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*Tina Cassidy*

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## **Jackie After O: One Remarkable Year When Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Defied Expectations and Rediscovered Her Dreams** Tina Cassidy

Former *Boston Globe* reporter Tina Cassidy delivers a remarkable account of one year in the life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, America's favorite first lady and an international icon. 1975 was a year of monumental changes for Jackie: it was the year she lost her second husband, shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, saved one of New York City's cultural landmarks at Grand Central Station, and found her true calling—not as a powerful man's wife or the mother of future leaders, but as a woman of the workforce with a keen mind and a dedication to excellence. Readers of Christopher Andersen's *Jackie After Jack* and Pamela Clarke Keogh's *Jackie Style* will find no better look at the intimate world of America's Queen of Camelot than Tina Cassidy's *Jackie After O*.

## **Jackie After O: One Remarkable Year When Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Defied Expectations and Rediscovered Her Dreams Details**

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Author : Tina Cassidy

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## **From Reader Review Jackie After O: One Remarkable Year When Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Defied Expectations and Rediscovered Her Dreams for online ebook**

### **Rebecca says**

Sometimes you wonder how true some biographies are. Truly a good read. So much we do not know about these people and all that they endure while trying to lead normal lives.

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### **Jena says**

Este libro, como lo dice su título, solo se refiere al año de 1975 cuando definió sus expectativas (el definió es mío, el verbo es desafío) y redescubrió sus sueños. A pesar de ello pienso que, aunque se contara su vida entera, para las nuevas generaciones Jackie O no representa nada o casi nada; en cambio para las generaciones de mujeres entonces veinteañeras de los años 60, fue un modelo en cuanto a esposa de un encumbrado político, arte, moda, modales, educación universitaria, propias de su alta clase social. Ese año de 1975, significó una nueva viudez, Onassis murió dejándole una cantidad ridícula en herencia, 250 mil dólares al año, que más tarde negoció con Cristina por 20 millones, de una vez y para siempre.

Jackie se dedicó, para llenar su ocio y una nueva meta en la vida, a la conservación de edificios antiguos como Grand Central Terminal y Pen Station, que iban a ser derrumbadas para construir algunos edificios de departamentos. Gracias a su influencia y amistades aún existen.

Alguna vez dijo que ella no era pintora ni escritora, pero puedo dirigir y producir, puedo armar las cosas si algo me interesa de verdad. Nunca me he arrepentido de lo que he hecho ni podría pasar la vida viendo por la ventana. Gracias a ese empuje, consiguió trabajo como asistente del editor en las editoriales Viking y Doubleday haciendo lo que antes dijo: dirigir y producir libros. Murió en mayo de 1994.

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### **Terteach1 says**

Very interesting book. I have read a lot of books on the Kennedys but this book focuses on the career she made after Onassis died. It is a fast read.

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### **James says**

Wanted more info on her career in publishing. Book just touched on it.

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### **Diane says**

The fascination with the Kennedy family is perpetual, and even though Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis was a Kennedy by marriage, her life still generates books, films and even a jewelry line bearing her influence

and name.

Tina Cassidy has written a book, Jackie After O: One Remarkable Year When Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Defied Expectations & Rediscovered Her Dreams, that gives a brief overview of her subject's life, concentrating more on the work she accomplished and less on her well-documented personal life.

Most people know about Jackie's work restoring the White House, and the famous television interview she did showing the results to the American people. Less well known but just as fascinating were her efforts to preserve the historical architecture on Lafayette Square, which surrounded the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue. She fought developers and convinced her husband of the importance of preserving the historical buildings.

Onassis again put her name and efforts behind saving another American landmark in 1975; the beautiful Grand Central Terminal in New York City. At that time, New York City was on the verge of economic collapse, and the city could not afford to fight developers who wanted to put a skyscraper on top of Grand Central Terminal to house office space.

The Municipal Art Society was formed and as part of that committee, Onassis lent her prestige and name and appeared at a prominent press conference that announced their efforts to sue to preserve the historical landmark. When she spoke at the press conference, she garnered much more press attention to a worthy cause than would have otherwise been created. She wrote letters and strategized as to how to preserve this indelible New York landmark, and thanks in part to that committee's efforts, Grand Central Terminal is now restored to its rightful grandeur.

After her second husband died, and her children were teens and off to school, Onassis was looking for another challenge. She wanted a job, a career. Literature was always important to her and she ended up at Viking working as an editor.

The most interesting part of this book is related by Rebecca Singleton, the young editorial assistant who was given the task of working with Onassis. Singleton was hoping to be promoted to editor herself as she was an ambitious go-getter, and her work was well liked by her supervisors.

Singleton recounts so many wonderful, warm stories about her working relationship with Onassis. It is intriguing to see this side of Onassis; someone who wanted to learn, be accepted and be good at her job.

One delightful anecdote concerned the rule at the office that the first one in had to make the coffee. A director of publicity recalls arriving "to find Jackie wrestling on the floor with a bag trying to open it. She sheepishly handed it to him. He opened it. And then she took it back to brew a pot for the office."

We do see some of her troubled marriage with Ari Onassis, and her difficult relationship with step-daughter Cristina, but this book is strongest when relating Jacqueline's passion for preservation and literature, using her talents and name to do good works of which she could be proud.

Fans of the Kennedy mystique will enjoy this refreshing and interesting take on a different side of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, a woman who will always intrigue us.

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## **Angelic says**

I went into this book without too much prior knowledge of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, other than that she was a beloved First Lady. I'm glad to say that I learned a lot about this fascinating woman, both of her later life, and her life during her tumultuous years as First Lady. Gladly, the book is never gossipy, the author relies on facts and first-hand accounts to tell the story. There are many footnotes on every page so that the reader can go to the original source. That being said, the author does a great job of writing the book in an almost novel-like way. Her style made the story really exciting.

For most of the book, the author would start off by telling the reader the events happening in 1975, the year that Jackie faced a lot of big choices about where her life would lead after motherhood and wife-hood. Then, almost in a flashback style, we would see how Jackie faced similar issues during JFK's presidency.

I think the author was very sympathetic to Jackie and definitely respectful of her at all times. At the same time though, she doesn't leave out Jackie's faults. Her background might have made her spoiled, and she might have spent a lot on dresses. But that also shaped the way that she stood up to those in power, and quite often, got her way. I loved reading about her days working as an editor at Viking with her assistant/partner in crime, Rebecca Singleton. They were a no-nonsense team dealing with a lot of nonsense from fans and media concerned with Jackie's celebrity.

I had no idea that Jackie was such a great writer. Not only in speech-writing or writing articles for magazines, but also in writing personal letters. Persuasive, and always charming, personal letters from Jackie helped to restore much of the furniture in the White House that had been sold, auctioned off, or given away by previous Presidents. That's a pretty wonderful letter that influences a family to donate a priceless antique that had been owned by a US President, but that's exactly what many families did in response to Jackie's handwritten letters.

Overall, I enjoyed learning more about Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis' life, both during JFK's presidency, and also about the life she made for herself as a single woman later in life.

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## **Marcie says**

As far back as I can remember, and even before that, the world has been infatuated with Jackie Kennedy Onassis. She first became a public icon when her husband ran for office back in the 1960's. Since then the stylish, soft spoken first lady became a celebrity. Jackie After O by Tina Cassidy focuses specifically on the period in Jackie's life after her second husband passed away. Cassidy writes an introspective view on Jackie's life. This is a fantastic book worth reading!

During this period, Jackie's immeasurable strength is put to the test and she starts doing what she loved. She was on the board to save and preserve a historical landmark, she ventured into the world of publishing and

pretty much reinvented her entire life. I was more familiar with Jackie's earlier life in Camelot than I was in her later years. She used her love of reading as an avenue to be innovative in her life and work in publishing. I enjoyed reading this biography for several reasons. First, I enjoy reading about historical icons. Jackie O definitely fits into this category. Second, it's a well written book that kept my attention the entire time. Lastly, I learned things that made me even more in awe of her. Jackie O. is a public figure that will always hold a special place in the heart of America.

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### **Bigtreble says**

I really liked this book. Since my "defining tragedy" was the assassination of JFK, I have always been a bit obsessed about the Kennedy clan and have read most of the books about the family. I would have to rate this book among the best about Jackie. I remember when she married Onassis and all the questions the world had about that union. This book explains a lot of (perhaps) who she was. Very good.

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### **A says**

I wasn't a big Jackie O fan prior to reading this book. But I now have a newfound respect for her. She lived such a blessed and cursed life all at once (if that makes any sense). But I truly admire how she persisted. I really enjoyed this author's style. Her transitions were impeccable. Her flawless timelines made this book a pleasure to read. I'll definitely be keeping an eye on her. Really enjoyed it.

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### **Elizabeth says**

I have to admit that before I read this book, I didn't know a whole lot about Jackie. I knew who she was, of course, and could remember a few salacious "JACKIE O!" headlines in the tabloids from the time this book is set (1975), but to me she was just a famous person in big sunglasses whose life I couldn't really imagine. The few items I'd read from her White House years made me think she was a typical 50's housewife, content to raise the kids and go shopping while her husband saved the free world from Soviet bombs (and carried on affairs with multiple women). I didn't think she was all that bright. I never really gave a thought to what her life must have been like, except to be sad for her that her husband was killed in such a public and awful manner.

What I didn't know was that she was very well educated, well-read, and interested in history to the extent that she helped save Lafayette Square in Washington D.C. while in the White House. She restored that house into a museum of American craftsmanship and art after decades of neglect. There was a lot more to her than just a fashion plate.

Cassidy gives plenty of background, and meticulously cites sources for events and dialogue. She brings together a narrative that gives a clear picture of what was going on in Jackie's life the year her second husband, Aristotle Onassis, died, and how she put her life back together in New York, going into the publishing industry. You learn how and why Jackie chose such a seemingly odd occupation for herself, and how she flourished there. In the midst of the second wave of feminism, she broke out of the mold of women who acted dumber than they were to get a man, and chose a career not for the money, but for fulfillment.

This book fills in the gap between the double widow and the professional editor and conservationist that made up the public image of one of the most famous women of the 20th century, touching on her relationships with her kids, her sister, and her step family and famous in-laws. If you are fascinated with Jackie, as so many people still are, this book is for you. I certainly have a new appreciation for and admiration of her.

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### **Willadale Meeks-Smid says**

Jackie Kennedy Onassis always intrigued me. I was in twelfth grade when JFK was assassinated and her stoicism at that time was impressive. I was very surprised when, years later, she married Aristotle Onassis and not that long afterwards was widowed for a second time. Then she entered the workforce at a time when working mothers were not as common as they are today. What an accomplishment!

This book, Jackie after O, was eye-opening to say the least. Having finished it, I have even more respect for her. She was an interesting woman who wasn't afraid to stand up for what she wanted. Her support of the Grand Central Station renewal project was amazing.

As an aside I mention that I had never heard the story of how the term "Camelot" came to describe the Kennedy years.

I highly recommend this book for anyone who is interested in the "real" Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

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### **LaurieH118 says**

I thought Ms. Cassidy found a new way to look an oft-told tale. Jackie is one of the most written-about women of modern times, yet most of the biographies spend the lion's share of their time on the 10 years she spent with JFK. She was 24 when she married him, 34 when she was widowed the first time, and spent decades without him. Cassidy's account of how Jackie spent all those years, how she rediscovered her independence, is a quick and interesting read.

It's ironic and sad that Jackie O. worked so hard to be a good editor, is the subject of a book riddled with so many mistakes. Some are matters of historical fact, others just common sense. The passage where Jackie where encourages her children to try "sports, like tennis and ballet" made me cringe. Ballet is a sport? Shouldn't it have read that she encouraged her children to try "physical pursuits, like tennis and ballet?" Mrs. Onassis, a serious editor at both Viking and Doubleday, deserved better here.

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### **Kelly Hager says**

This is about Jackie Kennedy in 1975, the year when her life completely changed. Each chapter details an aspect of her life that year. Her second husband died, her kids were essentially grown (Caroline had graduated and John was in high school), she got a job in publishing and worked to preserve Grand Central Station.

Obviously, everyone has defining events in their lives, things which will mark a sort of "before" and "after."

It's generally not an entire year, though. But with Jackie, it seems like everything changed over the course of this one year and she had to decide how the rest of her life was going to go. She probably didn't HAVE to work, but she chose to enter publishing. It's highly possible that part of it was because (a) her second husband had just died and (b) her children no longer required as much care as they did when they were younger and (c) you can only fill so many days with shopping and a life of leisure.

This is an interesting book but the writing style kept me at a bit of a remove. It's possible that this was done deliberately, because it seems like Jackie wasn't someone who let a lot of people inside and maybe Tina Cassidy wanted to subtly reflect that.

Even so, it's very hard not to admire someone who lived so much of her life in the public eye through no real choice of her own. Yes, she married John Kennedy but I'm not sure that anyone could adequately prepare for the amount of scrutiny and loss of privacy that became her life.

This is definitely required reading for anyone who is enamored with all things Kennedy (or all things Jackie) or for anyone who's going through their own life change.

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### **BonnieL says**

The author began by advising her readers how she had meticulously researched every detail in the book - then she placed the assassination of JFK on November 23. If she can't get this basic detail right, there is no reason to believe that any other information she provides is factual.

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### **Lesley Korna says**

I was pleasantly surprised by this informative and interesting story of Jackie after O. She really did defy expectations by going back to work as an editor against all odds. I saw another side of Jackie Kennedy Onassis. A worthwhile read.

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