

# SWINGING SEX CLUBS' DANGEROUS COMEBACK PENTHOUSE

THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 1993

SAY IT AIN'T  
SO! THOSE NASTY  
RUMORS ABOUT

**JOE  
MONTANA**

**RAIN-FOREST  
RAPE:**

AN INTERNATIONAL  
SEX SCANDAL

**WHO WAS  
LEE HARVEY  
OSWALD?**

30 YEARS  
LATER HIS MYSTERY  
IS REVEALED

**IS YOUR  
PENIS BENT?**  
IT MAY BE NO  
LAUGHING MATTER

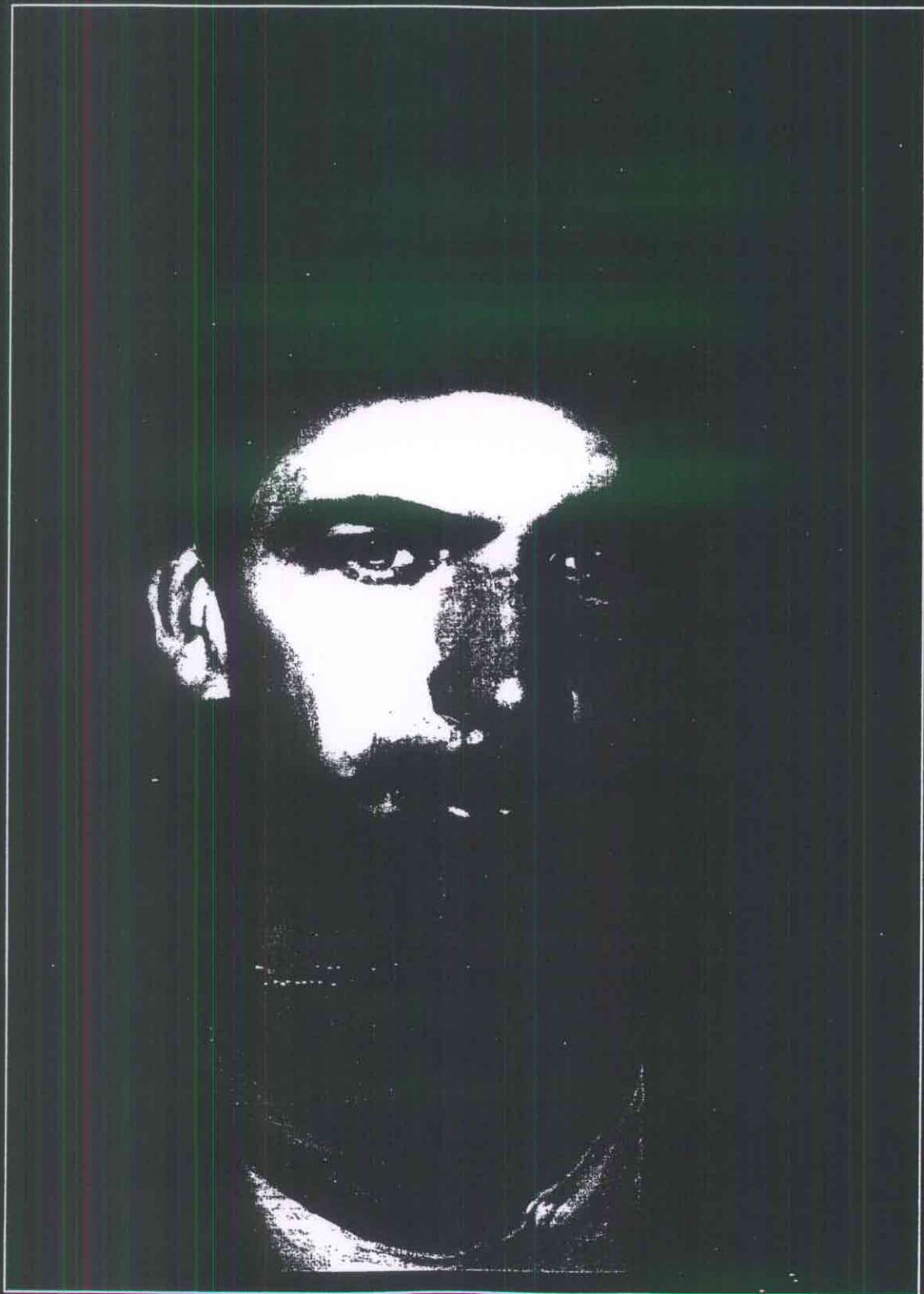


**WOW!**  
PENTHOUSE  
COMIX

**LEE HARVEY  
OSWALD**  
30 YEARS IN THE MAKING:  
THE TRUTH FINALLY  
TOLD

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Shortly after 2:00 P.M. November 22, 1963, policemen hustled a man into the basement of Dallas's city hall. Told that he could shield his face from the press, the suspect refused: "Why should I hide my face? I haven't done anything to be ashamed of." Upstairs he was interrogated by detectives. One of them had the suspect's wallet. Looking at two cards he found inside, the police officer was puzzled. "One says Lee Harvey Oswald and one says Alek Hidell. Which one are you?"

"You figure it out," smirked the suspect.

For the past 30 years, thousands of people have attempted to answer that question. Although his identity was quickly established, the search for the answer to the much broader

question of who Lee Harvey Oswald was has never ended. The answer is key in finding out what happened on that terrible day in Dallas.

Thirty years of JFK-assassination conspiracy theories have demolished the Warren Commission report's credibility by creating a widespread public perception that Lee Harvey Oswald was a patsy. The popular view is that he was weak, not very bright, and easily manipulated by sinister forces. The Oswald of Oliver Stone's film *JFK* is typical, meekly sitting in on a meeting when the murder of the president is discussed, then failing to offer a spirited defense once arrested for a crime he supposedly never committed. But the conspiracy portrait of Oswald is wrong. During several years of research for my book *Case Closed: Lee Harvey Oswald and the Assassination of JFK*, I have conducted nearly 200 interviews and uncovered key documents about the case. Extended conversations with those who knew him best, as well as disclosures from his still classified K.G.B. file, have helped me unmask the Oswald enigma, and, by so doing, may help us all finally come to terms with one of the most traumatic days of our times.

Lee Harvey Oswald was born into a lower-middle-class family in New Orleans on October 18, 1939, just two months after his father died. His mother, Marguerite, a domineering woman who had trouble holding a

job, pampered Lee, the youngest of her three sons. Although she encouraged him to be a quiet child who stayed home alone, she had trouble controlling him. At various schools he developed a reputation as a bully, leading several small gangs and often getting into fistfights. His bad temper carried over to his family—he chased his stepbrother and later confronted his sister-in-law with a knife, and often struck his mother when she did not comply with his demands. With his few acquaintances, he argued contentiously about the benefits of communism (to which he became attracted through library books at the age of 15), and tried to recruit one to help him rob a pistol

from a store, a scheme he abandoned only when scared away by an alarm system. "I thought he was a psychö," recalled Julian Evans, a New Orleans neighbor.

A psychiatrist

who interviewed him in New York, when Oswald was committed at age 13 to that city's Youth House for truancy, concluded he was "emotionally quite disturbed" and suffered from a "personality pattern disturbance with schizoid features and passive-aggressive tendencies." Oswald confided

to the psychiatrist that he had no friends and did not want any. When asked if he preferred the company of boys or girls, he cavalierly responded, "I dislike everybody."

By the time he was 16, Lee and his mother had moved 21 times; he had attended 12 schools before finally dropping out. This isolated youngster, dominated by a self-indulgent mother and prone to fits of violence, was so dissatisfied with his life that he decided to follow his older brother into the Marine Corps. Oswald joined up a week after his 17th birthday, but soon discovered it was not what he had expected. In school he could bully others since he was a year older, and therefore larger, than his classmates. But in the Marines, he was of average size (five foot nine), and because he was a loner who did

ARTICLE

BY GERALD POSNER

THE MAFIA MAY HAVE PLOTTED TO MURDER JFK, BUT, SAYS THE AUTHOR OF AN AUTHORITATIVE NEW BOOK, THEY WERE TOO LATE. AT THE HEART OF THE

WHO WAS LEE HARVEY OSWALD?

MYSTERY OF THE ASSASSINATION LIES THE ENIGMA OF THE KILLER—WHO SEIZED A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY TO PROPEL HIMSELF INTO HISTORY.

ILLUSTRATION BY DANIEL ADEL



## OSWALD, POSING IN DARK GLASSES WITH RUSSIAN COWORKERS, HAD SAID "I DISLIKE EVERYBODY" WHEN HE WAS 13.

busted to a buck private, stripped of any security clearances, and put on KP duty. "He was pathetic," said a colleague, Kerry Thornley.

While enduring the abuse of his fellow marines, he searched for the next horizon, where his talents might be appreciated. As early as 1957, he had begun thinking about defecting to the Soviet Union. It embodied his belief that "the best religion is communism" and that

any American defector would be accorded a hero's welcome. For nearly two years, he studied the Russian language and planned his defection. He boasted to another marine that he "would do something that would make him famous."

By September 1959 Oswald was honorably discharged, and within two weeks was on a ship bound for Europe. The day after his arrival in Moscow, he confided

to his Soviet tour guide that he wanted to defect and become a Soviet citizen. "We had no reason to let him stay," said Yuriy Nosenko, the K.G.B. officer who handled the case. "The K.G.B. had absolutely no interest in him." When the Soviets told him to leave the country, Oswald attempted suicide by slashing his wrist. In his still classified K.G.B. file is his original handwritten note, which reads, "Did I come here just to find death? I love life." After Soviet doctors saved him, the K.G.B. had two psychiatrists examine him. Both concluded he was "mentally unstable."

The Soviets, afraid he would try to kill himself again if forced to leave the country, relocated him to Minsk. There he worked as a metalworker in a factory and initially was a minor celebrity. But the novelty soon wore off. Russia's brand of communism was much more regimented than Oswald had expected. The K.G.B. kept him under constant surveillance (convincing them that Oswald was not an American spy). A girl he had fallen in love with crushed him by rejecting his marriage proposal. In less than a year, the mercurial Oswald hated his factory work, the

Communist bureaucracy, and Russia itself.

Yet in March 1961, he met a young Russian pharmacology student, Marina Prusakova, and, while still on the rebound from his first love, married her. Shortly before meeting Marina, he had written to the American embassy in Moscow, requesting to repatriate to the United States, a country he had despised. Although their marriage was rocky from the start, filled with arguments and even infidelity by Marina, she soon echoed his request to come to America. It took them and their newborn daughter more than a year to get permission from both governments. In his private papers, Oswald confided his reason for returning to America: "I have done nothing more or less than select the lesser of two evils."

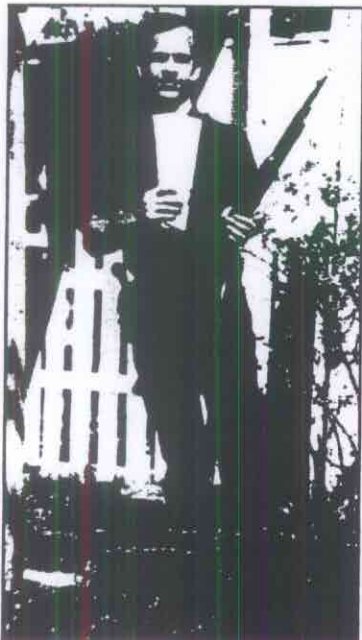
Oswald moved to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area in June 1962. Without a high school diploma, and his Marine discharge reversed to undesirable, he had difficulty obtaining work. Adding to his early problems were visits from the F.B.I., questioning him about his time in Russia. The tension in his marriage was running high, and Oswald's arguments with Marina soon turned violent. Although he had never touched her in Russia, in Texas she remembered he was "unrestrained," often beating her so badly that the neighbors worried he might kill her. Marina eventually attempted suicide to escape his brutality, but he discovered her fumbling with the rope and again pummeled her. A small group of Russian émigrés had met the Oswalds and not only knew of the abuse, but strongly disliked Lee's arrogance. One judged him "unstable," another "mentally sick," and yet another concluded he "had a mind of his own, and I think it was a diseased one."

As his personal life deteriorated, he increasingly focused on his semiliterate political philosophy, a mixture of Marxism and anarchism. He tried joining the Socialist Workers party, but it did not have a Texas branch. He wrote solicitous letters to the Soviet embassy and the Communist and Socialist parties and subscribed to a series of left-wing journals. Fearing the F.B.I.'s interest in him, he created false identification cards and used them to order both a rifle and a pistol. He had Marina take photos of him



not date girls or carouse at bars, he was considered strange. He was taunted as "Mrs. Oswald" and "Ozzie Rabbit," thrown fully clothed into the shower, and mercilessly razed. There were rumors he was homosexual. Oswald kept to himself and was quickly contemptuous of the corps, particularly his superiors. He was court-martialed twice, once for wounding himself with an illegal firearm, then for assaulting an officer. By the end of his service in 1959, Oswald had been

## AS OSWALD LEFT RUSSIA WITH HIS NEW WIFE AND CHILD, HIS MARRIAGE WAS ROCKY AND HIS CONVICTIONS AGAINST AUTHORITY WERE SLOWLY EVOLVING TOWARD VIOLENCE.



holding his guns and two leftist newspapers. At the age of 22, he was convinced that he alone knew the ultimate political truth about Russia and the United States, since he had lived in both. While Marina was well aware of his radical politics, she did not know that he was about to embark on a much more militant phase. His initial target was a right-wing ex-army general and politician, Edwin Walker. Oswald had concluded that Walker was a potential

Hitler, and the only way to stop him was to kill him. He photographed Walker's house and devised a plan of assassination and escape.

On the night of April 10, 1963, only two weeks after he had been fired from his latest job, Marina walked into Oswald's study. She found a handwritten note, explaining what to do if he should be arrested and jailed. She was panicked by the time he came home at 11:30 P.M., boasting he had shot and killed Walker (unbeknownst to Oswald, his one shot was slightly deflected by a window frame, and the bullet passed within a fraction of Walker's head). Marina was horrified. Less than two weeks later, she resorted to trapping him in the bathroom after he grabbed his pistol and told her that he was going to see Richard Nixon. She was pregnant with their second child, and warned him that it would be better to kill her than to go after Nixon. He finally relented.

Marina feared that Lee would attack Walker again—and though he promised he would not, she did not trust him. By late April she insisted he return to New Orleans, the city of his birth. There he found a job (that he again disliked) as a machine greaser at a coffee company. When Marina joined him, they began fighting almost immediately. Their New Orleans neighbors were soon talking about the troubled couple from Texas.

Oswald's dissatisfaction with America had peaked. He condemned the capitalist emphasis on money and griped that John F. Kennedy's father had "bought him the presidency." His frustration with America was so pronounced that Marina once found him crying uncontrollably, lamenting his poor fate in the United States. He had again decided to leave the country. His new passion was for Cuba, which he thought was the pure embodiment of Marxist ideology. He had decided that Marina was to return to Russia while he visited Cuba.

In this new phase of his political interest, Oswald became the only member of his own branch of the Communist Fair Play for Cuba committee and distributed pro-Castro leaflets on street corners. A picture of Castro hung in his living room, and he argued with Marina that their second child be named Fidel. Oswald tried to infiltrate local anti-Castro groups and again practiced with his rifle, telling

Marina that Cuba needed revolutionaries. In August 1963 he was arrested in a street fracas with anti-Castro Cubans. But he spent only one night in jail and continued his activism with other public protests, radio debates, and militant letters to American Communist leaders. By late August he had decided to hijack a plane to Cuba and wanted Marina to help him. As she watched him run around the house training for the hijacking, Marina remarked to her daughter, "Junie, our papa is out of his mind."

Although Oswald had flip-flopped several times over which country and under which political system he preferred to live, Marina had little doubt that there was no pleasing her fickle husband. "I am sure that if he had gone there [Cuba]," she said, "he would not have liked it there either. Only on the moon, perhaps."

He abruptly abandoned his hijacking plans and decided instead to travel to Mexico City, from where he could obtain a visa for Cuba. Marina returned to Dallas when he left for Mexico. He arrived at the Cuban embassy on September 27, 1963, and proudly produced copies of his leftist correspondence, membership cards in radical organizations, newspaper clippings about his arrest, and an autobiographical booklet about his Marxist dedication. Oswald demanded an immediate visa, but the Cuban consul rejected his request, telling him it would take several weeks. He became furious, argued with the consul, and later visited the Soviet embassy to plead that they intervene with the Cubans. When Moscow heard of his request, it ordered the embassy not to help him, since he was "nuts." Rejected by the Soviets, he made a final assault on the Cuban embassy, but this time the consul forced him out.

For four months he had worked himself into a frenzy over Cuba, risking both imprisonment and humiliation in New Orleans for his pro-Castro stance. Convinced that Castro would welcome him as a revolutionary comrade in arms, he was stunned by the rejection. It was another in a long line of reversals, and at the age of 23, he considered his return to the United States a crushing personal setback. When he arrived in Dallas, he initially could not telephone Marina, since he was so ashamed not to be call-



# OSWALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 35

recognize his intelligence and afford him the respect he believed he deserved. Now, by chance, he had a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to show all those in his past how they had greatly underestimated him.

On the day before JFK's visit, Oswald broke his normal routine of eating a meager breakfast at his rooming house, instead treating himself to a special meal at a nearby restaurant. That night he broke his routine again and visited Marina. They had fought earlier in the week, and though he made many efforts to settle the argument, she refused. Later, at dinner, when the subject of the President's visit came up, he refused to discuss it. He went to bed nearly two hours early, although Marina said he was restless and did not fall asleep until nearly 5:00 A.M.

The next morning he left without kissing her good-bye, something he had never done before. When she awoke she noticed that Lee had left \$170 on top of their bureau. It was a remarkable sum for the Oswalds—nearly all their savings. While that startled her, she did not immediately notice something else that would have greatly worried her. In a hand-painted demi-

lasse cup on the bureau that had belonged to her grandmother, Lee had placed his wedding ring. He had never before taken it off.

That day Lee Oswald fulfilled his desire for a lasting place in history, managing to fire three rifle shots at JFK's limousine, one of which was fatal. Less than an hour later, when confronted by a Dallas policeman, J. D. Tippit, he emptied his pistol at Tippit, killing him instantly. When arrested within half an hour of that shooting (with the gun later tied ballistically to the murder), he again attempted to shoot at the police, but his revolver misfired.

Exactly two days later, Oswald himself was murdered in front of a live television audience by Dallas nightclub owner Jack Ruby. The groundwork for conspiracy speculation was set. Not only had Oswald led an unusual life (not many former marines defected to the Soviet Union at the height of the Cold War), but Ruby's underworld connections ensured that the murder looked like a Mafia-ordered silencing. By killing Oswald before there was a full and open trial, Ruby inadvertently guaranteed that, for many, the case would remain unresolved.

Today, 30 years later, a myriad of suspects have been pinpointed as possible masterminds behind the assassination, but most believe that the

mob is the likely culprit. Yet none of the theorists can credibly link Oswald to any Mafia plot. Most fail to mention that if Oswald had been granted a visa by the Cuban embassy in Mexico City in September 1963, he would have been in Cuba when JFK visited Dallas. In Dallas, for the two months preceding the assassination, there is no evidence of any mob contact with Oswald. His job at the book depository was arranged by several of Marina's friends, not the Mafia. Oswald's landlady and roommates at his Dallas boarding house report that he stayed home every night, never received any telephone calls, and only made one call a night to his wife. After the motorcade was announced, only three days before JFK's visit, there was no flurry of calls and not one visit. Where is the evidence of the last-minute preparations for the crime of the century? There is none. Mafia kingpins may, indeed, have plotted to murder JFK, but Oswald beat them to it. When he settled in at the Texas School Book Depository near noon on November 22, 1963, Lee Oswald, driven by his own twisted furies, was the lone assassin at Dealey Plaza. **OT**

*Do you think Oswald acted alone? Call 1-900-9-EDITOR and make your opinion count! For more information, see page 145.*

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