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ently one of the hardest things to come by Wednesday was a copy of Look magazine containing the first installment of William Manchester's book "The Death of a President."

News dealers said they had sold out and were unable to order extra copies to meet tremendous demands from customers. Some news stands reported selling out within an hour after delivery.

Approximately 974,000 copies of the magazine were available for news-stand sale, 500,000 more than usual. Subscription circulation of the magazine is about 7,426,000.

A spokesman for, Look said the magazine had been besieged by telephone calls from people across the country demanding to know why they had not received their subscription copy in the mail.

""It's wild," he said. "We got a double order and sold out before night on Monday," said a News dealer at a New York hotel.