

# GUERRILLA★PRINCE

THE UNTOLD STORY OF

## FIDEL CASTRO

GEORGIE ANNE GEYER

*War  
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autobiography of a  
spontaneous  
old Story of*

GEORGIE ANNE GEYER



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#### GUERRILLA PRINCE

President Lyndon Johnson believed until the day he died — and said on at least four occasions — that Oswald had been put up to the murder by Castro.

On the other hand, Castro liked and needed to pit himself against worthy adversaries. He would rather be up against a John Kennedy than a Jimmy Carter, if only because it enlivened his own status and heightened the temperature of the game. On that level, Castro not only wanted but needed Kennedy alive, a fact that was most probably the chief source of any sorrow that bleak November day.

But even on that sober and sobering day, the differences that fueled his relationship with the United States suddenly erupted into fury. Jean Daniel was still there when Castro heard on the radio that Jacqueline Kennedy was, in public, having trouble getting rid of her bloodstained stockings. "He began to shout," Daniel wrote later. "What sort of a mind is this? What sort of a mind? There is a difference in our civilizations after all. Are you like this in Europe? For us Latin Americans, death is a sacred matter; not only does it mark the close of hostilities, but it also imposes decency, dignity, respect. There are even street urchins who behave like kings in the face of death."

Nearly three decades after the assassination, there is still no absolute proof that Fidel Castro took part in, connived in, or planned John F. Kennedy's death. But there are simply too many "accidents" not to assume that there could have been some Castro involvement. Lee Harvey Oswald had been in the Soviet Union, and he had lived there in that special manner (barely working, having an apartment, his Russian wife being allowed to leave Russia with him) that only "special guests" were awarded. Once back in the United States, Oswald sought out Cuba and Cuban connections at every turn. In September 1963, this normally reticent and secretive man took the bus from Houston to Mexico City, and it was as if he were transformed on the bus, talking spiritedly to people and even boasting that he was going to Cuba to see the wondrous "accomplishments of the Cuban revolution." The CIA, listening in on the telephone lines between the Soviet and Cuban embassies in Mexico City, made a recording of a dialogue between Oswald and Ob'edkov, a Soviet guard, on October 1. Oswald was seen at private parties conversing with Mexican Communists and with Cuban diplomats. Upon his return to the United States, Oswald made contact with Jack Ruby in Dallas.

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too much of a distinct ring of truth about it — came after the assassi-  
nation from the well-informed investigative columnist Jack Anderson.  
Johnny Roselli had chosen Anderson as the person to talk to about the  
Mafia, Cuba, and the Kennedy assassination. What did he tell Anderson,  
before Roselli himself was "eliminated" by his old friend Trafficante?  
"He told me that the JFK assassination was done by the last three sharp-  
shooters who had tried to assassinate Castro from a high building in  
Havana," Anderson told me many years afterward. "He told me that Fidel  
Castro was directly involved — this was the deadly secret for which he  
was killed. He said that Castro used the same ones out of a sense of  
Latin irony. Later, the Church committee confirmed everything else Ro-  
selli told me, and Lyndon Johnson [slipped and] told Howard K. Smith  
in a TV interview, 'Well, Kennedy tried to get Fidel Castro, but Fidel  
Castro got Kennedy first.' It was the biggest secret in history, and he  
blurts it out." In short, according to these theories, John F. Kennedy was  
killed when his obsessive plot against Castro was turned against the  
American president; he was killed when the ever-flexible Mafia, which  
had substantial interests on both sides of the question, only now swiveled  
around to serve a Cuban master instead of an American one.

But even if one accepted that Castro had no direct hand in Kennedy's  
assassination, it was, nonetheless, the existence of Fidel Castro, of his  
Revolution, and of the ominous realities he introduced to the world that  
unmistakably led to the death of John Kennedy. Without the humiliating  
failure at the Bay of Pigs, without the almost crazed assassination at-  
tempts against Castro and the Mafia connection to those attempts, without  
Castro's counterhumiliation over his abandonment by the superpowers  
during the Missile Crisis, it is hard to believe that John F. Kennedy would  
have been assassinated that fateful day in Dallas — with all that would  
come to mean to the world.