



MARINA OSWALD

Did her husband really kill a president?

Nearly 30 years after the death of John F Kennedy, Marina Oswald can't bury the ghost of her "killer" husband

assassination Marina was at home with their two babies, excitedly watching the President's arrival in Dallas on TV. When the shooting happened she became worried; the previous spring Oswald told her he had shot at, but missed, a local political figure. A short time later, police arrived at her home. Marina's nightmare had begun.

"I cannot describe my feelings," she says. "I was overwhelmedly said thinking about what had happened."

"But really I could never imagine Lee killing Kennedy. He always said good things about him and, when Jackie Kennedy had a miscarriage, Lee had so much sympathy for the family. Lee liked the country, the system, and he adored JFK."

After Oswald's death Marina admits life was difficult. "I went through a range of emotions," she says. "I tried to prove to everyone I was worthy of living in my new country. I bent over backwards to please people."

"Eventually you learn to live without guilt because you are not responsible for what somebody else has done."

"If Lee came back I would ask him whether or not he did it, because I need to know so badly. I want to know the truth."

"And I would tell him that whether he did it or not I still love him. I always have and always will." **Tim Carroll**

in Dallas, Oswald started work at a photo lab that did work for the government. Then, in March 1963, Oswald ordered a gun and began building links with left-wing groups. Marina was unhappy about it but there was little she could do.

On the morning of the

FACT FILE

- Marina could not find any pall bearers for her husband's funeral as the public hated him so much

- When she drives past Dealey Plaza, where Kennedy was shot, Marina always turns her head to avoid looking at the spot
- Last year, a Dallas policeman's son said his father, Roscoe White, was one of three agents who killed Kennedy. And that, though Oswald was



The moment Jack Ruby shot Lee Harvey Oswald

- In on the plot, he never fired any shots
- Two months before his death, Kennedy made a spoof home movie and, pretending to be killed by a sniper's bullet, fell clutching his chest — while Jackie carefully stepped over his body

Shots rang out on the busy Dallas street on November 22, 1963. Seconds later America's hero, President John F Kennedy, was dead. As his blood-spattered limousine sped away, the world caught its last glimpse of JFK, his body slumped on the lap of his shocked wife, Jackie.

Minutes later a policeman confronted Lee Harvey Oswald, the man who has gone down in history as the President's assassin. But did Oswald actually fire that fatal shot?

Investigators have uncovered disturbing evidence that doesn't fit the simple image of Oswald as a nut with a grudge against the President. Some experts believe he could have been one of three or four killers hired by the Mafia, or the CIA, to kill Kennedy.

The truth will never be known, as Oswald himself was gunned down by nightclub owner Jack Ruby two days after his arrest.

Fate dealt a cruel blow to Oswald's 22-year-old Russian wife, Marina. She had left her homeland with her former US-marine husband to build a new life. When he was arrested, then killed, her dreams were shattered, and she was left to bring up their two daughters alone.

Neighbours whispered and pointed at Marina in her local

supermarket. Her daughters, June and Rachel, were taunted in the school playground.

"There were times I would dream of begging Jackie Kennedy for forgiveness," she says. She has built a new life with carpenter Kenneth Porter. They live contentedly in a peaceful middle-class American suburb.

"At first I saw Lee as the bad monster, a criminal capable of killing somebody on a whim," she says. "Now I believe there was a conspiracy, and I don't think Lee pulled the trigger. I'm not saying he didn't know about the plot, but we haven't been told the whole truth."

Marina was 19 when she went to the dance that changed her life. Oswald was working in a radio factory in Minisk when they met. Within six weeks they were married. Oswald returned to America and Marina went too.

"It was a phantasmic thing for this mysterious ex-marine to tell me he loved me," says Marina. "It was flattering that a foreigner thought so much of me." Four months after they settled