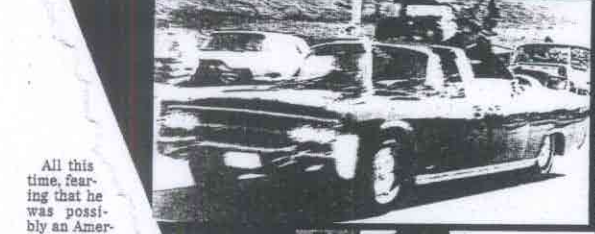
JFK and Jackie in the Dallas motorcade one minute before the fatal shooting.



JFK slumps into his wife's arms after a bullet slams into his head.



Jackie tries to claw her way toward a Secret Service agent.



The car carrying the mortally wounded JFK speeds to Parkland Hospital.

All this time, fearing that he was possibly an American spy, the KGB watched the couple. According to former KGB aide Vacheslav Nikonov, hidden microphones in the Oswalds' apartment regularly picked up the sounds of quarreling, even of physical fights. The last sound the mikes recorded, as the couple left for America in 1962, was Marina rebuking Oswald for being "not even capable of holding the baby." In the U.S., the relationship



A blood-spattered Jackie watches as her husband's body is put into an ambulance after arriving at Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

"I HEARD these terrible noises. And my husband never made a sound. All I remember is seeing my husband, he had this sort of quizzical look on his face and his hand was up, it must have been his left hand."

This was First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy's stunned reaction — as her husband died bleeding in her lap, his head shattered by an assassin's bullet — now revealed for the first time in secret files.

"I remember thinking he just looked as if he had a slight headache. And I just remember seeing that. No blood or anything. And then he put his hand to his forehead and fell into my lap."

'Oh, my God!... I love you, Jack. His head was in my lap and it seemed like an eternity'

"I just remember seeing, falling on him and saying, 'Oh, no, no, no, no,' I mean, 'Oh, my God, they have just shot my husband.' And, 'I love you, Jack.'"

"I remember I was just shouting. And just being down in the car with his head in my lap. And it just seemed like an eternity."

Jackie gave her dramatic evidence to investigators who interviewed her at her Washington, D.C., home after the assassination that stunned the world on Nov. 22, 1963.

Now the secret transcript of her cross-examination by Warren Commission chief counsel J. Lee Rankin has been opened for the first time after 30 years under lock and key in the National Archives in Washington.

A tormented Jackie also believed that if she'd acted quicker, she could have saved her husband.

"If only I had been looking to the right, I would have seen the first shot hit him, then I could have pulled him down, and then the second shot would have gotten Governor Connally," Jackie told Rankin.

The transcript also reveals other doubts Mrs. Kennedy harbored at the time. She seemed to be confused about how many shots were fired, saying that she came to the conclusion there were two shots only after reading about it later.

Rankin asked the President's widow: "Do you have any recollection whether there were one or two shots?"

Jackie replied: "Well, there must have been two because the one that made me turn around was Governor Connally yelling."

"And it used to confuse me because I remembered there were three and I used to think my husband did not make any sound when he was shot. And Governor Connally screamed like a stuck pig."

"And then I read the other day that it was the same shot that hit them both."

Jackie also remembers with some anguish the last, unintentionally ironic, words that her husband spoke that tragic day in downtown Dallas, 30 years ago next week.

Just as the President's open-air limousine turned onto Elm Street, near the nondescript Texas Book Depository, Jackie recalled Mrs. Nellie Connally, who rode next to her husband, Texas Governor John Connally, saying to the President: "You certainly can't say that the people of Dallas haven't given you a nice welcome."

Jackie then continued: "I think he said, 'No, you certainly can't.'"

In the next few seconds, as the presidential motorcade slowed down to negotiate the turns in Dealey Plaza, shots rang out and America's youngest elected President lay dying in his wife's arms.

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grew worse. Marina "pecked" at her husband.

Oswald would lose his temper, hit his wife, then beg her for forgiveness. Marina confided to a woman friend that her husband was "not strong" sexually.

Should they, she wondered, seek medical advice?

Early in 1963, the year of the assassination, Oswald discovered a letter his wife had written to an old flame in Russia.

"Anatoly dear," it began, "My husband does not love me...I fear I shall never be happy with him. How I wish that you and I could be together again...I kiss you as we kissed before."

Oswald was crushed after reading this.

Then, within weeks, Marina confessed that in Russia she had been unfaithful to him with another man. Although she became pregnant with a second child, the couple were becoming seriously estranged.

In the months that followed, which would end with the President's murder, the Oswald marriage remained a disaster.

The fall of 1963, which he would spend in New Orleans, began with Marina going to live with a woman friend in a Dallas suburb.

When he returned to Dallas, Oswald spent the final weeks before the assassination living in a rooming house, working by day at this new job, order-filling at the Texas School

OSWALD KILLED JFK TO IMPRESS HIS WIFE



Oswald (front left) with girlfriend Ela (rear right) and Russian friends.

Book Depository. He visited his wife on weekends, was delighted when their new daughter was born and seemed to be trying to repair his marriage.

Of those who believe Oswald was the lone assassin, some think it was despair over his ruined love life that drove him off the rails. Oswald knew the Sheriff's song from *High Noon* — "Do not forsake me, oh, my darling!" — by heart and sang it at home again and again.

On the eve of the assassination,

Nov. 21, 1963, Oswald asked his wife to come and live with him again. "I'm going to find an apartment," he said, "tomorrow..."

Three times Oswald asked, and three times Marina refused.

Early the next morning, her husband got up and went out — to his work at the Book Depository, to his arrest on suspicion of murdering the President, and to his own death in turn at the hands of Jack Ruby.

Behind him, in a cup on the bureau, he left his wedding ring.

"Kennedy," a former Warren Commission counsel has written, "might be alive today had Marina relented."

Was that it? Was President Kennedy's murder the irrational act of a lovelorn husband incapable of dealing with the collapse of his marriage?

Anthony Summers has covered wars and other world news events for the BBC. He has written five books, including the best sellers *Official and Confidential*, *The Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover*, *Conspiracy*, an acclaimed study of the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and *Goddess*, a best-selling biography of Marilyn Monroe.

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