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The President Has Been Shot!: The Assassination Of John F. Kennedy



Synopsis

A breathtaking and dramatic account of the JFK assassination by the NEW YORK TIMES bestselling author of CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER! In his new young-adult book on the Kennedy assassination, James Swanson will transport readers back to one of the most shocking, sad, and terrifying events in American history. As he did in his bestselling Scholastic YA book, CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER, Swanson will deploy his signature "you are there" style -- a riveting, ticking-clock pace, with an unprecedented eye for dramatic details and impeccable historical accuracy -- to tell the story of the JFK assassination as it has never been told before. The book will be illustrated with archival photos, and will have diagrams, source notes, bibliography, places to visit, and index

Book Information

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 6 Up—Swanson's title reads like a thriller, with intense pacing and an engaging narrative. The event is not depicted as dry, textbook history, but rather as a horrifying and shocking crime. Full- and double-page photographs of President Kennedy and Lee Harvey Oswald, and stills from the famous Zapruder film—which captured the assassination in real time—breathe emotion into the work. Kennedy's and Oswald's backgrounds are illuminated

as the narrative descends toward their tragic connection. A well-illustrated map of Dealey Plaza detailing the President's route clarifies the position of relevant buildings and features at the time of the assassination. This book is graphic with respect to both images and verbiage. Swanson provides a compelling case for Oswald as a lone gunman, arguing against the various and popular conspiracy theories. A diagram of the infamous "magic bullet" illustrates how a single bullet could cause multiple wounds for both JFK and Governor Connally. Despite the great number of books on Kennedy's assassination, this volume stands out for its gripping storytelling style and photographic documentation.

—Jeffrey Meyer, Mount Pleasant Public Library, IA

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Historian Swanson, who focused on Abraham Lincoln in *Chasing Lincoln's Killer* (2009) and *Bloody Times: The Funeral of Abraham Lincoln and the Manhunt for Jefferson Davis* (2011), introduces the man who became the youngest president in American history. The narrative text highlights John F. Kennedy's naval career, abbreviated presidential term, and his courtship and family life with Jacqueline Bouvier. Swanson balances this coverage of the former president with a profile of Lee Harvey Oswald as well as a dramatic account of Kennedy's assassination on November 22, 1963. Swanson makes clear that he agrees with the Warren Commission that Oswald was the lone gunman, and he spells out his disdain for conspiracy theories. Pair this title with *O'Reilly's Kennedy's Last Days: The Shocking Assassination That Changed America* (2012), which posits that there was a "mysterious figure who some thought was Oswald's CIA handler." Archival photographs, explicit diagrams of the assassination scene, source notes, and a bibliography that includes conspiracy-focused literature add further value to this strong addition to Kennedy titles.

Grades 6-10. --Gail Bush

A good description of the days leading up to and then after the assassination of the president. My only criticism is there was no discussion of Jack Ruby. He was an important figure in the whole story.

This was on my high school summer read list. Very informative. It made you understand how the nation felt losing their leader in his prime.

As author James Swanson did with his book entitled *Manhunt* on the assassination of President

Abraham Lincoln he has now written an account on the assassination of President John Kennedy for young readers entitled "The President Has Been Shot." This book is suitable for middle school and high school students and even good readers on an elementary level. The book contains numerous photos so a reader isn't intimidated by page after page of only words. Author Swanson doesn't believe in the numerous conspiracy theories out there but focuses on three bullets fired by Lee Harvey Oswald as the lone gunman. President Kennedy's itinerary from the time he entered Texas along with the movements of Lee Oswald are followed until they come together when the assassination takes place are aptly covered. The chase for the murderer, the President's funeral, the murder of Oswald by Jack Ruby and the aftermath are all well covered. These would make good gifts for a young person on your list.

I'm not an avid nonfiction reader normally, but this book is so well written that you get caught up in the story.

An excellent book about the president, JFK, who has been murdered. But who did it? The book tells us possible people or ways he was murdered. For example the book said a person named Lee Harvey Oswald shot a rifle through a window and made 7 bullet wounds. Another way was that the mafia shot him from behind. This is a great book for people who like Presidents, Biography, and History

As the facts unfolded, the book was a page turner. For students, it gives insight to those Kennedy years. For adults it brings back what started as exciting optimism but turned to heartache for America. The book brought back so many emotions. Read it!

Well written. Swiftly written. Has great pictures. Essentially a book written as a reporter would write history. Puts it all together. Probably not a book for conspiracy theorists.

This book is amazing for people that love history and assassinations. This book is not just for adults, I am in 5th grade and I loved reading this book. It is filled with addictive parts that are amazing to read

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