

Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot Study Guide

**Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot by Bill O'Reilly
(commentator)**

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Plot Summary

Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard are the authors of "Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot." The book details the rise and fall of John F. Kennedy, a man considered to be perhaps one of the most influential and well-loved presidents in American history.

The prologue begins with John Fitzgerald Kennedy (JFK) being sworn into office as the President of the United States. Kennedy is the youngest president to ever be inaugurated. JFK is adored by millions of Americans despite his thick accent and privileged upbringing. JFK knows how to relate to people of all classes and ages. Additionally, JFK's wife, the beautiful and intelligent Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, is his number one supporter and, many believe, the reason he received many more votes than was ever expected of the young upstart from Massachusetts.

Meanwhile, in the Soviet Union, a man named Lee Harvey Oswald toils throughout his daily life as a nobody. Oswald, a former Marine, had defected to the Soviet Union.

Kennedy's history as a naval commander is detailed, including his near fatal experiences aboard PT-109, a boat that was sunk in the Pacific by a Japanese Express ship, its survivors believed to be dead.

There are many instances in which Kennedy cheated death, from the experiences aboard PT-109 to many health issues that once put him into a coma. Kennedy also faced the death of his brother Joe, a celebrated war hero. The authors believe that these experiences led JFK to have a fatalistic outlook on life and perhaps made him somewhat careless in his political and private matters.

The life of Lee Harvey Oswald is integral to the story. Lee Harvey Oswald is the man who would shoot and kill JFK from the sixth story window of the Texas School Book Depository. Oswald was a former Marine that had strong socialist beliefs. Oswald was so devoted to his Communist leanings that he defected to Russia. Once in Russia, Oswald learned that the system was not as idyllic as he had hoped.

Oswald was a loner, a fanatic, and most certainly unhinged. He became obsessed with Communism and spent the majority of his time reading Communist magazines. Oswald also became fascinated with guns. The story of Oswald runs parallel to that of Kennedy and his family.

The story follows Kennedy from 1961 up until his death on November 23, 1963. Kennedy had a great many trials while in office, including the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba. Kennedy, with the help of his brother and right hand man, Robert, fought hard to maintain good standing in the eyes of the American public. Although Kennedy faced great pressures in the Oval Office, he always found time to indulge in a vast number of extra marital affairs with almost anyone from staff to Jackie's friends to the troubled starlet Marilyn Monroe.



Oswald became aware of Kennedy as it became clear the president was anti-communist. This offended Oswald who believed that communism was the way all political systems should operate. This belief did not change when Oswald returned to America.

Kennedy had his eyes set on his re-election campaign in 1963. Recent turbulence with Jackie, plus the recent death of their son, Patrick, brought the couple closer together than ever before JFK begged Jackie to return home to join him in his Texas campaign.

Texas was known for being a state of hatred when it came to JFK. The president was warned to stay out of the state, and particularly Dallas but he would not back down from a challenge. JFK was convinced that he could win over the people just as he had in Montana.

Lee Harvey Oswald had other plans. JFK was shot and killed by Oswald as the presidential motorcade travelled through the streets of Dallas. The idea of a conspiracy theory to kill Kennedy is momentarily addressed.

Oswald, in turn, was gunned down by Dallas native Jack Ruby.

In January 1964, Jackie moved out of the White House and bade farewell to the people of America, thus ending Camelot forever.



Prologue; Part 1: Chapters 1-7

Prologue; Part 1: Chapters 1-7 Summary and Analysis

Prologue; Part 1: Chapters 1-7

The prologue begins with John Fitzgerald Kennedy being sworn into office as the President of the United States. Kennedy is usually referred to as JFK to separate himself from his illustrious father, Joseph Kennedy, eldest brother Joe Jr., brother and soon-to-be attorney general Bobby, and younger brother, the up and coming political figure Edward, aka Teddy.

Kennedy is the youngest president to ever be inaugurated. JFK is adored by millions of Americans despite his thick ascent and privileged upbringing. JFK knows how to relate to people of all classes and ages. Additionally, JFK's wife, the beautiful and intelligent Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, is his number one supporter and, many believe, the reason he received many more votes than was ever expected of the young upstart from Massachusetts.

JFK is joined on the podium by many illustrious figures including Vice President Lyndon Banes Johnson, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, and of course, Jackie. Eisenhower does not like Kennedy and feels that he is not capable of running the country. Johnson is bitter over having to play second fiddle to someone he considers to be inferior. The crowd notices none of this as JFK is sworn into office and gives his first and only inaugural speech.

Meanwhile, in the Soviet Union, a man named Lee Harvey Oswald toils throughout his daily life as a nobody. Oswald, a former Marine, had defected to the Soviet Union.

"Oswald is a defector. In 1959, at age nineteen, the slightly built, somewhat handsome, enigmatic drifter decided to leave the United States of America, convinced that his socialist beliefs would be embraced in the Soviet Union. But things haven't gone according to plan." Prologue, p. 16

Oswald is now persona non grata in his native country as well as his adopted one. Oswald decides that he has made a mistake and makes a plea to be allowed to return home to the U.S.

It is noted that at this time, Oswald knows nothing about the new president of the United States.

Part 1: Cheating Death

Chapter 1:



It is 1943 and JFK is the skipper of PT-109, a patrol boat. It is nighttime and things are quiet. JFK is half asleep when his observer sees the Japanese transport boat Amagiri about 250 yards away. The observer notifies his skipper immediately. JFK jumps into action, attempting to turn the boat and get out of Amagiri's way. He is not fast enough. Torpedoes hit PT-109. Two men are killed immediately. There are two other PT boats nearby but the explosion leads them to believe that the entire crew of PT-109 has been killed and they might be next if they stick around to look for survivors - of which there are surely none.

This is a new place for JFK - a place of leadership for a man who never strived to be a leader or a combat soldier. JFK's father, Joe, forced JFK out of naval intelligence and into combat when his Danish girlfriend was suspected to be a Nazi spy.

"Being second-born in a family where great things are expected from the oldest son, Kennedy has had the luxury of a frivolous life. He was a sickly child, grew into a young man fond of books and girls, and, with the exception of commanding a minor vessel such as PT-109, has shown no interest in pursuing a leadership position in politics—an ambition required of his older brother, Joe." Chap. 1, p. 21

JFK had to think and act fast. The Japanese would not stay in the area long but there were still 11 crew members that were alive and would not stay that way for long unless the skipper saved them from drowning, sharks, or worse.

JFK attempts to get the crew to make suggestions on what to do. The crew is not used to being part of a democratic society. JFK refuses to give the order until he is forced to determine that the only answer is to swim. JFK chooses to swim to what will become known as Bird Island rather than Gizo, which is much closer. However, it is likely that Gizo will be inhabited by Japanese soldiers.

The swim to Bird Island takes five hours. Although JFK is an athlete and strong swimmer, he is exhausted. The crew makes onto the deserted island hungry, exhausted, and dehydrated.

The situation becomes desperate. Finally, JFK decides to swim to a nearby island with the hope of signaling another PT boat. Unfortunately, none are in the area and JFK, beaten and bloody from the reefs, exhausted and dehydrated, is pushed out into the ocean.

"John Kennedy pries off his heavy shoes and lets them fall to the sea bottom, thinking that the reduced drag will allow him to swim more easily. It doesn't. He drifts farther and farther out into the Pacific. No matter how hard he swims, the currents push him in the other direction. Finally, he stops fighting. Alone in the dark, his body now cold and his mind a jumble of conflicting thoughts, Kennedy bobs lifelessly. He is an enigmatic man. Despite his reputation for bedding as many girls as possible, he was raised in a Roman Catholic household. His faith has faltered in recent months, but it now serves him well. Even though his situation seems impossible, Kennedy has hope." Chap. 1, p. 24



Kennedy and Ross make another attempt at contacting someone for help. Although they manage to procure a canoe, the journey is fruitless. JFK carves a note into a coconut asking for help. The next day the skipper paddles to New Georgie Island where he meets a Kiwi Lieutenant. The crew of PT-109 is saved.

JFK is touched deeply by death once more. His brother, Joe, is in an experimental bomber that explodes over England on August 12, 1944. These two events propel JFK into his life of politics.

A mere six months after the war ended, JFK ran for Congress. He seemed to be an unlikely candidate. JFK hooked up with Dave Powers, a World War II vet that would become a close personal friend and adviser. Powers thinks JFK has no chance until he hears him speak in front of a group of Gold Star mothers in a town hall meeting. JFK woos the crowd. Powers sends out reprints of the news story about PT-109 to help clinch JFK's role as a new member of the political scene.

The author describes Powers:

"The tall Boston native, five years JFK's senior, has been on the Kennedy payroll since that January night in 1946. As special assistant to the president, he is not a cabinet member, or even an official adviser—just a very close friend who always seems to anticipate the president's needs and whose company the always-loyal JFK enjoys immensely. Powers has been described as the president's "jester in residence," and it's true: his official capacity in the White House is largely social. Dave Powers is willing to do anything for John Kennedy."

Chapter 2:

February 1961 - The White House 1:00 P.M.

JFK swims naked as he does every day. It is part of JFK's therapy for a tortured back, a problem that has plagued him since Harvard and was worsened by the crisis on the ocean. But if JFK has to swim every day, he will do it the manly way - au naturel. This is only one of the things that make JFK a drastic opposite to the ultra conservative Eisenhower. JFK, Jackie and staff work hard to make the atmosphere at the White House less formal, abolishing receiving lines and creating an atmosphere for people to enjoy their company as well as popular music.

Kennedy's daily schedule is outlined. There is still a sense of formality in the Oval Office except for when JFK and his inner circle meet. JFK is known to swear like a sailor and put his feet up on his desk. Things change in the presence of his secretary and Jackie.

JFK's biggest "secret" is his voracious sexual appetite. Jackie's biggest vice is her one pack a day smoking habit. Like her husband, Jackie is a complete opposite of her predecessor, the grandmotherly Mamie Eisenhower.

The author describes Jackie: "Jackie's parents divorced before she was twelve, and she was raised in wealth and splendor by her mother, Janet. She attended expensive girls'



boarding schools and then Vassar College before spending her junior year in Paris. Upon her return to the United States, Jackie transferred to George Washington University, in D.C., where she got a diploma in 1951. Throughout the First Lady's developmental years, she was taught to be extremely private and to hold thoughts deep within herself. She likes to maintain "a certain quality of mystery about her," a friend will later note. "People did not know what she was thinking or what she was doing behind the scenes—and she wanted to keep it that way." The fact is that Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy never fully reveals herself to anyone—not even to her husband, the president." Chap. 2, p. 33

In the Soviet Union, Oswald meets Marina Prusakova. Within two weeks of meeting, the couple marries.

Back in the White House, Jackie tries to adapt to many of the social and political upheavals that are taking place in the country. Jackie is not like other first ladies, refusing to attend social events. She also refuses to leave her children in the care of the household staff, preferring to dote on three year old Caroline and baby John. Jackie is also fascinated with design and has lavish plans for redecorating what she refers to as "The President's House."

Chapter 3

April 17, 1961 - Washington, D.C./Bay of Pigs, Cuba 9:40 A.M.

JFK's attention to his appearance is noted.

JFK prepares to board Marine One, the presidential helicopter.

"Kennedy is preoccupied with Cuba. Roughly twelve hundred miles due south of Washington, D.C., a battlefield is taking shape. Kennedy has authorized a covert invasion of the island nation, sending fourteen hundred anti-Castro exiles to do a job that the U.S. military, by rule of international law, cannot do itself." Chap. 3, p. 37

The plan to overthrow Cuba was put into place long before JFK took office. The CIA and Joint Chiefs of Staff have set the wheels in motion, waiting for the president's go ahead. However, if the plan fails, it is JFK that will take the blame.

JFK has a 78% approval rating after only a few months in office. Little did he know that he was about to make an enemy of Castro and of CIA chief Allen Dulles.

JFK begins to worry when no one will level with him about his decisions. JFK begins to sense that the Bay of Pigs was a mistake.

Until 1959, Cuba was known as a tropical paradise. In 1959, Fidel Castro and his guerilla army staged and won a coup against Batista's government. Castro was lauded as a hero. Even after Castro began his reign of terror, no one outside Cuba realized how ruthless the man could be.



"In 1959, Kennedy and Castro were on the verge of becoming two of the twentieth century's greatest rivals. Both were charismatic, idealistic young men beloved by their fanatical followers. Both enjoyed a good cigar and had had long political winning streaks that resulted in each man ruling his nation. But each had a setback during his rise to power—Castro was imprisoned in the early years of his revolution; Kennedy's painful back condition and a potentially deadly adrenal gland condition known as Addison's disease each nearly killed him. Perhaps the most striking similarity between the two men is that Kennedy and Castro were the sort of highly competitive alpha males who never accept losing, no matter what the circumstances, no matter how high the cost." Chap. 3, p. 41

In 1960 it came to the attention of the outside world how ruthless Castro could be. The Soviet endorsement of Cuba sounded an alarm. The Iron Curtain was now less than 90 miles south of the U.S. Eisenhower knew that something had to be done. The issue continued to be one of the main points addressed during the 1960 election process.

JFK was in a predicament. He had argued against Eisenhower's plans to invade Cuba yet knew that he would have to endorse the same plan. One out of nineteen Cubans was a prisoner. Castro was now very anti-American and had repeatedly defied the government. Nikita Khrushchev began to question America's lack of action, wondering why the elephant was afraid of the mouse. With potential Soviet support, it began to seem as if America would have to invade or live in fear of being invaded.

Kennedy's cold feet ensured that the attack on Cuba would be a miserable failure.

The author recounts the mutual dislike of Bobby Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson. Johnson had accepted the offer to become Vice President, leaving his role as a Majority Leader in the Senate - perhaps the most powerful in history. It wasn't long before LBJ was all but relegated to the sidelines.

"LBJ is a man in decline. President Kennedy doesn't trust him and barely tolerates him. The president is so dismissive of Johnson that he even wonders to Jackie, 'Can you imagine what would happen to the country if Lyndon were president?'" Chap. 3, p. 49

The relationship with Cuba deteriorates and Castro fights back. As a result, America has begun to look weak in the eyes of the world. It is suggested that America reassert itself by becoming involved in a small Asian nation known as Vietnam.

Bobby Kennedy becomes even closer to his brother after the Bay of Pigs fiasco. Bobby is allowed to speak for JFK in meetings, revealing JFK's personal thoughts and feelings - ones that he could never openly express. Bobby becomes known as the "assistant President."

The war with Cuba wages on.

In the Soviet Union, Oswald is permitted to return to the U.S. Marina is not thrilled but knows that Oswald will do what he wants to do. Marina and the baby will travel to the U.S., leaving Russia behind.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 details the popularity of Jackie Kennedy from her TV appearances introducing the American public to the White House as well as her plans to renovate the historical structure to her trips around the world as First Lady. Jackie is accessible and adored by the public. JFK knows he is a fortunate man.

JFK has become widely known for his numerous affairs even though he claims to love Jackie. Jackie tolerates this behavior because it seems to be innate - JFK's father is a notorious womanizer. Additionally, all great men in politics seem to have mistresses although perhaps not so many as JFK.

Jackie usually goes away on the weekends to the family retreat in Virginia. During this time, JFK indulges his sexual fantasies with a wide variety of women, including some of Jackie's friends and White House staff.

Jackie had thought of taking a lover but does not. Instead she seeks advice on how to spice up the couple's love life.

Chapter 5

JFK stays at Bing Crosby's house in Palm Springs. Also attending a lavish party is Marilyn Monroe. JFK had met Marilyn two years earlier. That night JFK would make his move.

JFK had close ties to Frank Sinatra. JFK's brother-in-law was a member of Sinatra's infamous Rat Pack. The association between the two friends would end after Bobby Kennedy received a file from J. Edgar Hoover supposing that while Sinatra was not part of the Mafia, he had close ties to Lucky Luciano, Sam Giancana and others. Those associations reflected poorly on the president who was already known to have an "Irish Mafia" in the White House. It would become necessary for JFK to quickly and permanently sever ties with the powerful Hollywood celebrity. Sinatra, having gone to extreme measures to accommodate JFK at his home, did not take it well.

Although it is well known that JFK is a die-hard womanizer, no one speaks about it, even the media.

The meeting of JFK and Marilyn Monroe is detailed. The affair would be an explosive one. Marilyn is nurturing yet very troubled. She believes that she may be able to woo JFK away from Jackie. JFK makes it very clear that Marilyn, who is known to abuse drugs and alcohol, is not White House material.

The Secret Service believes that JFK has a fatalistic attitude and takes big risks. However, JFK has his issues.

"John Kennedy's appearance may be robust, but he suffers from a nervous stomach, back pain, and Addison's disease. His physical activity is limited to walking, sailing, and the occasional nine holes of golf. He can barely ride a horse. And the Kennedy family's



legendary games of touch football don't include him as much as they used to." Chapter 5, pg. 71

Lee Harvey Oswald, Marina and baby June Lee return to the U.S. They end up in Dallas where only 17 months later, JFK would be assassinated.

"Oswald is unhappy that his return to the United States has not attracted widespread media attention—or any media attention, for that matter. But even as he fumes that the press is nowhere in sight, he has no idea that he is being secretly watched—by a very powerful concern." Chap. 5, p. 75

Chapter 6

Nikita Khrushchev does not see a worth opponent in JFK. Khrushchev thinks JFK is politically impotent and does not pose a threat to his goal of world domination.

Khrushchev thumbs his nose at the nuclear ban treaty by testing warheads, flaunts the Russian space program, and builds the 87 mile long Berlin wall forever dividing Germany. JFK does not openly criticize the Russians knowing that while he has high approval ratings, another fiasco like the Bay of Pigs will not be forgiven by the American public.

LBJ becomes a rock star of foreign policy. This pleases LBJ as he feels completely sidelined when he is in Washington.

RFK is embroiled in the ever-expanding Civil Rights movement. The situation is much too large to ignore.

"Until 1962 JFK was not eager to lead the fight for civil rights, knowing that taking a pro-black position could hurt him within the Democratic Party. In fact, the president's record on race issues was middling at best when he was in the Senate. Since the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling by the Supreme Court, which ordered that schools be integrated, tension between whites and blacks in the South has reached an all-time high, and events such as the murder of Emmett Till are no longer an exception." Chap. 6, p. 82

It is suspected that Oswald may be a spy for the Soviet Union. Oswald is questioned at length by the FBI before convincing the feds that he is not a threat to U.S. security. The case on Oswald is closed.

Chapter 7

JFK's daily schedule is reviewed, including a great deal of play time with the children.

National Security adviser Bundy informs JFK that the Soviets have offense missiles in Cuba. JFK calls an emergency meeting.

JFK's younger brother, Teddy, has decided to run for the Senate. JFK is pleased.



JFK is in a great deal of turmoil over the Cuban Missile Crisis. JFK begs Jackie to return to Washington from Glen Ora. Jackie pleads not to be sent to Camp David and remains at the White House.

JFK is finally forced to address the American public, informing them of the Soviet presence in Cuba.

"The 1930s taught us a clear lesson: Aggressive conduct, if allowed to grow unchecked and unchallenged, ultimately leads to war. This nation is opposed to war. We are also true to our word. Our unswerving objective, therefore, must be to prevent the use of these missiles against this or any other country and to secure their withdrawal or elimination from the Western Hemisphere." Chap. 7, p. 98

Oswald reads reports of what is happening in Cuba. Oswald believes that the Soviets have every right to be in Cuba. JFK has become a villain.

Khrushchev addresses the world, saying that the USSR has "a moral and legal justification" for locating missiles in Cuba.

JFK's health deteriorates rapidly, worrying Jackie.



Part 2: Chapters 8-12

Part 2: Chapters 8-12 Summary and Analysis

Part 2: The Curtain Descends

Chapter 8

The purpose and structure of the Secret Service is detailed.

Jackie has managed to get the Mona Lisa on display in the National Gallery of Art. The correlation between art and politics is examined.

"Jackie has come to think of the Kennedy White House as a mythical place—what she will later describe as an "American Camelot." The First Lady is referring to the Broadway musical starring Richard Burton as the legendary King Arthur, the lovely Julie Andrews as Queen Guinevere, and Robert Goulet as Sir Lancelot. In the play, Camelot represents an oasis of idyllic happiness in a cold, hard world. A growing number of Americans agree with Jackie that the Kennedy White House is a similarly mythical place and a bulwark of idealism in the midst of the cold war." Chap. 8, p. 117

The relationship between JFK and Jackie is closer than ever. No one yet knows that the First Lady is pregnant.

Comparisons are made between Jackie and Marina Oswald. Marina is fascinated with the handsome president which makes Oswald even more jealous.

"Lee Harvey Oswald's life continues to be defined by a balance of passion and rage." Chap. 8, p. 120

Chapter 9

March 11, 1963 - ST. Augustine, Florida 8:00 P.M.

LBJ is referred to the loneliest man in America. LBJ desperately wants to become president but doubts that he would be able to win over RFK, the president's charismatic brother. RFK also wants to be president. There is fear that the Kennedys will dominate the White House for decades to come.

"It all seems so easy: JFK until 1968, then Bobby takes the White House, and then wins again in 1972, and then maybe even Teddy in 1976 and 1980. The Kennedy dynasty is poised to control the American presidency for the next twenty years. It's almost a sure thing." Chap 8, p. 121

Marilyn Monroe is dead. There are many theories around her death even though she is a known substance abuser and could have easily overdosed. However, there is no trace



of pills in her system. Some theories include belief that the Mafia had her killed as a message to RFK to stop his organized crime investigations. RFK received a tip that Marilyn had died and had her apartment sterilized before anyone else could get to it. The only remaining link to the Kennedys was Marilyn's phone records. Those were stolen by the Chief of Police who intended to use them as blackmail at a later date.

LBJ courts black voters hoping to gain favor for his future run for president. LBJ continues to be shunned and disdained by "the Harvards" in the White House. Everyone underestimates LBJ and believes that he is a hillbilly. Although LBJ's political life at this time is almost non-existent, he bides his time.

LBJ hates the Kennedys almost as much as they hate him.

Oswald becomes a recluse. He purchases a second gun and begins to scare people with his rants. Oswald is even fired from his job.

"On April 10, 1963, Oswald decides it's time to kill someone." Chap. 9, p. 129

Chapter 10

April 9, 1963 - Washington, D.C. - Midday

JFK speaks to Winston Churchill in the Rose Garden via satellite. Churchill is going to be made an honorary American in front of a crowd of friends, family and notable politicians and diplomats. Meanwhile, JFK's attention is never far from the crisis at hand - the war in Vietnam.

Oswald's target is Major General Ted Walker, an avowed anticommunist. Oswald stalks his target, fires and flees. The next day it is learned that Oswald missed his target completely. Marina worries that Oswald will be arrested. Oswald is upset because he is still anonymous. Soon, Oswald tells Marina that he is going to see Nixon. Oswald has his gun. Marina forces Oswald into the bathroom where she holds him prisoner for the day. It is becoming clear that Oswald is going to have to leave Dallas.

Jackie and JFK announce the pregnancy to the public.

Chapter 11

May 3, 1963 - Birmingham, Alabama - 1:00 P.M.

A thousand children involved in the Children's Crusade march from the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church to Kelly Ingram Park chanting about freedom. RFK had condemned the march, saying children should not be put into harm's way. Controversial civil rights leader Malcolm X expresses the same sentiment. Bull Connor orders that fire hoses and German Shepherds be loosed on the children. The action results in many injuries and public outrage.



Civil disobedience reigns throughout the world. JFK becomes aware of Diem's actions in Saigon and knows he can no longer support the leader.

JFK's 46th birthday celebration is recounted.

Chapter 12

June 22, 1963 - Washington, D.C. - Late Morning

JFK meets with Martin Luther King Jr. for the first time. The men discuss the disgrace of British war hero and Secretary of War Profumo who has been embroiled in an extra marital affair scandal. JFK tells King that Hoover has a file on him reporting his extra marital affairs. Ironically, JFK feels the need to warn JFK to be discreet about his conquests.

Civil rights is heating up in the South with RFK as one of its largest supporters. RFK and LBJ's feud has also accelerated. JFK must tread lightly as some Americans equate Civil Rights with communism.

JFK continues to warn King, the commander of the Civil Rights movement, that he is under close observation. King laughs off the warnings. JFK is worried.

Oswald's behavior continues to escalate. He develops an alias and is even more obsessed with guns. Marina fears being sent back to Russia.

JFK makes a trip abroad and gains support from his fellow Irish while worrying de Gaulle and Khrushchev.



Part 2: Chapters 13-17

Part 2: Chapters 13-17 Summary and Analysis

Part 2: The Curtain Descends

Chapter 13

August 7, 1963 - Osterville, MA - Morning

Jackie goes into premature labor while playing with the children at Brambletyde. JFK is informed and immediately goes to the hospital where Jackie is awaiting a caesarian section to deliver baby Patrick. Patrick's lungs have not developed properly. The baby is transported to a hospital in Boston but does not survive the night.

Chapter 14

August 28, 1963 - Washington, D.C - Afternoon

Martin Luther King addresses a crowd in front of the Lincoln Memorial. The speech is uncharacteristically dull and labored, something that is foreign to the great orator. Things change when MLK reaches the "I have a dream" portion of the speech.

JFK, RFK and newly elected senator Teddy Kennedy watch the speech from the White House. RFK had helped to organize the rally with hopes of increasing JFK's popularity.

"But the March on Washington does not change the ongoing racial battle in the American South. At 10:22 A.M. on September 15, 1963, less than three weeks after America listened to Martin Luther King Jr. dream about black boys and girls in Alabama joining hands with white boys and girls, twenty-six black children are led into the basement of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church for Sunday morning services. They are due to hear a children's sermon on 'The Love That Forgives.'" Chapter 14, p. 172

Unbeknownst to the people in the church four Ku Klux Klan members have planted a bomb in the basement. Four children are killed.

Chapter 15

September 2, 1963 - Hyannis Port, MA - Noon

JFK meets with Walter Cronkite to give an important interview. The men, friendly, discuss various political situations including the race issue in the South.

Jackie, still in mourning, travels to Greece to be with her sister.

It will be a mere twelve weeks before Kennedy is assassinated.



Chapter 16

September 25, 1963 - Billings, MT - Late Afternoon

JFK speaks in front of a crowd of 53,000 people. JFK was not well liked in Montana until he brokered a major wheat deal with the Soviets. JFK's speech is so powerful that even the Soviet applaud.

JFK is due to continue his travels through the west and into Texas. Although Texans openly hate JFK, JFK hopes to win them over, just as he did with the citizens of Montana. JFK is not afraid and hopes to win over Dallas.

Oswald takes a train from New Orleans to Texas and on to Mexico. Oswald travels like a homeless man, with nothing more than two suitcases. He has sent a pregnant Maria and toddler June back to Dallas to live with a friend. Oswald has become even more unhinged. He dreams of moving to Cuba but knows it will be impossible to go to the island from the U.S. due to severed relations.

"Lee Harvey Oswald never fits in, no matter where he goes. He is not an outcast because that would mean allowing himself to join a group before being rejected by it. Instead, he is something far more unpredictable—and ultimately more dangerous: he is a parallel member of society, a thin-skinned loner operating by his own rhythms and rules, constantly searching for that place where he can hunker down, for that identity that will allow him to be the great man he so longs to be." Chapter 16, p. 176

Jackie and Lee spend two weeks aboard the ship Christina. It is owned by Aristotle Onassis, a man known for shady business practices. Onassis is the richest man in the world and is currently being pursued by Lee.

Chapter 17

October 6, 1963 - Camp David, MD - 10:27 A.M

JFK is furious. He has called Jackie but is unable to reach her. The media has caught on to the fact that Jackie is traveling with Onassis. JFK is jealous.

Oswald learns that it will take four months to get a visa that will allow him to go to Cuba. Oswald does not want to wait.

Oswald travels to Dallas and contacts Marina. Although Marina notices changes in Oswald, she will not live with him. Oswald's dreams of living in Cuba are dashed when he is told that he will never receive travel documents. Later, when the decision has been reversed, Oswald has changed his mind.

Oswald gets a job at the Texas School Book Depository.



Jackie returns to the White House. She throws an informal dinner party for a small group. Things have changed, however. JFK has had a terrible day and begins to hope that 1964 will be the year in which things turn around.

"Things are darkening in Camelot. Even Jackie's recent vacation has turned out to be a liability. Her fondness for European culture and fashion have long contrasted with the more down-to-earth sensibilities of the American public. The First Lady's extraordinary popularity once made her impervious to political attacks. This is no longer the case."
Chap. 17, p. 184

The media begins to openly criticize Jackie. JFK notices that Jackie is acting different and wonders if she feels guilty about something that happened aboard the Christina. JFK asks Jackie to campaign with him in Texas. Jackie, still very much in love with her husband, says she will campaign with him anywhere.



Part 3: Chapters 18-23

Part 3: Chapters 18-23 Summary and Analysis

Part 3: Evil Wins

Chapter 18:

October 24, 1963 - Dallas, TX- Evening

Adlai Stevenson is experiencing untold hostility in Dallas. He is spit on, booed, heckled and even hit in the head with a picket sign. The situation became so bad that Stevenson walked out of the auditorium.

"John Kennedy does not like Adlai Stevenson. But the president is shaken when he hears of the vicious attacks. Now the many negative reports he has heard about Dallas are being confirmed. Trusted friends are warning him to cancel this leg of his Texas trip. As far back as October 3, Senator William Fulbright of Arkansas confided to John Kennedy that he was physically afraid of entering Dallas, calling it 'a dangerous place.' 'I wouldn't go there,' he told JFK. "Don't you go."

Evangelist Billy Graham also asks JFK not to go to Dallas. JFK will not back down.

The Vietnam government is overthrown. Ngo Dinh Diem, president of Vietnam, and his brother are preparing to be arrested and deported. Diem is shot in the head and killed.

Chapter 19:

November 1, 1963 - Irving, TX - 2:30 P.M.

Ruth Paine and Marina Oswald are interviewed by FBI Special Agent Hosty. Hosty is looking for Lee Harvey. After their conversation, Hosty downgrades Oswald's status as a threat. Later, when asked if there are any potential threats to the president in Dallas, Oswald's name is not mentioned.

JFK attends a service at Arlington National Cemetery. He calls it the most beautiful place on earth and says that maybe, someday, that is where he would like to be.

Chapter 20:

November 13, 1963 - White House - Late Evening

Greta Garbo attends the last dinner to be held at the White House during JFK's tenure.

Chapter 21:

November 16, 1963 - Dallas, TX - 1:50 P.M.



"On that November Saturday, the front page of the Dallas Morning News features a story on President Kennedy's visit to Dallas, which is just six days away. The paper speculates on the route Kennedy's motorcade will follow through the heart of the city. Air Force One will land at the Love Field, and from there the president will travel to a large commercial center known as the Trade Mart, where he will give a speech. On the way, he will pass the Texas School Book Depository, the workplace of Lee Harvey Oswald." Chap. 21, p. 202

There are many reasons for the downfall of Camelot. O'Reilly believes it is really caused on the day the route for presidential motorcade was chosen. Forrest V. Sorrels of the Secret Service's Dallas office, Special Agent Winston G. Lawson of the Secret Service advance team and Dallas police chief Jesse Curry discuss the route. Sorrels claims that the route would make them sitting ducks. The route is chosen anyway.

Chapter 22:

November 21, 1963 - Aboard Air Force One - 2:00 P.M.

JFK and Jackie make their way to Dallas.

Oswald is distracted at work. He stares down onto the street below and thinks about the route JFK will take. Oswald plans to kill JFK.

"Oswald does not hate the president. He has no reason to want JFK dead. He is, however, bitter that a man such as John Kennedy has so many advantages in life. Oswald well understands that it's easier for men born into privilege to distinguish themselves. But other than that small amount of envy, he does not speak unfavorably about the president. In fact, Oswald would very much like to emulate JFK." Chapter 22, p. 208-209

Oswald decides to beg Marina to take him back. If he cannot live happily ever after, he will kill JFK.

Chapter 23:

November 22, 1963 - Irving, TX - 6:30 A.M.

Oswald and Marina are fighting again. It is clear that their relationship is over.

JFK and Jackie prepare for their day of campaigning. As they prepare to go to Dallas, JFK tells Jackie that they are heading into "nut country."



Part 3: Chapters 24-27

Part 3: Chapters 24-27 Summary and Analysis

Chapter 24:

November 22, 1963 - Texas School Book Depository, Dallas - 9:45 A.M.

People wait anxiously on the steps of the Depository. O'Reilly details the motorcade's formation. Also included is a map of the chosen route.

Chapter 25:

November 22, 1963 - Dealey Plaza, Dallas, TX - 12:14 P.M.

Oswald takes up his position. Several people in the crowd see Oswald and mistake him for Secret Service. Oswald is forgotten when JFK's motorcade appears. Oswald takes his aim and fires off three shots.

"The instant a man commits such an act, his life is changed forever. There is no turning back. From that second on he will be hunted to the ends of the earth. Perhaps he will spend the rest of his life in prison. Perhaps he will be executed." Chap. 25, p. 222

Oswald drops his gun and makes his way out of the Depository.

Two of Oswald's three shots were hits. Governor John Connally is fatally wounded. JFK is also wounded but is very much alive. JFK's back brace forces him to sit erect and prevents him from falling forward. The next bullet shatters JFK's skull. JFK is brain dead.

"Little do the horrified onlookers know, but historians and conspiracy theorists, as well as average citizens born years after this day, will long argue whether Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone or perhaps had the help of others. Federal authorities will scrutinize ballistics and use a stopwatch to time how quickly a man can aim and reload a 6.5-millimeter Mannlicher-Carcano. A variety of people will become self-described experts on grainy home videos of the assassination, grassy knolls, and the many evildoers who longed to see John F. Kennedy physically removed from power." Chap. 25, p. 225

Chapter 26:

November 23, 1963 - Dallas, TX - 12:31 P.M.

Jackie immediately becomes hysterical and tries to collect the pieces of JFK's skull that have exploded from his body.

JFK is rushed to Parkland hospital. It is obvious that he is dead on arrival.



RFK receives the bad news from J. Edgar Hoover.

Oswald continues to make his getaway. A description is released over the airwaves. Oswald is stopped by a police officer and immediately shoots and kills the man. Oswald runs into a local theater, knowing that his time is short.

J. Edgar Hoover immediately believes that there was a conspiracy to kill JFK, that it was not the act of one man.

Jackie says she will not leave Dallas without her husband. The Secret Service prepares to take JFK back to Air Force One and fly back to Washington. The Dallas police try to stop the departure and fail. LBJ insists on being sworn in before Air Force One leaves the ground.

The next morning Oswald is paraded past reporters and others with little protection. He is shot and killed by Jacob Rubenstein, AKA Jack Ruby. Like Kennedy, Oswald dies at Parkland. No one mourns.

Chapter 27:

January 14, 1964 - Office of the Attorney General, Washington, D.C.

Jackie sits in the office of Bobby Kennedy and delivers a speech to the American public. It is time for Jackie to say goodbye. It is said, and believed, that the reign of Camelot has ended.



Characters

John F. Kennedy

John F. Kennedy was the youngest man to be voted President of the United States. The young upstart from Massachusetts was a member of a wealthy and powerful family and born into privilege. This did not, however, dampen the man's chances in politics as his congenial manner and ability to relate to people of all classes won the public over - enough to have him beat Richard Nixon in the 1960 election.

Kennedy was often referred to as Jack or JFK to separate him from other members of his illustrious family. JFK was the son of the powerful, wealthy womanizing Joe Kennedy; younger brother to war hero Joe, Jr.; and older brother to Robert and Edward aka "Teddy."

In many ways JFK was an ideal president. He was handsome and charming. Together with his wife Jackie and children Caroline and John, Jr., JFK presented a wholesome picture of a Catholic family with style and flair. Even those that were not terribly fond of JFK fell in love with Jackie.

Politically, JFK was a Democrat. He was often cautious in his moves, particularly after the Bay of Pigs fiasco. On a personal level, JFK was a great father to his children. He was also a die-hard womanizer. Despite all of JFK's ups and downs, his reputation and legacy live on and it is said that there will never be another president so dynamic and well loved.

Lee Harvey Oswald

Lee Harvey Oswald is the man who shot and killed JFK from the sixth story window of the Texas School Book Depository. Oswald was a former Marine that had strong socialist beliefs. Oswald was so devoted to his Communist leanings that he defected to Russia. Once in Russia, Oswald learned that the system was not as idyllic as he had hoped. After a long period of disillusionment, Oswald filed papers to return to the U.S. with his Russian bride and their daughter.

Oswald was a loner, a fanatic, and most certainly unhinged. He became obsessed with Communism and spent the majority of his time reading Communist magazines. Oswald also became fascinated with guns.

Oswald's home life was turbulent. He was known to be violent toward his wife, Marina. Marina would not tolerate abuse and moved out. At this time the couple had two children.



Oswald made an assassination attempt on one government official, not necessarily because the man had done him any harm, but he was known to be anti-communist. The attempt failed.

Oswald attempted to reunite with Marina. He told himself that if he could not live happily ever after, then he was going to kill the president who he had recently come to despise.

Oswald would never stand trial. He was murdered by nightclub owner Jack Ruby as he was being led through the streets by Dallas police.

Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy

This is the First Lady of the U.S. and JFK's wife.

Robert Kennedy

This is the Attorney General and JFK's younger brother.

Dave Powers

This is JFK's close friend and a member of the Irish Mafia.

Lyndon Banes Johnson

This is the Texas rancher that is JFK's vice president.

Clint Hill

This is Jackie's personal Secret Service Agent.

Nikita Krushchev

This is the Russian premier during Kennedy's tenure.

Fidel Castro

This is the leader of Cuba.

Marina Oswald

This is Lee Harvey's wife.



Objects/Places

Camelot

Camelot is a mythical place in literature and the home of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. After JFK, Jackie and the children took up residence in the White House, people began to refer to it, and to the Kennedy reign as Camelot because it seemed to be an idyllic state. The Kennedys were wealthy, powerful, beautiful and stylish. They represented what every American family hoped they could be. Inside the walls of Camelot, things were not so idyllic but the Kennedys were so well loved that even the media did not dare to tarnish their image.

In addition to their outward appearance, the Kennedys were well connected to some of the most well-known people around the world, including Frank Sinatra and his Rat Pack. However, when the relationship with Sinatra threatened Kennedy's standing with the American public, the relationship was severed.

Never before and never again would the president and first lady represent the legendary King Arthur and Guinevere.

Dallas, Texas

Dallas, Texas is the city in which President John F. Kennedy was killed along with Texas governor John Conally. Texans, by and large, were not fans of the Kennedy administration even though Lyndon B. Johnson had been a Texas rancher. The Civil Rights movement further tarnished JFK's image in the minds of the southerners. Even JFK referred to Dallas (and perhaps Texas as a whole) as "nut country."

Kennedy had been warned to stay out of Dallas by Secret Service, evangelist Billy Graham and others. It was almost a guarantee that he would not be well received there. Adlai Stevenson had appeared at an auditorium shortly before the Kennedy's campaign appearance and was booed off the stage. Still, Kennedy was not willing to back down.

On November 23, 1963, Lee Harvey Oswald stood inside the Texas School Book Depository waiting for his chance to kill the Commander-in-Chief. Oswald took three shots and effectively killed JFK.

Texas School Book Depository

This is where Oswald hid and shot JFK.



Glen Ora

This is the Kennedy family's summer home in Virginia.

Camp David

This is the presidential retreat and safe haven.

Soviet Union

This is where Oswald defected to from the United States.

Bay of Pigs

This is the major crisis in Cuba that occurred during JFK's term.

Cuba

This communist country was overtaken by Fidel Castro.

Air Force One

This is the name of the presidential airplane.

Parkland Memorial Hospital

This is where JFK and Oswald were pronounced dead.



Themes

Camelot

The concept of Camelot is one of the main themes in the book. When the Kennedys took up residence in the White House they became the idyllic American couple, much like King Arthur and Guinevere. Thus, their house and their reign was compared to Camelot.

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Communism

Communism is a central theme in "Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard. In the 1960s America was embroiled in a Cold War with the Soviet Union and other communist entities. Americans were afraid of communists and their beliefs and mere existence were considered to be a threat to the country and to the American way of life.

There are four major instances in which communism plays a major part in the story. The first involves the Soviet Union and Nikita Khrushchev. Khrushchev was a devout communist and the Russian premier. Khrushchev believed that he was a dominant force in world politics and had his sights set on world domination.

Cuba is another source of communism. There was a sigh of relief when Fidel Castro overthrew the Cuban government but it was soon discovered that Castro and his communist leanings were actually worse than his predecessor, Batista.

The U.S. government was just beginning to become involved in Vietnam. The leaders of the country were arrested for their acts and the hope was that Vietnam would be changed politically, denouncing communism.



The final and perhaps most relevant example involves Lee Harvey Oswald. Lee Harvey Oswald is the man who shot and killed JFK from the sixth story window of the Texas School Book Depository. Oswald was a former Marine that had strong socialist beliefs. Oswald was so devoted to his Communist leanings that he defected to Russia. As the story progresses, Oswald becomes so intermingled with the communist way of life that JFK became his sworn enemy.

John F. Kennedy (JFK)

JFK was the youngest man to be voted President of the United States. The young upstart from Massachusetts was a member of a wealthy and powerful family and born into privilege. This did not, however, dampen the man's chances in politics as his congenial manner and ability to relate to people of all classes won the public over - enough to have him beat Richard Nixon in the 1960 election.

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Politically, JFK was a Democrat. He was often cautious in his moves, particularly after the Bay of Pigs fiasco. On a personal level, JFK was a great father to his children. He was also a die-hard womanizer. Despite all of JFK's ups and downs, his reputation and legacy live on and it is said that there will never be another president so dynamic and well loved.

Style

Perspective

Bill O'Reilly is an author, historian, nationally recognized columnist and anchor of Fox News Network's The O'Reilly Factor, the highest rated cable news program in the U.S. O'Reilly is a controversial figure and perhaps the most outspoken political commentator in modern times. O'Reilly has an admitted fascination with the lives of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln and often makes comparisons to the men. O'Reilly is also the author of "Killing Lincoln" and "Lincoln's Last Days: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever."

Martin Dugard is an American author and historian. Dugard has appeared on the New York Times bestselling list with several books of history, including "The Last Voyage of Columbus" and "Into Africa: The Epic Adventures of Stanley and Livingstone." Dugard has also authored "To Be a Runner," a collection of essays about distance running.

The authors make references to the many similarities between Kennedy and Lincoln including this strange list of facts:

- ◆ Lincoln was first elected in 1860, Kennedy in 1960.
- ◆ Both were assassinated on a Friday, in the presence of their wives.
- ◆ Their successors were both southerners named Johnson who had served in the Senate.
- ◆ Andrew Johnson was born in 1808, Lyndon Johnson in 1908.
- ◆ Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846, while Kennedy was elected to the House in 1946.
- ◆ Both men suffered the death of children while in office.
- ◆ The assassin Booth shot inside a theater and fled into a storage facility, while the assassin Oswald shot from a storage facility and fled into a theater.

Tone

Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard are the authors of "Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot." This is a work of non-fiction. The tone of the book is typically non-partisan. This is a particularly difficult tone to achieve considering the personal opinions of O'Reilly as a political commentator and controversial material in the text. The authors tend to stick to the facts except perhaps when it comes to Lee Harvey Oswald. It is not possible to ascertain exactly what Oswald was thinking when he first tried to



assassinate Ted Walker or if, as the book details, Oswald decided to kill Kennedy because he could not live happily ever after. Oswald was determined to be a man the people would remember and apparently the only way to do that was to become an assassin.

There is an air of fondness in the book relating to the Kennedys - particularly JFK and Jackie. Much of JFK's inappropriate behavior is simply stated as fact and the controversial nature is downplayed. The same can be said of the turbulent relationship between JFK and Krushchev. It is made clear however, that the relationship between LBJ and "The Harvards" was almost hostile. LBJ is painted as somewhat of a ne'er-do-well in the eyes of the Kennedys and is all but ousted from important events. LBJ is also painted as an opportunist.

JFK's gross errors in judgment in political matters are also downplayed.

The role of Lee Harvey Oswald is explained as much as possible given that the man was unstable and no one can be altogether sure about his motives outside his deep devotion to Communism. The authors do accurately portray and grief felt by Americans when Kennedy was assassinated and how it would affect the country and its people for generations to come.

Structure

"Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot" by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard is a work of non-fiction. It is 274 pages in length. It contains a prologue, 3 parts, afterword, epilogue, notes, sources, and acknowledgments.

Without the afterword, sources, and acknowledgments, the total length of the work is 253 pages. The shortest part is 2 pages in length; the longest part is 6 pages in length. The average length of the parts is 10 pages. The prologue is 7 pages in length; the epilogue is 1 page in length.

Each chapter is separated into sections with subheadings. The work is generally chronological in nature beginning in 1961, except for chapter 1 which details JFK's mission aboard PT-109.

Part 1 is titled "Cheating Death." It details several instances in which JFK nearly dies. It also recounts the death of his older brother, Joe.

Part 2 is titled "The Curtain Descends." This section delves deeper into the workings of the White House and various political issues including the Bay of Pigs, the Cold War, Communism, the coup in Vietnam, and the Soviet Union.

Part 3 is titled "Evil Wins." This section begins in October 1963 up until January 1964. The main focus is on the events that take place in Dallas including the assassination of JFK and of Lee Harvey Oswald.



Quotes

"The new president, born into wealth, has a refined manner of speaking that would seem to distance him from the electorate. But he is an enthusiastic and easily likeable man's man." Prologue, p. 10

"Oswald is a defector. In 1959, at age nineteen, the slightly built, somewhat handsome, enigmatic drifter decided to leave the United States of America, convinced that his socialist beliefs would be embraced in the Soviet Union. But things haven't gone according to plan." Prologue, p. 16

"Being second-born in a family where great things are expected from the oldest son, Kennedy has had the luxury of a frivolous life. He was a sickly child, grew into a young man fond of books and girls, and, with the exception of commanding a minor vessel such as PT-109, has shown no interest in pursuing a leadership position in politics—an ambition required of his older brother, Joe." Chap. 1, p. 21

"Kennedy is preoccupied with Cuba. Roughly twelve hundred miles due south of Washington, D.C., a battlefield is taking shape. Kennedy has authorized a covert invasion of the island nation, sending fourteen hundred anti-Castro exiles to do a job that the U.S. military, by rule of international law, cannot do itself." Chap. 3, p. 37

"Perhaps the most striking similarity between the two men is that Kennedy and Castro were the sort of highly competitive alpha males who never accept losing, no matter what the circumstances, no matter how high the cost." Chap. 3, p. 41

"LBJ is a man in decline. President Kennedy doesn't trust him and barely tolerates him. The president is so dismissive of Johnson that he even wonders to Jackie, 'Can you imagine what would happen to the country if Lyndon were president?'" Chap. 3, p. 49

"John Kennedy's appearance may be robust, but he suffers from a nervous stomach, back pain, and Addison's disease. His physical activity is limited to walking, sailing, and the occasional nine holes of golf. He can barely ride a horse. And the Kennedy family's legendary games of touch football don't include him as much as they used to." Chapter 5, pg. 71

"Oswald is unhappy that his return to the United States has not attracted widespread media attention—or any media attention, for that matter. But even as he fumes that the press is nowhere in sight, he has no idea that he is being secretly watched—by a very powerful concern." Chap. 5, p. 75

"Until 1962 JFK was not eager to lead the fight for civil rights, knowing that taking a pro-black position could hurt him within the Democratic Party. In fact, the president's record



on race issues was middling at best when he was in the Senate. Since the landmark 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling by the Supreme Court, which ordered that schools be integrated, tension between whites and blacks in the South has reached an all-time high, and events such as the murder of Emmett Till are no longer an exception." Chap. 6, p. 82

"Jackie has come to think of the Kennedy White House as a mythical place—what she will later describe as an "American Camelot." The First Lady is referring to the Broadway musical starring Richard Burton as the legendary King Arthur, the lovely Julie Andrews as Queen Guinevere, and Robert Goulet as Sir Lancelot. In the play, Camelot represents an oasis of idyllic happiness in a cold, hard world. A growing number of Americans agree with Jackie that the Kennedy White House is a similarly mythical place and a bulwark of idealism in the midst of the cold war." Chap. 8, p. 117

"Lee Harvey Oswald's life continues to be defined by a balance of passion and rage." Chap. 8, p. 120

"It all seems so easy: JFK until 1968, then Bobby takes the White House, and then wins again in 1972, and then maybe even Teddy in 1976 and 1980. The Kennedy dynasty is poised to control the American presidency for the next twenty years. It's almost a sure thing." Chap 8, p. 121



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the relationship between Jackie and John F. Kennedy.

Describe Camelot and how this term relates to the famous play.

Examine the Bay of Pigs fiasco and how it affected Kennedy's approval ratings.

Discuss Oswald's defection to the Soviet Union.

Examine the Cold War and the relationship between Kennedy and Krushchev.

Discuss how JFK was allegedly tied to the Mafia.

Discuss JFK's extra marital affairs and how they affected his career and personal life.