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**THE LIFE AND CURIOUS DEATH  
OF MARILYN MONROE.** Robert F.  
Slatzer. Pinnacle House/Two Continents  
Publishing Group, \$8.95

A bizarre and disturbing look at the circumstances of Marilyn Monroe's "suicide" in 1962—by a man who was her lover and intimate friend (and very briefly her husband) in her earlier days. Bob Slatzer fires an opening salvo that will hook the reader immediately: he describes Marilyn's disclosure, weeks before her death, that Bobby Kennedy had been her lover—that he was apparently trying to "break" with her. Slatzer's insistence on writing of his early life with Marilyn (they shackled together when both were broke) will madden readers anxious for him to get on with his documented private investigation of her death; but Slatzer's memoirs are touching and convincing, adding a note of credibility to his eventual argument. Bobby Kennedy *did* visit Marilyn on her last day, he says. What Mailer feebly hinted at in his "Marilyn" Slatzer develops in detail, raising more questions than he answers but nevertheless drop-

ping some bombshells (a Los Angeles police coverup?) in support of his demand for a new inquest. It's a muddled, macabre postmortem, but absorbing. Photos; facsimile documents. [May]

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