

“The President Has Been Shot!”: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy

James L. Swanson

Reviewed by: Anika 16

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James L. Swanson recounts one of America’s greatest tragedies, the assassination of John F. Kennedy. It all started with Lee Harvey Oswald, the man who perpetrated the death of JFK. All it took was a single rifle and Lee Harvey Oswald’s murderous intent to assassinate the president. Oswald had his own bitter past that played a role in JFK’s death. John F. Kennedy may have made mistakes during his presidency, but he had accomplished much. And the world may never know what more he could have done if he had lived. But he will be forever remembered.

Nonfiction is not usually my cup of tea, but Swanson’s narrative writing was enjoyable. The author makes great use of pictures and diagrams to make this event seem more personal, as well as extremely informative. I had discovered much I didn’t know about President Kennedy through this book. I learned more about his family and wife. The fact that this piece of text is easier to understand made it all the better. Swanson goes into such detail that I felt like I was there to witness the assassination. He effectively uses quotes from Kennedy, his wife, and the people around at the time to heighten the reading experience. Reading this book gave me a greater appreciation for history and the fact that we today don’t always know the whole story.

That being said, this book is about Kennedy’s assassination. It includes a rather detailed account of his death and that can be a bit gruesome for some readers. Which is why I recommend this book to anyone 13 years or older. Swanson’s book would make a great gift to fans of history and anyone who wants to know more about President Kennedy himself.

Recommended Titles:

Chasing Lincoln’s Killer by James L. Swanson

Bloody Crimes: The Chase for Jefferson Davis and the Death Pageant for Lincoln's Corpse By James L. Swanson

Manhunt: The 12-Day Chase for Lincoln's Killer By James L. Swanson

End of Days: The Assassination of John F. Kennedy By James L. Swanson