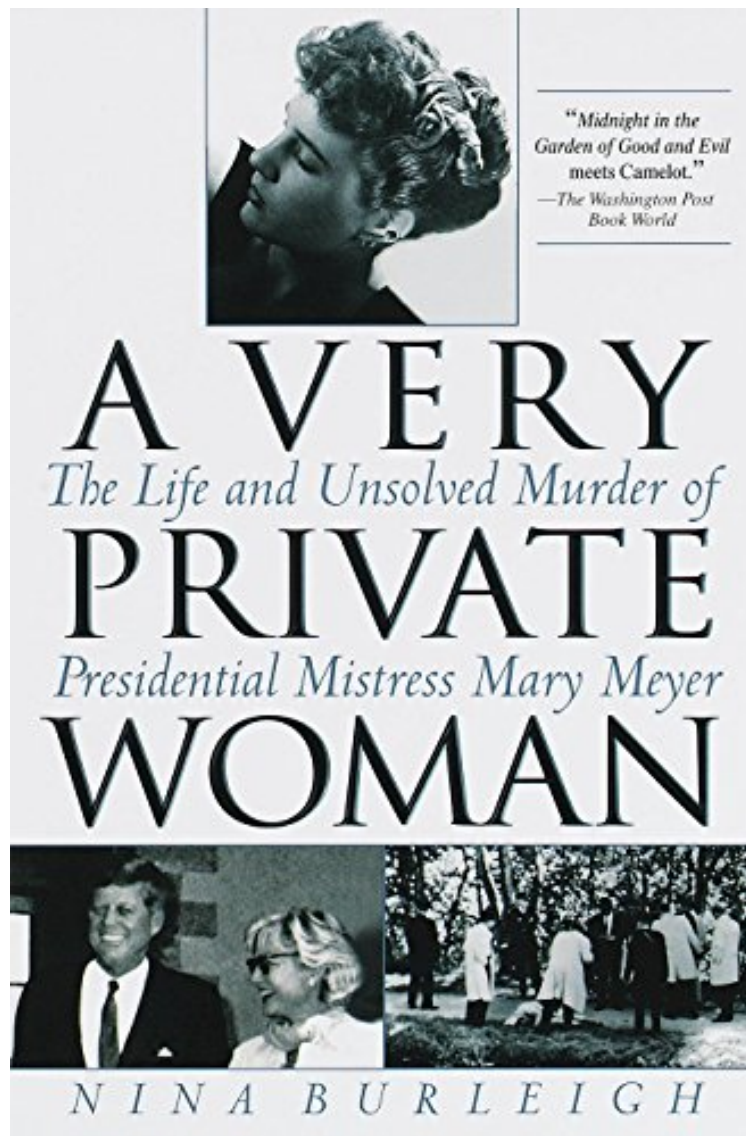


(Download pdf) A Very Private Woman: The Life and Unsolved Murder of Presidential Mistress Mary Meyer

A Very Private Woman: The Life and Unsolved Murder of Presidential Mistress Mary Meyer

Von Nina Burleigh

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Von Nina Burleigh : A Very Private Woman: The Life and Unsolved Murder of Presidential Mistress Mary Meyer before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Very Private Woman: The Life and Unsolved Murder of Presidential Mistress Mary Meyer:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A vivid

portrayal of a fascinating woman and her times. Von Ein Kunde For anyone with an interest in the world of Washington politics and the East Coast intelligentsia "ruling class" of the 1950s and 1960s, this vivid portrait of Mary Pinchot Myer and her times will be a rewarding read. Mary's struggle and efforts to find herself, ultimately by attempting to break out of her cocooned and narrow world via art, drugs and sex, is a great subject. Her life represents the first awakenings to the oppression of husband-centered lives that similar privileged white women of the time were beginning to experience. Even though her struggle might have been flawed and incomplete, it was real. Her unique relationship to influential people in both politics and art allows the author to illuminate larger political issues through her. What was most revealing to me was the sense of an intertwined, almost incestuous group of privileged families who literally controlled not only Washington politics but Washington received wisdom -- in the form of journalism. The book provides insight into the web of connections that existed between the CIA, politicians, artists and journalists, and gave me a fresh perspective on how the elite controls this country -- both then and undoubtedly now. I say now, especially considering the apparently continuing efforts to muzzle Mary Myer even in death (by destroying her diary, etc.) as if aspects of her life could threaten the perceptions this group has of itself and its world. If any conspiracy is revealed in the book, it is this conspiracy of the elite and privileged, which is both more subtle and more insidious -- and perhaps more dangerous -- than any so-called murder conspiracy. Luckily, this book doesn't allow Mary to be silenced. The knowledge I gained of her through the book makes me think that she would be the first to scoff at these efforts, and would want the walls to come tumbling down. In that sense, the book seems to fulfill her wishes. I greatly enjoyed it, and recommend it highly. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Appallingly bad Von D. C. Carrad You would think that it would be impossible to write a dull, mediocre, cramped and pompous book about the combined topics of the CIA, a presidential mistress (JFK's), high society in the 1920's and 30's, the Washington art scene, early LSD users and the 1950's. You would think so, but the author of this dreadful book has succeeded -- if that is the right verb -- in doing just that. She wilfully misunderstands and distorts everything she writes about. Every woman is either a feminist who agrees with the author's PC stance on everything, or an oppressed suburban housewife who would agree with the author about everything if only the blinders would fall from her eyes. The Vietnam War and the Cold War were caused by male prep school headmansters (!). You get the idea. The author's tin ear and leaden prose only make it worse. The said thing is that her subject's life could, in competent hands, be a fascinating and well-told tale, but the publication of this tepid biography will probably prevent the issuance of a book worthy of its subject. Mary Pinchot Meyer deserved better and I hope someday another biographer will do her justice. The publisher should be ashamed. This dreadful thing is far, far below any civilized standard and never should have been printed. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. "Private Woman" gives a look of the New Frontier at home. Von Ein Kunde While this book is marketed to get our attention (Presidential Mistress, Unsolved Murder Mystery), the actual story is much more balanced and thoughtful. Burleigh gives us a domestic biography of Georgetown in the 50s and 60s, when women hid any trace of character or biography, but instead lived their lives mightily to help their husbands' careers. Reclaiming a story almost missed by those who turn Mary Meyer into a Mata Hari of the Kennedy years, the author describes the home lives of cold war liberals who, for a time, lived at the center of the universe. That Meyer's private life intersected with so many of the Washington establishment makes her an interesting footnote to New Frontier history. But her own journey from East Coast debutante to CIA operative's wife to mother to artist and presidential mistress is told in this book in such a way to give insight into the family side of Washington in the Kennedy years. In some ways, this book covers similar territory to that Doris Kearns Goodwin covered in her domestic biography of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. By the time one gets to the more salacious aspects of Meyer's life, the reader has a fairly multi-dimensional portrait of this woman who spent much of 1962 as Kennedy's mistress, who tripped on LSD, and worked to become an abstract painter. She was brutally murdered on a canal tow path outside of Georgetown almost a year after Kennedy's death. Her diary was discovered by her brother-in-law Ben Bradlee (of the Washington Post), and supposedly destroyed by family friend James Jesus Angleton, the paranoid CIA counter-intelligence head. The scene of her funeral, where DC socialites, CIA spooks, and local artists gathered to make sense of Meyer's life, describes one of the more bizarre gatherings of the mid-60s in the capital. This is the stuff one finds in the Washington novels of Ward Just. "Private Woman" is entertaining, thoughtful, a good read.

Kurzbeschreibung In 1964, Mary Pinchot Meyer, the beautiful, rebellious, and intelligent ex-wife of a top CIA official, was killed on a quiet Georgetown towpath near her home. Mary Meyer was a secret mistress of President John F. Kennedy, whom she had known since private school days, and after her death, reports that she had kept a diary set off a tense search by her brother-in-law, newsman Ben Bradlee, and CIA spymaster James Jesus Angleton. But the only suspect in her murder was acquitted, and today her life and death are still a source of intense speculation, as Nina Burleigh reveals in her widely praised book, the first to examine this haunting story. From the Trade Paperback edition. de On October 12, 1964, socialite Mary Meyer was shot to death along a wooded path where she was taking her afternoon walk. Ordinarily such a crime wouldn't attract the attention of the CIA's head of counterintelligence, but

Meyer was no ordinary Washington socialite. Born into a wealthy, bohemian family in Northeastern Pennsylvania, Meyer studied at Vassar, worked as a journalist during World War II, married--and later divorced--a war hero, became a proto-feminist, experimented with drugs, and had an affair with John F. Kennedy. When Meyer decided to try LSD, she didn't get it from some random dealer and trip in the park. Instead she turned to Timothy Leary himself--and, evidence suggests, she might have eventually shared her stash with the President of the United States. Shortly after Meyer was found dead, her diaries were spirited away: her brother-in-law, Ben Bradlee, turned the documents over to the aforementioned CIA official, James Jesus Angleton, believing that it was in her, and others', best interest that her secrets die with her. A Very Private Woman pieces together some of these secrets, and hints at many more. It's a compelling story not only of a woman who lived at the edges of power, influence, and history, but who lived in and was buffeted by some of the most significant cultural changes of the second half of the 20th century. --Lisa Higgins.com

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