

# THE REAL JACKIE KENNEDY-V

## 'Book Battle' Causes Backlash of World Opinion

By LIZ SMITH  
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It was toward the end of summer that Jacqueline Kennedy began having second thoughts about the information she had furnished William Manchester for his book on the late President's death.

In the beginning, she had evidently felt that Manchester—a writer of whom JFK approved—was the man to do the job. She felt so deeply that the Manchester book had to be the single authorized version

**Fifth in a six-part series: National magazine writer Liz Smith relates the beginnings of the "book battle."**

of the assassination that she refused to give Manchester "either Jim Bishop or Bob Woodward" to do a book in the same vein as his best-seller, "The Day Lincoln Was Shot."

### Senator Involved

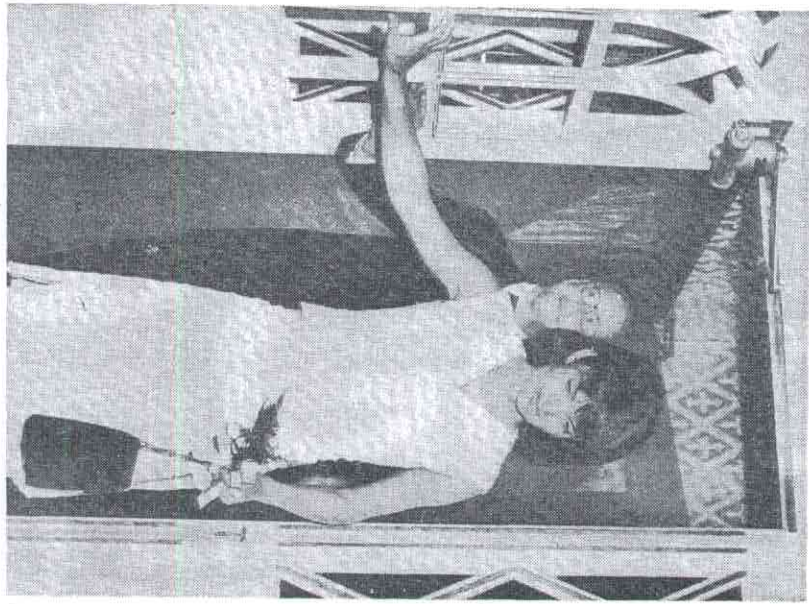
Pearson involved Robert Kennedy in the story, portraying him as the "hatchet man" for his sister-in-law. Bishop himself said that the Kennedys were trying to "copy-right the assassination."

Strong words of "Kennedy dictatorship" and "censorship" began to fly in the publishing world. In the meantime, the Manchester book had been rushed to completion and excerpts sold for one of the largest sums in history to Look magazine.

Despite Manchester's avowals that "no one tried to lead me," that his work was not being interfered with by the Kennedys, it is known that Bobby Kennedy had teams of his people, including former presidential speechwriter Richard Goodwin, going over the book from April on, and virtually rewriting parts of it.

The book turned out to be highly prejudicial and anti-LBJ. U.S. News and World Report stated that "President Johnson and his friends have never accepted for a minute the idea that the Kennedys have total control of the Manchester manuscript. One quoted Sen. Kennedy as saying in a private conversation: 'It's our manuscript and we can release it at our leisure.'"

But when Bobby Kennedy lost control of the book, he was not so much the Manchester manuscript, but the "hatchet man" and the "copy-right" which she had. Jackie Kennedy was not so much the account, feeling it would be too painful, obviously she didn't believe Manchester intended to in-



—Star Photographer Nancy Marshall  
Arthur Schlesinger Jr. was among those who backed Jackie Kennedy in the battle over the Manchester book. Here they are shown leaving the Rive Gauche restaurant in Georgetown.

clude in the book certain intimate matters that had confided in the taped confessions just after the tragedy.

Meanwhile, Bobby was handling matters relating to the book, but either his communications with Jackie happened or he didn't consider it all so important that he couldn't let whatever she might object to.

Jackie insisted on a showdown with Manchester and Look's publisher Gardner Cowles. The story is that she asked them to fly up to Hyannisport and they did so, at no inconsiderable inconvenience.

Jackie met them, barbed and smiling, on the private air strip. She was in a gay, friendly mood.

But after they settled down for a drink back at the compound, she simply asked Look to restrict publication. She regretted the whole thing. She didn't want the agony of the promotion and seeing it in print, and besides, there were the children to think of.

### Unpleasant

World Cowles, as a friend, cancel the publication? Would Manchester, who had been so kind and understanding during their painful interviews, forego publishing? Both explained that they could not back out.

It is said that the meeting ended unpleasantly—that Jackie raged and turned into a veritable virago. "She reverted to being Jackie Sawyer and blew her French cool," said someone.

After that, Look began promoting the Manchester excerpts with a dignified vengeance and Cowles' own name went onto the circulation promotion mailing pieces. Evidently Look, Manchester and his publisher, Harper & Row, all decided to take a calculated risk.

They thought Jackie was bluffing and would never go through the horrible publicity of a lawsuit. They were wrong, in spades.

This time she not only acted, but Bobby acted in concert with her.

She forced the concessions she wanted from Look, which began publishing an excerpt of the book, Harper & Row post-poned the matter till April in an effort to settle the matter.

World opinion has backlashed onto both Jackie and Bobby.

U.S. News & World Report termed the Manchester book a "possible instrument of destruction" and denounced LBJ against allegations of power-grubbing and dishonest behavior after the assassination. They also cited 16 points positively in the President's favor.

Murray Kempton wrote an eloquent defense of Manchester, stating that he had suffered "the awful discovery that to the Kennedy family, he was only an object, no more to be respected than any servant of a great house."

Reporter Ruth Montgomery chided the Kennedys for their restrictions on the

writer, for his acceptance of their terms and then took Bobby and Jackie to task for failure to read the book in the first place.

It all became just the most dramatic in a series of Jacqueline-in-relation-to-the-press events which have caused one sardonic and gifted New York writer to say:

"If you interview her and it is printed, you will find she never speaks to you again. She is so quixotic, she simply shouldn't even talk to the press. She just makes life difficult for herself and for us, and this time she's made it difficult for Bobby."

All that old emotional blackmail about the children isn't quite fair, not after she has talked so freely.

Although Arthur Schlesinger Jr. defended Jackie in regard to the Manchester work, another friend has unmasked candidly. "Yes, she always talks to the press and she always retreats."

### White Refused

He was thinking of Theodore White's bitter experience in writing the classic "Camelot" tribute to JFK in Life.

Mrs. Kennedy didn't like that either when it appeared, despite White's devotion to the late President. (Naturally we had to offer [White] refused to take on the commission Manchester later accepted.)

Even now recently, there was the unhappy consequence to JFK's best friend, "Red" Fay, whose pleasantly witty, colorful and warm-hearted memoir, "The Pleasure of His Company" estranged him from the Kennedys. (Jackie turned down a \$3,000 gift from Fay for the Memorial Library early in December.)

These unpleasantnesses, stemming from Jackie's volatile super-sensitivity, must hurt her too. But she seems to have decided once and for all that she is now going to speak and act for herself.

Basically deferential to him, she burst from under Bobby's restraining hand when she decided that somehow the Manchester book threatened the privacy and peace of mind of her children.

After all, says one friend, "she has the children and they are hers. She always has had a very private marriage and I remember when she was in the White House, she was the only woman who had a big happy family for a while, but after the Democratic convention in 1960, Jackie had a high school dance put up, mainly to keep out the multitude of Kennedy cousins, and all their menagerie."

**TOMORROW — Whatever the questions and answers, Jackie was trying to pursue happiness.**