

From Ed
Williams
6/1/94 to
remind
of Mommy
the family
in all
that
went
wrong

A WOMAN NAMED JACKIE LYLE STUART

410 1989 C. DAVID HEYMANN

back from a trip to the Middle East, had met Jackie at the airport and followed her to Bethesda. "As terrible as this is," said Janet, "think how much worse it would have been had Jack lived and been maimed." Jackie urged her mother and stepfather to stay at the White House and gave them Jack's room for a night.

Janet, in an effort to spare her daughter any more pain than necessary, asked White House nanny Maud Shaw to apprise Caroline of her father's death. Caroline cried so violently at the news that the nanny feared she might choke. The following morning the child saw a copy of *The New York Times* a maid had left behind. She asked her grandmother Janet why her father's picture was outlined in black. John Jr., too young to comprehend, was told nothing.

While leaving the mechanics and logistics of the funeral to Sargent Shriver, Jackie (who was consulted by Shriver on every move) had already contacted Angier Biddle Duke requesting from the Chief of Protocol details of the funeral that had been held nearly a century earlier for Abraham Lincoln. Duke forwarded the request to Rutherford Rogers, Acting Librarian of Congress, who sent information not only of President Lincoln's funeral but on those of George Washington, Woodrow Wilson, Ulysses S. Grant and even Edward VII. Duke was able to get this material into Mrs. Kennedy's hands within twenty-four hours.

The autopsy completed (though not very satisfactorily, according to future inquiries and commissions),* Kennedy's corpse was returned to the White House and borne to a specially constructed catafalque in the East Room. Godfrey McHugh, who had been placed in charge of the Honor Guard assigned to stand over the coffin in which Kennedy was to be buried (as opposed to the casket

*The autopsy of JFK was at best a whitewash, at worst a mockery. Orchestrated by Robert Kennedy and some other members of the family, it was performed without benefit of a forensic pathologist. Following the autopsy a number of bodily materials mysteriously disappeared, including JFK's brain, tissue sections, blood smears and organ samples. In 1979, the Select Committee on Assassinations determined that in all probability Robert Kennedy disposed of these and other materials out of concern that they "would be placed on public display in future years in an institution such as the Smithsonian." How much of a role, if any, Jacqueline Kennedy played in the disappearance of those materials is open to question. Former Attorney General Ramsey Clark told this writer, "After JFK's assassination, when I was Attorney General, I was approached by Jackie and asked to suppress all of the autopsy x-rays and documentation from the public. She didn't want this material to be splashed all over the media—newspapers and television—during the lifetime of her children. I found this a reasonable request."