

Manchester's Wife 'Sorry' For Jackie

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MIDDLETOWN, Conn., April 4—Mrs. William Manchester, wife of the author of the controversial account of the assassination of President Kennedy, has never met Mrs. John F. Kennedy.

"And I don't want to, either," she said during an interview at her home in this quiet college town.

Judy Manchester, the former Julia Marshall of Baltimore, spread her hands in a "so what?" gesture and

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shrugged her trim shoulders. She pushed her auburn page boy hair out of her eyes.

"I feel sorry for Mrs. Kennedy," she said.

"I think she lives in a different world. She doesn't understand writers. And she spoke of hiring my husband!" Her low voice rocketed upward, partly to drown out the noise of children playing in the next room.

The youngest of the Manchesters' three children, 4-year-old Laurie, and a boy from next door were building a castle of wooden blocks which had just collapsed. Julie, 9, came home from school. She and her mother discussed the time of a music lesson. John, 16, had returned to boarding school after the Easter recess.

The author was not at home. He spends his days in a hideaway office in the library of Wesleyan University. He has been associated with Wesleyan since the Manchesters moved to Middletown 12 years ago and bought a 100-year-old house on the edge of the campus.

The Manchesters are selling the house to the university and are building a modern home on the crest of a hill a short walk down the street.

PLANS NEW HOME

Plans for the new house lay on the coffee table.

"This is to be our lifetime home," Mrs. Manchester said. She brought in mugs of coffee as she showed the plans. She had made the mugs and also the pots containing flowers in the kitchen. She has a potter's wheel which will have its own room in the new house.

"Actually, we don't expect all of this to change our way of living very much," she said. "Our plans for the new house were under way before the book.

"This business of being a celebrity is not much fun," she said.

Their normal routine has been disrupted lately, what with the controversy over the book.

"Oh, I am so bored with all that," she said, and didn't bother to stifle her yawn.

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