



The Day Kennedy Was Shot

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A minute-by-minute narrative account of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, *The Day Kennedy Was Shot* captures the action, mystery, and drama that unfolded on November 22, 1963.

Author Jim Bishop's trademark hour-by-hour suspenseful storytelling drives this account of an unforgettable day in American history. His retelling tracks all of the major and minor characters—JFK, Lee Harvey Oswald, Jack Ruby, Jackie, and more—illuminating a human drama that many readers believe they know we

The Day Kennedy Was Shot Details

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From Reader Review The Day Kennedy Was Shot for online ebook

Jeff Wombold says

Kennedy history

I was 11 years old when the president was shot and on the playground, so world politics didn't mean much to me at that time. I only learned what I knew from history books. This book opened my eyes to the events that day; it was totally enlightening from start to finish. A must read for history buffs.

Dean Mundy says

Since it was written in 1967, the author assumes a single person was involved in the assassination. He is more concerned with what happened that day rather than who the perpetrator is.

I found at least one quaint reference, both in this book and the one by William Manchester, the reference to "Negro" when talking about an African-American.

The book is, also like Manchester's, filled with fascinating detail about all the people involved in that day. Particularly helpful is the last chapter where Bishop gives his opinion about some of the people closely related to the killing and investigation.

I may add more to this review as I think of things.

Pete daPixie says

I purchased this book to add to my 'JFK Assassination' library shelf. The publication date, in 1968, places Jim Bishop's 'The Day Kennedy Was Shot' in the first dozen books in this genre, after the Warren Report. It's closest relative must be the historically flawed 'The Death of a President' from William Manchester.

Although Bishop, like Manchester, follows the absurdities of Arlen Specter and the conclusions of the 'President's Commission, that Oswald acted alone etc., I found this book, with it's hour by hour format, to be more factually accurate than Manchester's work. I have even found new pieces of information in this book that I have not come across before.

However, the factual flaws are many, and proves that like everyone, this author did not fully study the twenty six volumes of depositions, testimonies and reports etc., from Earl Warren's Commission.

The Dallas Police had cancelled all leaves for the motorcade through Dallas. Not true.

Roy Kellerman was head of the Dallas Secret Service Office. Not true, Forrest Sorrels.

When Bishop lists the occupants of the motorcade's 'pilot' car he fails to include George Whitmeyer, commander of Dallas' Army Intell unit.

"The President of the U.S., feeling the tiny grains hit his face, began to lift both hands upward in fright." How could Bishop write this? Did he have access to the Zapruder film?

"The bullet went through the clothing between the bottom of the neck and the right shoulder." The only president that had the neck of a giraffe was Gerald Ford. (5 inches below the top of shirt collar & 1 inch to

the right of spine) Try it yourself, if you find your neck, see your doctor!

"With the hole in his throat breathing as he breathed, it is doubtful that he could have uttered an articulate sound." I couldn't agree more. So why does Bishop ignore Roy Kellerman's statements to Sibert/O'Neil and his W.C. testimony that JFK said "I've been hit...get me to a hospital." Something that no other limo occupant heard, and the president could not have uttered with a bullet through his larynx!

"Officer B.J. Martin was sickened. He had been riding left front of the limo." No DPD cycle escort was at the front of JFK's limo.

Officer J.D. Tippit was not named John. Nor Jefferson Davis or any other combination. He was simply J.D. "Most doctors who saw Kennedy's head wound thought that it came from the rear." As far as doctors at Parkland were concerned, the 5mm throat wound was one of entry, and the head wound at back right of JFK's skull was never described as at autopsy, nor did autopsy photographs show what was witnessed at Parkland.

"It was standing upright between two triple rows of cartons, squeezed tight." Referring to the rifle discovered Mauser/Mannlicher Carcano, photographs show it laying horizontally, part underneath boxes, between rows. Not easy to stash and run down four flights of stairs, unseen, to meet Officer Baker in first floor lunch room. Bishop's list of Bethesda autopsy personnel is incorrect and incomplete.

"There was a ragged wound in the neck, obviously a tracheostomy." Not obvious to the untrained monkeys at Bethesda in charge of the autopsy. (I have never understood why this was not clarified by Admiral George Burkley, who was in attendance at Parkland and Bethesda. There is evidence that a bullet was removed from JFK's body at autopsy, that Burkley turned it over to the FBI and that Burkley received a receipt for it. The Treasury Dept still has the receipt but the bullet hasn't been seen since.)

"What had appeared to be a surgical incision was proved to be an exit wound." When JFK's autopsy was finished Humes learned the throat wound, that he surmised had been caused by a piece of skull bone, was in fact a tracheostomy, cut through a bullet wound that Dr.Perry in Dallas described as a wound of entry.

So, apart from the bending over backwards to accommodate the official government fictions, this book has a historical place, is well written and for it's day holds an interesting list of source material. The author was a journalist/columnist who had already published 'The Day Lincoln Was Shot' as well as 'The Day Christ Died', which I find rather disturbing.

Dave Donahoe says

Interesting book. He obviously thought that Oswald did it, but he pulls no punches at the end explaining how the Dallas police stretched the truth, and broke laws, in order to make sure that Oswald was found guilty.

Edwin Newman speaking in 1963: "The unpleasant truth about America is that it is a country of violence. Violence plays a part in our very lives - yet what we worry about is our image abroad. Today, America does not appear to be an adult country. Emotions run high - regional, religious, and economic. We must begin at the top, for the political climate is set by the President."

As 51 years ago, so the same today.

Cheryl Killingsworth says

I gave it worth reading which isn't fair. It was exhaustively thorough. So the worth reading is a cautionary notice. Well written. Minute by minute exhaustive tragic diary of the assassination; from every view! Every view. Over 700 pages so I can assure you not much was left out. Gruesome. Historic. A study of significant people, manipulative people, inept people, successful and failures, losers and pawns if you want to know what happened, and the when, why, who, etc. then the book is extraordinary!! Thanks go to Mr Bishop and staff for the dedication to the facts.

Carol says

I read this book many years ago and was drawn back to read it again. He wrote this only a few years after our president was assassinated in Dallas. He also wrote The Day Lincoln Was Shot which I plan to re-read. These books are very detailed.

Bill O'Reilly has written similar books with fewer pages and details and a modern slant. These books are worth reading also but if you are interested in beautiful writing of an older style Jim Bishop's books are worth a second (or first) reading.

David says

If I didn't disagree with the blanket assertion this book makes that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone -- or, for that matter, even ACTED -- on that day, I would have given this book a higher rating. It's a great hour-by-hour account, even though I don't believe that much of it is true.

Todd Stockslager says

Review title: Paper time travel

Jim Bishop was a popular non-fiction writer in the 1960s whose metier was hour-by-hour "A Day in the life of" accounts of politicians and public figures. Here, he applied the technique to the death of President Kennedy, whose stunning assassination November 22, 1963 was a generation-defining event not equalled until September 11, 2001. It was an early and popular entry (I bought a 1968 Funk & Wagnalls book club edition at a library book sale) on the Kennedy assassination analysis bookshelf which has become very crowded indeed.

While the basic outline of events is common knowledge, I must confess that I was surprised by the number of odd elements about that day that I didn't know (if you don't count Steven King's time-travel novel which is centered on that day, this is the first book I have read on the event), and the realities of responding to the sudden devastation that I had never considered. For a couple of examples:

When Lee Harvey Oswald's mother (who was estranged from her sons and hadn't seen Lee for over a year) came to the police station after seeing the news coverage, the first thing she did was request a private interview with one of the detectives working on the case and proceed to claim that her son had been under orders to kill Kennedy by the CIA!

After killing the President and walking calmly out of the book depository building, he went back to his rented room and put on a jacket and grabbed his revolver, which he used to kill a police officer who had pulled over because Oswald fit the description of the President's killer. It was actually this killing for which Oswald was arrested and initially officially charged.

After the parade, Kennedy and his entourage were headed for a luncheon speech at a convention center where 2500 were waiting--and confused by the Presidential party speeding by to the hospital with sirens blazing.

Most of the Cabinet were in the air after leaving Honolulu heading to Japan for a diplomatic conference when they got the word and did an immediate U-turn to head to Washington.

Bishop switches between Dallas and Washington, and between key players--Dallas police, Jacqueline Kennedy and the dead President's team, Oswald and his wife and mother, and the FBI, CIA, and the Secret Service which spanned both cities--all while staying to the hour by hour format. This makes for a lot of quick cuts, but the narrative thread stays coherent, even though it might have helped to have a list of key characters by their role and location as an appendix. And while Bishop lists his sources in the back, he doesn't footnote his material so it isn't possible to follow up in his sources, the most important of which he says is the Warren Commission report which is the always referenced but often criticized main source for all Kennedy assassination books.

Most of all, it is still possible to read Bishop's history as both history of the event and as itself a part of the history of America's response to the event of its generation. His writing style reflects the writing of his time but 50 years later still speaks to the generation defined by September 11. Even though there are newer editions, try to find an original 1968 hardback, paperback, or book club edition; you will be holding a piece of history in your hands as you time travel to November 22, 1963.

Justin says

Book of the Year (2018) Since my teens, I have read more books than I can count on the Kennedy assassination. I knew a lot. This is the first book I read where I finally *understood* it. (Spoiler alert: Oswald did it) The book is a comprehensive biography of the date November 22, 1963: as a political rally, a murder, a media event, a transfer of power, a criminal investigation, and a funeral. How it started and ended. How people's feelings and emotions change throughout the day. It's an hour-by-hour chronology, starting at 7am at Fort Worth and ending at 4am when Kennedy's body was returned to the White House. It was written in 1968 -- and by the style of the prose, people were still obviously on edge. The flowery words, raw emotions and obvious anger helped me put those events and feelings in context. I heavily recommend it to anyone looking for a good introduction to the subject, along with PBS Frontline's 1993 documentary 'Who Was Lee Harvey Oswald?'

Michael Dorosh says

An excellent, detailed, account of the assassination of President Kennedy. What the book is not, however, is a scholarly or persuasive argument or attempt to make a case. For anyone interested in that sort of book, Vincent Bugliosi's book RECLAIMING HISTORY is the gold standard, which analyzes every aspect of the

assassination in very great detail and explains exactly how Lee Harvey Oswald carried out the assassination alone, and how the conspiracy theorists have managed to create such a destructive industry around the events of the day.

What Bishop's book does, rather, is reconstruct the events of the day in a no-nonsense, easy to read style, going hour-by-hour.

David Howell says

A blow by blow account of President Kennedys last day on earth, written at a time when the event was still in recent memory. Jim Bishop had written a glowing account of the Kennedy White House in *A Day in the Life of President Kennedy*, published shortly before the events in Dallas, and this book is written in the same frame of mind. Still it is a well written account of November 22, 1963 and captures the morning in Fort Worth, the arrival at Love Field and the fateful trip into downtown Dallas, and the chaos at Parkland Hospital. It is required reading for anyone interested in the Kennedy Assassination

Kareem says

The first i've ever read of the 'minute-by-minute' account of that day. Purely fascinating reading couldn't put it down even as long as it is. Came upon it in the public library which is the greatest bookstore imo.

Lady says

Don't believe the Lee Harvey Oswald bit for a second. Were it not for this malarkey, I would have given it five stars, because I actually found the exhaustive detail spellbinding.

Lisa says

#1 of 120 books pledged to read during 2019

Dean says

Highly detailed; yet, laboriously written account of the minute by minute account of JFK's last 5 hours alive and the aftermath of the assassination.

Starting with waking up at the Hotel Texas in Fort Worth, TX and tragically ending with the President "coming home" to the East Room of the White House, the prose is often somewhat difficult to sift through simply because there is SO much information to digest.

A fine book that relies heavily on the "Warren Report" for its timing and accuracy.

