Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot. Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 2012. h/bk 325 pp. ISBN 978-0-8050-9666-8. Price $28.00.

Out of the four Presidents of the United States of America who have been assassinated, Abraham Lincoln (White House dweller number sixteen) and John Fitzgerald Kennedy (number thirty-five) have been the two who have received the lion's share of scholarly and popular attention throughout the decades, while the deaths of James Garfield and William McKinley have for the most part fallen into oblivion. Given this prominence, it was to be expected that after their much-acclaimed bestseller *Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination that Changed America Forever* (2011), Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard devoted their next book to JFK.

Killing Kennedy: The End of Camelot opens with Kennedy's inauguration on 20 January 1961 and recounts the last years of his life. Unlike other books chronicling the assassination, O'Reilly's and Dugard's stick to the facts, not falling into leaps of faith and speculative conspiracy theories. The book covers the key moments in Kennedy's short administration, pointing out the challenges he encountered and the people he antagonized in the process, including such powerful people as CIA director Allen Dulles, whom Kennedy dismissed because of the failure to invade Cuba after the landing in Bahia de Cochinos (Bay of Pigs). In parallel, Lee Harvey Oswald's activities during the same period are also recorded, following his defection to the Soviet Union in 1959 in pursuit of aspirations that did not materialize; his trip to Mexico to apply for a visa to Cuba; and his marriage to a Russian citizen, Marina.

Killing Kennedy comprises a detailed overview of this brief period in American history that continues to be the topic of books, articles, television shows and movies *(Killing Kennedy* has already been adapted for television). Part One, "Cheating Death," spans the first months of Kennedy's administration until the Cuban Missile Crisis in October 1962. It traces the path that took him to the White House, paying particular attention to his service during the Second World War and his heroic (and well-documented) rescue of the crew of the PT-109. Part Two, "The Curtain Descends," begins with the arrival in January 1963 of Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa on a loan from the Louvre, in a move orchestrated by

Jackie Kennedy. Part Three, "Evil Wins," begins on 24 October 1963, and deals with the preparations of and the fateful trip to Dallas. *Killing Kennedy* continues after the assassination with what happened to Kennedy's body, Oswald's attempt to flee and the gradual filtering through of the news of the assassination worldwide.

Although Oswald is identified as Kennedy's sole assassin, *Killing Kennedy* reveals the extensive and impressive list of enemies the Kennedy brothers made, including Cuban dictator Fidel Castro, FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson. O'Reilly and Dugard dismiss the many theories fuelled by Oswald's statement that he was a "patsy." This conspiracy craze came about in part as a result of Hoover's efforts to make the case fall under federal jurisdictk (^D even though assassinating the President is not a federal jurisdiction, as assassinating the President is not a federal crime, but conspiring to kill him is. However, *Killing Kennedy* fails to mention important evidence concerning Oswald's CIA links, which O'Reilly himself exposed in the 1990s.

Killing Kennedy offers a concise but thorough analysis of Kennedy's presidency and death, paying attention to its low moments and its highlights while exposing the different factions opposed to Kennedy, including the CIA and the FBI. Although not a groundbreaking work, the book nonetheless offers a detailed chronicle of the events leading up to and beyond 23 November 1963, an episode which retains its global significance.

Works Cited

Killing Kennedy. Dir. Nelson McCormick. Perf. Rob Lowe, Will Rothhaar, Jack Noseworthy. National Geographic Channel, 2013. Film.

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