



*This book records an agonizing fragment of your life—as you watched, waited, and wept... when President Kennedy fell*

**NBC-TV broke the news to the nation at 1:45 p.m. . . .**

President Kennedy was shot at in Dallas, Texas today. Blood was seen on the President's head as they rushed him to the hospital. Mrs. Kennedy was heard to exclaim, "Oh, no!"

**You endured the agonizing minutes that followed . . .**

1:53 p.m. HUNTER: Special Presidential Assistant, Kenneth O'Donnell gave no answer when asked if President Kennedy was dead . . . Driving at high speed, the car took five minutes to get to the hospital.

2:15 p.m. WBAP-TV Dallas, Texas: CHARLES MURPHY: A time of controlled panic . . . Two Roman Catholic priests were summoned to the room of President Kennedy.

2:17 p.m. BNL RYAN: A call has been issued for fresh blood — B-positive type.

2:23 p.m. RYAN reads an Associated Press report stating that the two priests said the President is dead of bullet wounds.

**You heard the four unbelievable words . . .**

RYAN: The report is confirmed: The President is dead.

**and saw the fantastic drama unfold . . .**

2:49 p.m. MURPHY: A Dallas policeman has been shot to death two miles from the scene of the assassination. A suspect is in custody.

Sunday, November 24, 12:20 p.m. Basement of Dallas City Jail: PERRY: He's been shot! He's been shot! He's been shot! Lee Oswald has been shot! There's absolute panic here in the basement of the Dallas Police Headquarters."

**You shared the tragic emotion of an entire world in mourning . . .**

4:39 p.m. Saturday, RYAN Reads the statement issued by U.N. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson: "The tragedy of this day is beyond instant comprehension. All of us who knew him will bear the grief of his death to the day of ours . . ."

**. . . and witnessed the crisis birth of a new administration**

5:18 p.m. McGeer: After taking the oath as our 36th President, Lyndon Johnson was quoted as saying: "Let's get this plane back to Washington."

And so it went on television for the next sixty-eight hours . . . You were a part of the shock and the sorrow . . . You heard the outpourings of grief from the great and small of the world . . . you marvelled at the quiet dignity of Mrs. Kennedy . . . And finally, you participated in the binding together of a nation in the solemnity and grandeur of the most spectacular tribute this country has ever given a hero.

It was a tragic drama unequalled in history and it was all captured in an unsurpassed feat of electronic journalism. This is the minute-by-minute record of these saddest, finest hours in broadcasting history — when television broke the news — and then reached out to comfort a shocked, heart-broken nation.

# 70 hours and 30 minutes

\$2.95, now at your bookstore



THE NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW