

“A  
 masterpiece of  
 character study  
 and a gem of  
 personal  
 journalism”

—NEWSWEEK



Jacket photo by Carl Fischer

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**"What sort of person is Lee Harvey Oswald's mother?** Might he not have inherited certain character traits from her? The matter is explored for us in this book which records three long conversations on successive days between Mrs. Oswald and the novelist Jean Stafford... A chilling portrait of a paranoid personality who feels herself (and her son) to be the victims of prejudice and publicity."

—JOHN BARKHAM, *Saturday Review Syndicate*

**"Mrs. Oswald is something beyond belief...** To read her story is to enter a land of rocks and terrors and things that go bump in the night... This book is like a shriek in a graveyard. It cannot be ignored."

—DON ROBERTSON, *Cleveland Plain Dealer*

**"A Mother in History reaches out toward Lee Oswald with a thin, piercing light...** In depicting her own impotence in the face of Mrs. Oswald's stupefying talk, Jean Stafford makes credible the fostering in an offspring of an empty rage capable of an ultimate outrage."

—ANNETTE K. BAXTER, *N.Y. Times Book Review*

**"A shocked and shocking book...** The whole absurd obscenity of the Dallas killing and its aftermath is contained in this portrait—self-portrait really—of Mrs. Marguerite Oswald... One reads it constantly assaulted."

—ELIOT FREMONT-SMITH, *New York Times*

**"Written with a novelist's insights,** this book becomes an absorbing if searing experience, and adds a footnote to the dreadful November day in 1963."

—KATHERINE JACKSON, *Harper's*

**"Fascinating to read,** implacable in its inferences and impeccable in its presentation."

—*Virginia Kirkus Service*

**"An unforgettable picture of what is (I am afraid) an unforgettable woman...** Mrs. Oswald, as seen in this book, is as grotesque a character as one can find in Miss Stafford's fiction or almost anyone else's."

—GRANVILLE HICKS, *Saturday Review*

**"A triumph of control** not only over material but over the writer's emotions."

—MARYA MANNES, *Book Week*

# A MOTHER IN HISTORY

By Jean Stafford

SECOND PRINTING • \$3.95, now at your bookstore.

FARRAR, STRAUS & GIROUX 