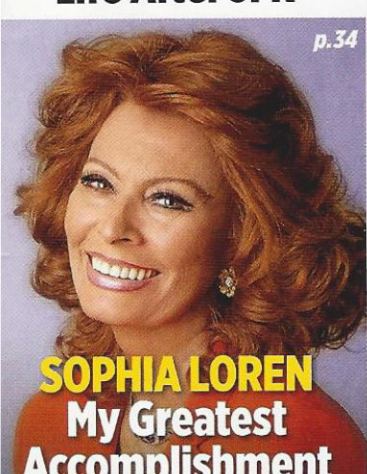


MARIA SHRIVER
Inside Her
\$400M divorce

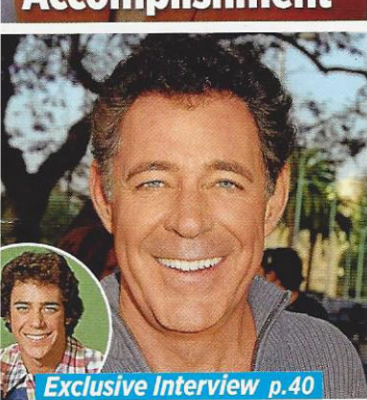
NEW



JACKIE KENNEDY
New Details About
Life After JFK



SOPHIA LOREN
My Greatest
Accomplishment



BARRY WILLIAMS
Greg Brady on
Turning 60!

BRIGITTE BARDOT: HER UNTOLD STORY
TORTURED BY FAME

Epic meltdowns, suicide attempts and years as a recluse. As she turns 80, friends reveal her secret struggle *p.28*
Plus: The love that saved her life



LOOKING BACK



FORMER FIRST LADY
JACKIE KENNEDY

Struggled with grief, a crisis of faith and suicidal thoughts after JFK's assassination, until a new friendship helped her survive



Jackie regretted that she hadn't "thrown herself in front of the bullet," says Porter.

36 October 13, 2014



Father McSorley "promised her that one day she would be reunited with JFK but only after she brought Caroline and John to maturity," says Porter.



Crowds of well-wishers made Jackie a virtual prisoner at her N Street home in Washington, D.C.



A grieving Jackie and Bobby developed an "emotional dependence on each other," says Porter.

In the aftermath of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, his shell-shocked widow and her children were hastily moved out of their home at the White House and into a borrowed apartment on Washington, D.C.'s N Street. Outside, throngs of visitors stood to get a glimpse at the grieving family. Inside, each day was its own form of torture for newly widowed Jacqueline Kennedy, 34, who was increasingly haunted by the tragedy of losing her beloved husband and terrified of potential dangers lurking in the crowd.

It was a far cry from the public persona that's been burnt into history. Reeling from the shock of JFK's death on Nov. 22, 1963, at age 46, the nation looked to the ever-poised Jackie — suddenly a single mother to Caroline, 5, and John Jr., 2 — as a beacon of strength. But privately, she was coming apart at the seams, drinking heavily, feeling regret and experiencing suicidal thoughts, according to new reports. "She was really starting to unravel," Darwin Porter, a family insider and author of *Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis: A Life Beyond*

Her Wildest Dreams, reveals to *Closer*. "She was like a lost soul wandering around."

A REASON TO LIVE

Fortunately, her downward spiral did not go unnoticed by Jackie's brother-in-law, Robert F. Kennedy, then 38. "When Bobby saw Jackie becoming emotionally disturbed, he came up with an idea," says Porter. He arranged for Father Richard McSorley — a Jesuit priest and avid tennis player — to start spending time with her. "At first they just met for tennis, but as they became closer, she started to bond with him." Over the next several months, McSorley chronicled their conversations in a diary that's since come to light — the painful truth emerged: Jackie, raised a devout Catholic, was questioning her entire belief system. "She couldn't understand why God chose to take her husband away," says Porter. Worst of all, she struggled with the desire to take her own life. "She asked, 'Wouldn't God just understand?'" says Porter. According to psychotherapist Carolyn

Bushong, it was a natural response given the circumstances: "It's often the people who put on the strongest face who are suicidal, because they have to pretend so much."

Ultimately, her small but crucial support system helped to pull her from the depths of her despair. Bobby, in particular, kept close watch. "He became a rock for her," says Porter. (Indeed, there's been speculation that a romantic bond may have developed between Jackie and her married brother-in-law.) And McSorley's counsel proved to be nothing short of divine intervention. Says Porter, "He worked very hard to convince Jackie that she should live, for her children's sake." And live, she did. Before passing in 1994 at the age of 64, Jackie watched both of her kids grow into accomplished adulthood. Still, she was forever changed by her darkest chapter. "I have suffered a great deal, but I have had happy moments," she later reflected. "The joy, the hardship, the tragedy, love...are all interwoven into one single, indescribable whole that is called life." —Ingela Rattledge

"Everyone has an image of my mother, but they really don't know her at all."

CAROLINE KENNEDY

CLOCKWISE FROM MAIN: GETTY; CORBIS (4)