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Jackie Kennedy Files Suit

NEW YORK (AP) — Mrs. John F. Kennedy, saying "I am shocked" by passages in the book, "Death of a President," disclosed Wednesday that she will seek a court injunction to halt its publication.

She said the book, by William Manchester, is "tasteless and distorted."

It deals with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and the events in the days immediately after the tragedy.

Mrs. Kennedy's lawyers said they expected to file a complaint within 48 to 72 hours asking for a temporary injunction.

Harper & Row, the book's publishers, said they had made four sets of "substantial" revisions to the book at the request of Mrs. Kennedy and other members of the family.

After the first series, the firm

said in a statement, the Kennedys officially notified them, "Members of the family will place no obstacle in the way of publication."

The other three sets of changes were made after this, Harper & Row added.

"Harper & Row has done its utmost to comply with the wishes of the Kennedy family and deeply regrets their present attitude," the statement said.

Mrs. Kennedy issued the following statement:

"Look magazine, Harper & Row, and Mr. William 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. Manchest-

er, and the dignity and privacy which 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.

"Its 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 which my children and I endured in those terrible days does not seem to me to be essential to any current historical record.

"I am shocked that Mr. Manchester would exploit the emotional state in which I recounted my recollections to him early in

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1964 and I am equally shocked that reputable publishers would take commercial advantage of his failure to keep his word. To the author and publishers, this book will be only another transient chapter in their work; but my children and I will have to live with it for the rest of our lives. As horrible as a trial will be, it now seems clear that my only redress is to ask the courts to enforce my rights and postpone publication until the minimum limits of my family's privacy can be protected."

Simon Rifkind, a former federal judge, representing Mrs. Kennedy, said summonses were served Tuesday on Harper & Row, book publishers, and Cowles Communications, Inc., publishers of Look magazine.

William Attwood, editor in chief of Look, confirmed that

the summons had been served. But he said the magazine is proceeding with plans to begin serializing Manchester's book Jan. 10. Harper G. Row scheduled publication of the book in April. "The presses are already rolling," Attwood said. "We're publishing. I don't see any way it can be stopped."

Look reportedly paid Manchester \$650,000 for serialization rights.

Manchester, the author, returned from Europe on Tuesday and said he was "not informed on what is happening" but was "puzzled by the disturbance."

A source close to the Kennedy family said Wednesday the pending lawsuit is based on two contentions:

1. That Mrs. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y., have not given approval

to publication of Manchester's book.

2. It constitutes an invasion of privacy and a breach of a solemn agreement that matters relating to Mrs. Kennedy would not be published without her approval.

The informant said a document, entitled "Memorandum of Understanding Between Robert F. Kennedy and William Manchester," set forth the terms under which Manchester would write the book and when and by whom it would be published.

The document is dated March 26, 1964.

Manchester was chosen by Mrs. Kennedy to record the events of the assassination in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963, "in the interest of accuracy."

The "memorandum of understanding" contains 11 clauses.

Publishers

The key stipulation, the source said, states: "The completed manuscript shall be reviewed by Mrs. John F. Kennedy and Robert F. Kennedy and the text shall not be published unless and until approved by them."

Another reads, "The book may not be published before Nov. 22, 1968, unless Mrs. Kennedy designates a prior date, and shall be published at such a date thereafter as shall be mutually agreeable to the contracting parties."

Associates of the Kennedys did not disclose the identity of the persons referred to in Mrs. Kennedy's statement as targets of "inaccurate and unfair references" in Manchester's book. Nor would they discuss details of what a source said were "at-

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tacks on various individuals."

He said this was the chain of events that led to the pending lawsuit:

Manchester had two interviews with Mrs. Kennedy early in 1964.

"She was in a state of grief, of course," the source said. "She was not self-censoring, but relying on his agreement not to publish anything that would be of fensive to her.

"The passages are offensive in that they delineate her feelings during that period. No woman would want these things disclosed to the world."

He said neither Mrs. Kennedy nor Sen. Robert Kennedy read the book.

However, when it was finished except for final editing, he continued, Richard Goodwin, former special assistant to President Kennedy, and Pamela Timmins, Mrs. Kennedy's secretary, read the manuscript.