

Leaks Reveal Many Secrets Of Manchester's Volume

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The privileged few who have read "The Death of a President" paint a picture of total turmoil, conflict and deep emotion surrounding the Nov. 22, 1963, assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas, Tex. Speculation on the details of the book and what Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy wants deleted was touched off a few weeks ago when Bennett Cerf, publisher and television personality, said the book describes some "unbelievable things that happened after the assassination."

Background

A Matter of Privacy

MRS. JACQUELINE KENNEDY has gone to the courts in an effort to avoid publication of her innermost thoughts and emotions just before, during and immediately after the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on Nov. 22, 1963.

As horrible as a trial would be, Mrs. Kennedy insists that this is the only way to protect the privacy of her family.

There was discussion of freedom of the press and invasion of privacy when the suit was filed in New York's Supreme Court. But the suit is based not on the First Amendment, but on alleged breach of contract.

The contract—called a Memorandum of Understanding—was signed by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D., N. Y.) and William Manchester, the author picked by the Kennedy family in March, 1964, to write the authoritative story of the assassination.

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THE suit contends that Manchester violated the contract that allowed the family to read and approve the final proof of the manuscript before publication. And that he violated the agreed publication date of Nov. 22, 1968.

Mrs. Kennedy also objects to use of material from a 10-hour, taped interview with Manchester. She says that this was for background material, and not for publication.

The publishers say the book is superbly written, is now an historical document and the public has a right to know of the events which shocked the Nation.

Mrs. Kennedy has settled her differences with Look Magazine, which begins a four-part serialization Jan. 10. The suit with Harper & Row, book publishers, is scheduled for a Tuesday hearing in New York.

The book details six days—Nov. 20-25—from Mr. Kennedy's last public appearance in Washington to his burial.

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A FURTHER strain in relationship between Lyndon B. Johnson and the Kennedy family is expected early next year with the publication of "Facing the Brink," a book co-authored by Charles Bartlett, a close friend of John F. Kennedy, and Edward Weintal.

Bartlett reports that in May, 1961, Vice President Johnson balked at being sent by President Kennedy to Vietnam to assure Ngo Dinh Diem, the Vietnamese chief of state, that he would continue to receive U. S. support.

"Mr. President, I don't want to embarrass you by getting my head blown off in Saigon," Mr. Johnson reportedly told Mr. Kennedy.

"That's all right, Lyndon," Mr. Kennedy reportedly replied. "If anything happens to you out there, Sam Rayburn and I will give you the biggest funeral in the history of Austin."

Mr. Johnson finally agreed to go. But only after Mr. Kennedy's sister, Mrs. Stephen Smith, and her husband went along.

Cerf told a Yale University audience that on the day of the assassination the Kennedy people were stunned, remaining at the hospital while President Johnson and a small group of aides went directly to Love Field where the Presidential and Vice Presidential planes were parked.

"The airplanes were identical in construction and furnishing," Cerf said, with the exception that the Presidential plane carried a pouch containing information about what to do in the event of nuclear attack.

"The Johnson party reached the airport first and knowing that President Kennedy was dead, boarded the Presidential jet," Cerf said, paraphrasing the event as described in the William Manchester book.

"When the Kennedys returned to the airport with the coffin and discovered that the Presidential plane was already occupied, they were shocked and infuriated," Cerf said.

Johnson 'Confused'

One unidentified source who read the Manchester manuscript reported that President Johnson was depicted as sympathetic to the Kennedy family "but bewildered by the Kennedy group's hostility toward him."

"The over-all impression you get of Johnson at that time," said an unidentified person in the publishing field who read the manuscript, "is that of a guy who is in a state of shock and who is confused by the Kennedy hostility."

This source, who read the book six months ago, also said that Mr. Johnson is pictured as being a "weak and ineffectual person" until he became President.

This source also reported that before the motorcade formed on

The Battle of the Book—Leaks R

Continued from First Page

the day of the assassination important persons "were trying to avoid riding in his car."

The manuscript, the source said, also shows Mr. Johnson pleading with Mr. Kennedy to go to Texas to help solve a local political problem "that Mr. Johnson should have been able to settle."

"Johnson will absolutely hate it (the book), the same source said. "There's no question about it to me. But to me Johnson does not emerge as an unsympathetic character."

'Frantic, Ferocious'

This person also said that Mrs. Kennedy is depicted on the day of the assassination as "quite frantic, quite hysterical, quite ferocious."

"Her attitude is that she is going to end this thing right and that she is quite angry at the world for letting this happen," the source said.

The source said that Manchester, who had a 10-hour, taped interview with Mrs. Kennedy five months after the assassination, also quotes Mrs. Kennedy as saying she knew her husband was dead when he was being taken to the hospital, the source added.

The unidentified source also reported that the manuscript tells of Mrs. Kennedy's wrestling with a nurse at Parkland Memorial Hospital in an effort to get into a room where Mr. Kennedy was. She was allowed in only after a doctor told the nurse to let her pass.

The same person said he got the impression from the manuscript that "Jackie keeps saying she wants to keep her blood-spattered clothes on 'so they can see what they've done.'"

The hostility continued on the plane between the Kennedy and Johnson factions, the same source said.

The source also reports on the efforts of Mr. Johnson to get in touch with Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy about the question of being sworn in and



Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy enters New York offices of Look Magazine attorneys with her advisers to look at manuscript of book on President Kennedy's death, which Look is serializing.

Mrs. Kennedy's participation in the ceremony.

'Rather Brusque'

"You have the feeling that LBJ wanted to use Jackie to some extent because he wanted her to be in the picture in the swearing-in," the source said.

He added:

"LBJ was concerned over a possible conspiracy and wanted

to get out. He feared a Russian attack. He was rather brusque. LBJ wanted to establish instantly that he was the President. (Robert) Kennedy interpreted this as 'Here is this man who has been wishing he had been President all along and here he is grabbing it.'

"The book shows the whole episode as seen through Kennedy eyes. It isn't embarrassingly pro-Kennedy, but when you get through you realize there is almost nothing in it that is unkind about the Kennedy family."

The same source also described Sen. Robert F. Kennedy this way:

"Bobby emerges very much the way you would expect. He was very much in charge of things. Very much in a state of shock, yet doing what you would expect of him and very much taking over the family. He comes off very well in the book."

'Boorish and Rude'

The same source described Jackie:

"She actually snapped back from this pretty well. By the time of the reception after the funeral, she was behaving very calmly."

This source also said there is a postscript in the manuscript which reports that Mrs. Kennedy still has the dress she wore that day, but she is not sure where it is.

Another source who read the book was quoted as saying:

"When flying back, the Kennedy people did not want to be associated with the Johnson people in the plane. A high Kennedy aide went up to a reporter:

"Make sure you report that we rode in the back with our President and not up front with him."

Another publishing source said that Mr. Kennedy's associates when questioned by Manchester described Mr. Johnson's behavior as "boorish, rude and lacking in respect" for Mr. Kennedy.

The published accounts of their reaction to what took place have Mr. Johnson "commanding Mrs. Kennedy to stand near him" as he took the oath of office, and "barking orders at Kenneth O'Donnell (long-time Kennedy aide) intended to make clear who is boss now."

'Texas Politicians'

Mrs. Evelyn Lincoln, long-time secretary to Mr. Kennedy, told Manchester, according to

published reports, about her feelings at the swearing-in:

"I was somewhat behind him at the swearing-in. Lyndon seemed so anxious to take over."

Mrs. Lincoln told Manchester, according to the reports, that Mr. Johnson's advisers were planning the new President's next moves. She said it reminded her "of Texas politicians

gathered at a political convention."

"The Texas delegation was talking and it was like a political meeting," she recalled, according to the reports. "I thought, 'Oh, they've already taken over.'"

Mrs. Lincoln's account to Manchester, the reports said, was that the Kennedy family "was distressed by Mr. Johnson's decision to occupy the President's jet before Mrs. Kennedy reached Love Field from Parkland Hospital."

"They were also angered, too, by his decision to delay departure until he could be sworn in and annoyed by his desire to get off the plane in Washington close by the flag-bedecked casket," Mrs. Lincoln reportedly told Manchester.

Another unidentified source who has read the manuscript said that Mrs. Kennedy had placed a personal letter, an emotional document, into the coffin.

'Very Good Letter'

"She is described as very eager that this letter be excised from the book and from the serialization in Look Magazine before they are printed," the source said.

"It is not an over-emotional letter," the source said. "It is a very good letter, the kind of letter that a woman very much in love with her husband might write," the source said.

Mrs. Kennedy was upset, this source said, about the use of a letter she sent to her husband from Greece a month before he died, and about a number of other letters she had written to him, some in conjunction with Caroline. She wanted these letters omitted.

Another published source tells the story this way:

"Mrs. Kennedy behaved like

a queen in her ability to make decisions and her assurance in making those decisions."

But the one decision she couldn't bring herself to make was whether to tell Caroline, then 5, of her father's death. She spoke to her mother, Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss, about the problem.

Mrs. Auchincloss went to the child's nurse and asked her to tell Caroline.

'Heartbreaking'

"I could not help myself," the source who read the manuscript said. "I wept when I read how the nurse told the little girl of the death of her father. It was as heartbreaking as anything in this book filled with heartbreak."

This is believed to be another portion of the manuscript that Mrs. Kennedy wanted omitted because of its personal nature.

The Kennedy son, John, then 2, had been taught almost as soon as he could walk to salute the flag. But he invariably hit his nose or ear when he did so.

At the funeral, when Mrs. Kennedy said, "Salute your Daddy," the boy executed a perfect salute as the coffin was being taken from St. Matthew's Cathedral, according to this source.

The Manchester manuscript describes in great detail how Mrs. Kennedy insisted on staying with the coffin at every stage of the journey to Washington.

Mrs. Kennedy wanted to stay in the rear of the plane with the coffin. But Mr. Johnson requested that she appear in the picture of his taking the Presidential oath aboard the plane.

Finally Mrs. Kennedy agreed to be included in the picture. But at the crucial moment, the official photographer's camera failed, and there was a delay

in the most uncomfortable circumstances until the picture could be taken.

There is confusion as to what occurred at Andrews Air Force Base, Md., when the Presidential plane arrived.

A forklift truck was rolled up to the airplane to take off the coffin. A military honor guard was waved away by the Presidential aides aboard the plane.

But the platform of the forklift truck was not raised high enough to reach the door. Only with great difficulty was the coffin placed on the truck.

Mrs. Kennedy, along with other close associates of the late President, jumped down onto the truck.

'Difficult Time'

But, according to one source who read the manuscript, President Johnson was kept from joining the party by the broad shoulders of Kenneth O'Donnell, who stood in the doorway.

Another source who read the manuscript disputes that Manchester made a point of this shouldering aside of the new President. "That was not his intention," the source said.

One editor who read the manuscript said the impression that the book had left was that what

New Book Due

History of a Feud

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F. Kennedy and the final text to be approved by them.

—The book was not to be published before Nov. 22, 1963, and was to be published at such date thereafter as was to be mutually acceptable to the contracting parties.

But Manchester and his publisher, Harper & Row, say this contract was mitigated by a July, 1966, telegram Kennedy sent to both of them. It said that he would not try to block publication—but the telegram did not mention a date.

Kennedy later said that he had sent the telegram after being informed that Manchester had expressed fear that the book would never be published.

The suit initiated a comment from a close friend of the Kennedys that it would be a "battle of giants," citing the giant personalities and giant issues involved.

And Harper's personal counsel, Edward Greenbaum, a Princeton resident and retired brigadier general, said there had never "been a case like this before."

Worked at Archives

After undertaking the book Manchester took over an unadorned office on the fourth floor of the National Archives Building in Washington, the only offer of assistance he would accept. He later moved his wife and their three children from Connecticut to Maryland while he was writing the book and interviewing the persons involved.

Manchester had written biographies on the Rockefeller family and H. L. Mencken, the irascible Baltimore newspaperman. He is now writing a book on the Krupp Empire in Germany.

Manchester later ruefully said that he had no adverse comments from any of his earlier subjects. The only comment he said he ever received from Mencken was, "How are the sales going?"

Manchester worked 15 hours a day, interviewed more than 500 persons and during one period spent four weeks in the hospital before "The Death of a President" was complete.

"My sole concern is to write a thorough, accurate account which will stand up — which will be in libraries and which historians will use as a basic work," Manchester said.

Both Manchester and Harper & Row had accepted the com-

mission reluctantly.

'Emotional State'

Mrs. Kennedy was later to say that Manchester shocked her by exploiting her "emotional state" after the assassination and "equally shocked that reputable publishers would cooperate with him."

But during the project, Manchester later said, he relived every minute from Nov. 20, 1963 — the last public appearance of Mr. Kennedy in Washington—and Nov. 25—when the President was buried on a gen-

tle, rolling hill in Arlington National Cemetery.

Manchester called the assassination a "huge thing." And he said he was concerned about explaining to the American people the significance of the transfer of power and what happened to the Federal Government.

"I believe every reader, including those closest to the late President, will find here (in the book), much which is new and some perhaps, which is disturbing," he said in his foreword to the book.

As part of the promotion for the book, Look published the foreword in a full-page ad in The New York Times. Look also began a Nation-wide advertising campaign.

Mrs. Kennedy was reported to be upset because Look was



At a recent evening at a New York theater, Mrs. Kennedy wears wedding and engagement rings given to her by the late President.

using her name and picture for promotion on the series.

Look's newsstand price was also to go from 35 to 50 cents for the first installment, due on the newsstands on Jan. 10.

1 Question Asked

Manchester said Mrs. Kennedy asked only one question of him as they prepared for their interview:

"Are you just going to put down all the facts, who ate what for breakfast and all that, or are you going to put yourself in the book?"

"I replied that I didn't see how I could very well keep myself out of it," he said he answered.

"Good," he quoted her as saying.

Manchester said he approached everyone who might have knowledge of the event, visited all of the places touched by Mr. Kennedy on his last trip.

"It is imperative that this chronicle be laid before the generation of Americans who suffered through those days," Manchester continued. "I believe President Kennedy would have wanted them to know precisely what happened."

Manchester said he often found while interviewing that a principal figure had thrust his memory of the event into a far corner of his mind and that to bring it out was "agonizing, almost unendurable." He cited Mr. Johnson as an example.

Fence Mender

Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Johnson and Gov. John Connally of Texas had been planning the Texas trip for five months. The Vice President believed the President's appearance would help mend political fences in the Lone Star State.

Mrs. Kennedy reportedly poured her heart out and gave her innermost thoughts when Manchester interviewed her in April, 1964. Friends say that he was treated as a "confessor" and she made no attempt at "self-censorship."

Robert Kennedy selected two old friends to examine the book and the President's widow named two ex-Kennedy aides, Richard Goodwin and Arthur Schlesinger Jr.

Both the President's widow and his brother said they did not read the book because it would have been too painful. Friends of Mrs. Kennedy say she was informed of the offending paragraphs and knew just what she

wanted cut out.

The Harper book is due April 7, and is now being edited by Manchester in galley proofs. The 1200-page typewritten manuscript has been paired down to 300,000 words. Twenty-five copies, all numbered, were sent by Manchester's agent to leading magazines to ask if they wanted to submit sealed bids on serialization.

Look won the rights for \$665,000. But Look already has recovered \$300,000 of the payment because of sale of publication rights in Europe. The four

installments in Look will run about 80,000 words.

Manchester received a \$40,000 advance. Harper & Row said it would turn over all profits after the first 100,000 copies to the Kennedy Library at Cambridge.

The firm will also accept "only a small return" from the first printing, with part of the profit also to go to the library. The library will house all of Mr. Kennedy's papers and tape-recorded interviews with thousands of persons who knew and worked with him.

Manchester has initiated the sale of movie rights. The Kennedys contend that this is a violation of their contract.

Harper also published Mr. Kennedy's "Profiles in Courage," which won a Pulitzer Prize; "The Enemy Within," by Robert Kennedy, and Theodore Sorensen's "Kennedy."

Cass Canfield, Harper's publisher, has termed the Manchester book "moving, sincere and outstanding."

"He has been subject to many repeated pressures for many months," Canfield said. "He was asked to prepare for publication an accurate account of the events of the assassination and he was assured that his role of author would be respected," Canfield said.

Canfield also contended that if the Kennedy family had read the book the "present situation might have been avoided."

'Horrible Trial'

"In the interest of historical accuracy and of the people's right to know the true facts of

the awesome tragedy—the right to know which led the Kennedy family to request Mr. Manchester to write his book and us to publish it—we join with him in defending the book's right to live and not the \$675,000 erroneously reported by the press," Canfield said.

When it became apparent that Harper would publish the book and Look serialize it, Mrs. Kennedy said she would file suit as "horrible as a trial would be."

She asked the court to:

—Bar publication until she approved the text and publication date.

—Permanently enjoin Harper and Look from using any of the letters from her and Caroline that might be in Manchester's possession.

—Prohibit them from using material in the tapes and that the tapes be returned to her.

—Prohibit Look from using her name in advertisements. (This is a stipulation that Look apparently agreed to in its settlement).

—That she get punitive and compensatory damages and court costs.

'Inaccurate, Unfair'

Mrs. Kennedy's statement said:

"Look Magazine, Harper & Row and Mr. Manchester have repeatedly made clear that only legal action can alter their insistence upon publishing at this time—without regard to accepted standards of propriety and good faith, and in specific violation of my wishes, my contract with Mr. Manchester and the dignity and privacy my children and I have striven with difficulty to retain—a premature account of the events of November, 1963, that is in part both tasteless and distorted.

"It's inaccurate and unfair references to other individuals, in contrast with its generous references to all members of the Kennedy family, are perhaps beyond my prevention.

"But to expose to all the world at this time all the private grief, personal thoughts and painful reactions my children and I endured in those terrible days does not seem to me to be essential to any current historical record.

"To the author and publishers this book will only be another transient chapter in their works, but my children and I will have to live with it for the rest of our lives."

William Attwood, editor in

chief of Cowles Communications, Inc., which publishes Look, said that the organization agreed to postpone the start of



William Manchester, author of "The Death of a President," book that has stirred controversy with Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy.

the series until after the anniversary date of the assassination.

Look also agreed to reduce the original series from seven to four installments. Attwood also said that many changes were made after consultation with Manchester and the publishers.

"Mr. Manchester has written a very moving story of great historical significance," Gardner Cowles, editorial chairman of Cowles Communications, said.

"The public should have the opportunity to read it," he added.

"We feel strongly that it would be improper to withhold this significant document from the American people; to do so would amount to censorship of history," he added.

The Kennedy family said it was not questioning the book's "right to live." They said in a statement that "no one was denying that right."

'Privacy Invaded'

"The question is the right of

Mrs. Kennedy and her children to live with a minimum of privacy and dignity, free from the publication of intimate details of their lives at a time of great sorrow—details which bear no conceivable relation to history," the statement said.

The family also contended that Manchester and the publisher were "well aware of the personal passages to which she objected."

Friends say Mrs. Kennedy conferred with Manchester "on at least one occasion" and outlined her objections to "those parts of the manuscript which she felt unnecessarily invaded her privacy and that of her children."

"And although he agreed to delete them from the published version, neither Manchester nor Harper & Row nor Look Magazine has done so, or have they even, in the period of dispute, permitted Mrs. Kennedy or her representatives access to the manuscript," the statement concluded.

Canfield expressed his "deep distress" about the affair, which almost is a family one.

Mrs. Stanislas Radziwill, Mrs. Kennedy's sister, was formerly married to Michael T. Canfield, son of the publisher.

Evan Thomas, son of Socialist Norman Thomas, is vice president of Harper & Row. He edited "Profiles in Courage." He also worked on Robert Kennedy's book, "The Enemy Within."

'Test of Time'

Attwood was asked by John F. Kennedy in 1960 to join his campaign staff. Later as President, Mr. Kennedy appointed him to be ambassador to Guinea and later Kenya.

Manchester said he had been guided in his work on the book by the late President's "standards and excellence."

"I believe John Kennedy, who was himself an historian, would have wanted his countrymen to know the truth of those terrible days, and I have dedicated myself for nearly three years to reliving and reconstructing them so that the truth could be faithfully and accurately recorded," Manchester said.

"I am confident that my book can withstand any objective test—particularly the test of time," he concluded. "I ask only that it be given that chance."

It was also learned that Mrs. Kennedy objected to the publication of another book, "My Years with Caroline and John

Kennedy, Jr." The book was written by Maude Shaw, the children's English nanny.

The London publisher, Michael Borissow, said he had told Sol M. Linowitz, then chairman of the board of Xerox Corp., that Miss Shaw just wanted "to write a nice book" and that she had never promised she wouldn't.

Met With Aides

Linowitz had been enlisted by Mrs. Kennedy to halt publication of the book. Borissow said that there was nothing in the book to disturb Mrs. Kennedy and offered to go to New York to discuss the book with her.

But he said he never discussed it personally with her or any other member of the family. He did go to New York and met with three of her representatives, including Pamela Turnure, Mrs. Kennedy's secretary.

At the conclusion of the discussions, about 100 words were deleted. Borissow said that none were "important, principally about how the children were told about the assassination."

Miss Shaw said in her book that she was the one who told Caroline. She had been the child's nurse since Caroline was 11 days old. The book was later serialized in Ladies Home Journal. Miss Shaw wrote the book after she retired from the Kennedy job and returned to England.

Regardless of the outcome of the controversy, some of the material deleted from "The Death of a President" is expected to be printed, notably by a German magazine to which Look sold rights to its serialized articles. The German magazine says it is not bound by any agreements by Look for deletions.