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



## 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

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (55 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Appropriate for grades 7-12, this wonderful book has lots of appeal for teen readers--short chapters, plenty of photographs, and easy-to-read maps that help tell the fascinating story. The majority of the book relates details of those four days in November 1963 when panic and uncertainty were the norms for many Americans. The placement of black-and-white photos, from the well-known shots of John, Jr. saluting his father's casket and of the fatal shooting of Lee Harvey Oswald to a series of photographs taken quickly in succession after JFK was shot, go a long way in giving readers an

understanding of the events of the day. Noteworthy is the "Diagrams, Photos, and Illustrations" section at the end of the book; so too are the source notes for each section. Simply superb!

I normally don't read history books for kids. I have read articles and books by author James L. Swanson. I've been impressed by his level of research, his ability to organize his source material in both an interesting and readable manner, and his overall thorough understanding of subject matter. I bought this for my cousin's kid who isn't much of a reader but has a real devotion for the History Channel. Before I purchased this book, I read it from cover to cover. It was a quick read, but was on mark for its target audience as it covered the details surrounding Kennedy's Assassination. It's total presentation leaves a 'you are there effect' with splashes of vintage black and white as well as color photos. The narrative is abbreviated enough to not be mired in excessive detail, yet it defines the chronology of the events leading up to the assassination as well as following it. The frenetic activities of that period are captured and preserved along with a nation's sense of shock and horror. Despite everything, this book refrains from gory details yet conveys an awful lot of basic information. As it turned out, this was a great book that captured a kid's imagination and encouraged him to read.

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.

With a masterful narrative, James Swanson, once again has triumphed - this time introducing the young adult reader to the Kennedy Presidency and his assassination. He provides a wonderful introduction to the life and Administration of JFK - about half the book - and a compelling account of the events surrounding his assassination. It is a difficult task to capture this subject matter

in a few hundred pages. But Swanson has succeeded. Rather than dive into the murky waters of the numerous unsubstantiated and contradictory conspiracy theories, he has provided a factual account of the events surrounding the death of a President. But he also provides the young adult reader numerous source notes and a bibliography to explore the assassination further, and encourages his audience to investigate the myriad of conspiracy books that Swanson acknowledges, but dismisses. Of the more than 30 children and young adult books on the JFK assassination, this is by far the best account. The choice of the many illustrations, drawings, and photographs provides the reader with additional valuable information, and are clearly inspired by a talented writer of non-fiction historical texts. The fact this book has been chosen as one of the five finalists for 2014 award in non-fiction by the Young Adult Library Services Association (a division of the American Library Association) says it all! This should be on the recommended reading list for any young adult who would like to learn about JFK's life and death.

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!

I enjoyed this book very much. It did not surprise me because I like Mr. Swanson's writings. I love American history and his writings on Lincoln and now Kennedy are very easy to read, very interesting, and keeps you wanting "more". I could not put this book down. I read some facts that I did not know about the assassination of President Kennedy. I highly recommend this book and this author. He has passion for what he writes making the reader feel that passion.

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