

# The Elusive Marina Oswald —Back in the Limelight

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## Heath, Texas

Many people in this small community east of Dallas may have passed her this week — at the gas station, grocery store or nearby shopping mall — and never given her a second glance.

And for that, Marina Oswald is grateful.

Her name is Mrs. Kenneth Porter now and it has been 14 years since her shy, pony-tailed face appeared on the front page of newspapers all over the world.

After years of notoriety as the widow of Lee Harvey Oswald, Marina Nikolaevna Prussakova Oswald Porter, 36, has used time, distance and a new name to escape the public stigma of her husband's alleged crime, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Marina, her second husband, Kenneth Jess Porter, and their three children have carefully faded into obscurity in the rural tranquility of this Rockwall county community, 30 miles east of Dallas. Since the early '70s the Porters have worked hard to convince their neighbors that they are just another farm family.

But there is a growing awareness among residents here that their reclusive neighbor is on the verge of becoming a celebrity again. And they are curious why Marina and Kenneth are risking their hard-won privacy now to cash in on her name.

For the first time since the assassinations of Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, Marina has finally agreed to tell her story in a book, "Marina and Lee," to be released by Harper and Row in October.

Readers looking for exciting new revelations may not find them in Marina's book. Several of her friends claim it will simply be Marina's story, her story in a book, "Marina and Lee," to be released by Harper and Row in October.

However, Harper and Row promises "Marina and Lee" will shed new light on Oswald the man through Marina's very personal insights into his personality.

"The book is written in a very probing way," Harper and Row editor Marion S. Wyeth said. "It follows the Oswalds' day-to-day life in a very personal manner. I don't know that it contains any new information that has not already been brought out by the Warren Commission, but I believe it will give a number of new sights into Oswald's personality."

There was a time, with the aid of interpreters, when the youthful Marina Oswald basked in the attention of the media.

Those who knew Marina in the early days following the assassination — attorneys, relatives, reporters and business associates — estimate she received between \$200,000 and \$300,000 in donations from the sympathetic American public, interview fees and



the sale of Oswald possessions.

But by 1970, Marina Oswald had quietly dropped out of sight. Today there are no interviews with Oswald's widow. Period.

Marina and Kenneth Porter bought a 17-acre farm on an isolated stretch of farm road. Their modest yellow brick ranch house sits well back from the road, looking out onto a peaceful lake in the front yard and miles of open fields.

Outwardly, Marina's life today is one of rural tranquility. Neighbors for miles around all know Marina's identity and they leave her alone. They adamantly refuse to talk to reporters and photographers.

"We never avoided the subject of the assassination in any of our classes just because Marina's children were here," one teacher recalled.

Despite the hundreds of thousands of dollars Marina reportedly received in the years following Oswald's death, her lifestyle today shows little evidence of wealth. Kenneth drives a 1960 pickup truck and Marina occasionally sets out in their 1969 station wagon. Their home is pleasantly but plainly furnished, and the Porters do not farm their 17 acres, leaving the land fallow.

Their marriage has been stormy. On July 18, 1974 Kenneth Porter filed for a divorce which was granted four months later. The judge in the case granted him the bulk of the settlement and custody of his son Mark, possession of the acreage, the house, the pickup truck and station wagon, unnamed stocks and his personal property. Marina retained custody of her two daughters by Oswald but was awarded only the household furniture and her personal belongings.

Although there are no county

records that they remarried, neighbors say they are now back together.

The same month Marina's book is scheduled to debut, ABC-TV plans to release a two-night, prime-time movie about what the trial of Lee Harvey Oswald might have been like. The two events seem calculated to put the Rockwall county housewife at the top of this fall's media celebrity list — a place she insisted she never wanted to be again.

**Marina  
Oswald  
Porter and  
her  
husband  
Kenneth in  
1969**



**Marina Oswald, here with her daughter Rachel in 1964: her book may give new insights into the Kennedy assassination**