

New Book May Reveal the Real Marina

By ARTHUR GREENSPAN

There's hardly a newspaper reader in America today who doesn't know that William Manchester has written a book about the assassination of President Kennedy, interviewing thousands of persons to piece together his narrative.

But two key figures never agreed to be interviewed by the author—President Johnson and Marina Oswald, widow of Kennedy's accused killer and now the wife of Kenneth Porter, a Greenville, Tex., electronics technician.

Will the public ever learn Marina's full story?

Manchester, on television Sunday, said he felt the Warren Commission had gone too easy on her. He thought she should have been questioned at greater length.

Perhaps the full Marina Oswald story will be told when a book about her is completed, "perhaps within the next few months."

Masters From Harvard

The author is Priscilla Johnson, a young writer in her 30s with a masters in Russian from Harvard; two stints in Russia as a foreign correspondent, and months of interviewing for her book.

"I would say the motivations of the two writers—Priscilla and Manchester—are not dissimilar," her literary agent, William Wing, told the New York Post today. "They're both seriously interested in doing a three-dimensional job. They're both working journalists and historians."

And they share another common bond, too—their books, each of which deals with a facet of the Kennedy death—are being published by Harper & Row, al-

ready made uncomfortably well-known because of the Kennedy-Manchester row over "The Death of a President."

When Harpers announced the book in the fall of 1964, it was said to be "for early 1965 publication." It was to be "an account of Marina Oswald by Priscilla Johnson, whose purpose is to do what it can to make public knowledge and historical fact of the origins of the tragic assassination of President Kennedy."

Still Working On It

Now, more than two years after it was first due to be printed, Miss Johnson is still at work on it.

"There was never, from the outset, any intention of making this a so-called timely book," Wing explained. "She was to work with all due diligence and she was to decide the speed with which she would work. We have a good chunk of it in manuscript form," Wing added. "She's been plugging away at her own pace, and she's long since completed her researches."

Those researches including living with Marina "through three or four months of the worst of it," Wing said. "And for a time, they were in Phoenix, Ariz., secluded and isolated from everyone."

What is the scope of the book? "It's to show the sort of life Marina had, and to understand what sort of person Marina was and is. It undertakes to recreate Marina's life in Russia, which is very interesting."

"Priscilla's very interested in what made Marina tick, although she's not trying to serve as an amateur psychiatrist."

Much has been made about the millions Manchester will earn from his book. And in Texas, Marina has reportedly told

friends she expects "to make a killing" from the volume's sale.

What about Marina's expectations?

"Yes, she will benefit from it," Wing said. "There was an agreement between Marina and Priscilla, a commitment we had to make in the heat of battle, so to speak."

"But in the time since, there has been no pressure, nothing like—'well, let's get the book done so I can make some money'—nothing like that. As Priscilla has often said, she didn't want to do a 'quickie' book to capitalize on the situation."

Miss Johnson will not have one problem which triggered the Manchester-Kennedy battle—the right of review of the manuscript.

"To begin with, Marina did have a right of review. But now, she's said she doesn't want to review the book. That, of course, makes life simpler for everyone."

Will the Marina book satisfy Manchester's feeling that the widow didn't tell all she knew before the Warren Commission?

"Well, first of all," Wing said, "I feel Mrs. Oswald did tell the Warren Commission everything. Manchester says she didn't. That's one man's opinion, and I might have another."

"But about the book, I can't answer that. The book isn't finished yet; I haven't read how it comes out, so to try and answer that before I find out from the author... well, that's sort of premature."



MARINA OSWALD PORTER
She's cooperating.