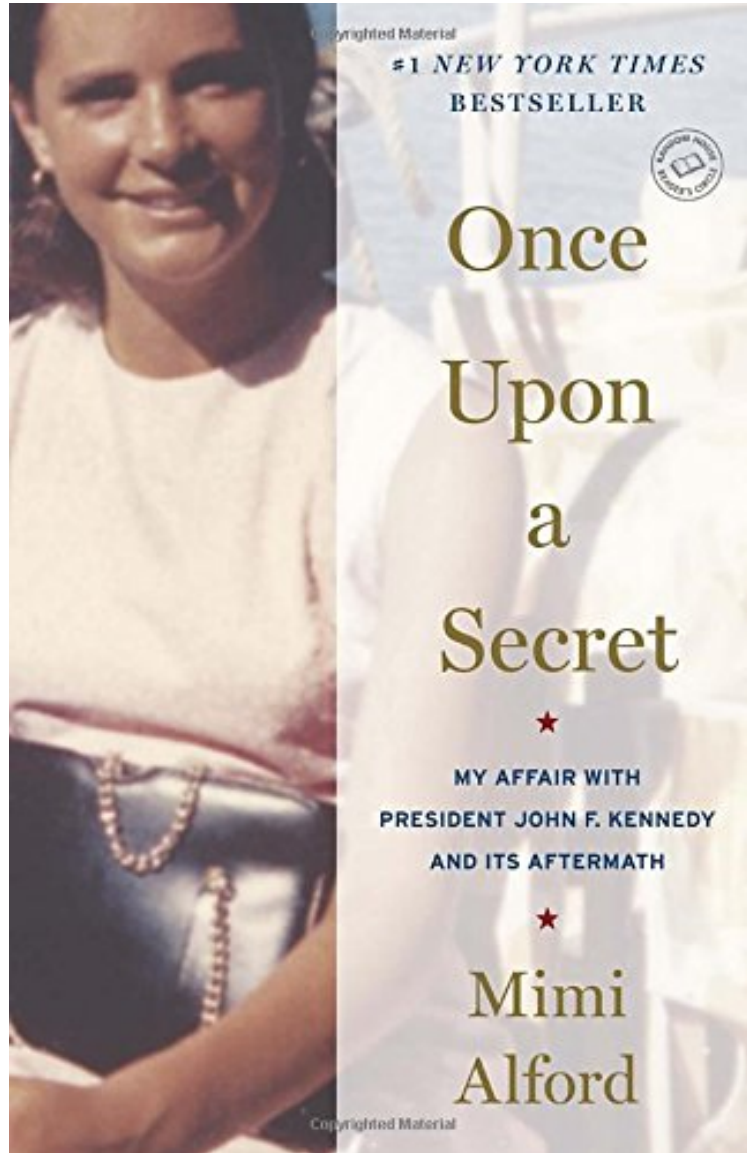


(Free) Once Upon a Secret: My Affair with President John F. Kennedy and Its Aftermath

Once Upon a Secret: My Affair with President John F. Kennedy and Its Aftermath

Mimi Alford

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Mimi Alford : Once Upon a Secret: My Affair with President John F. Kennedy and Its Aftermath before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Once Upon a Secret: My Affair with President John F. Kennedy and Its Aftermath:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The author admirably straddles the very fine line between telling most of the sordid details of ...By Richard S.I had to read this book twice before I could decide how I really felt about it. And to be completely candid, Alford's book surprised me. I bought it expecting its focus to be on her relationship with the President. While that may be the event that gives this book its direction, Alford's story is not the same as Monica Lewinski's. What gives Alford's book life for me was the real storyline - the many ways that keeping a secret for so many years can literally consume you.The author admirably straddles the very fine line between telling most of the sordid details of her encounters with JFK and the effects they were having on her. More than half a century after his death, it is clear that Mimi Alford remains very much under the spell that Kennedy cast upon those who came in and out of his circle. She describes in detail how some members of the White House Staff enabled the President's behaviors and how Kennedy was emotionally void when he took her virginity on the Executive Mansion's second floor. Alford understood then that JFK's actions were far beyond the bounds of propriety, but power is a strong aphrodisiac that she only came to terms with as the relationship progressed. Her recounting the tale of being asked by the President to provide sex to one of his key staffers trumpets Kennedy's dark side in all of its ugliness. Still, Alford's story shows that he could also maintain relationships with women without being intimate, such as asking her to come to the White House on the darkest night of the Cuban Missile Crisis.Chaucer said, "Truth will out" and Alford's tale takes a strange turn on November 22, 1963. As the news of Kennedy's assassination spreads around the world, Alford feels a particular pain that few people could understand. She shares with her fiance the secret she has been carrying, and his resulting emotional outburst was typical of the time. She is forbidden to speak of it again and the remainder of the book details the process by which Mimi Alford ultimately found both healing and redemption.When this book was published, there was no absence of claims that she wrote it for the national and international attention that it would inevitably bring. But for me, Ms. Alford emerges from these pages as a sympathetic character that all can identify with on some level. Some may be bigger than others, but all of us carry around our own secrets. Big or small, those secrets may lie dormant for years and perhaps some of us will die never having shared our story. There is an old adage that says, "Two can keep a secret if three are dead." But Alford's account of her affair with the President is really the story of how consuming the keeping of a secret can become, and how liberating it can be when years of secrecy no longer must be maintained.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. There are Life Lessons in this BookBy KathyI couldn't put this book down. When Mimi wrote this book, she did what she wanted to do, as opposed to what other people want her to do. It appears to be a liberating move on her part where a weight is lifted off of her. The book shows how engaging in sin has highways and byways as the effects of the affair traveled into her marriage in a damaging way. JFK uses Mimi for sex. I wish Mimi stuck up for herself in the very beginning. By reading this book, you can learn from Mimi's mistakes and apply them to your own life decisions. You learn that everyone has to love themselves first and if you give a man an inch, you set a precedent, then they are going to take a yard at your expense. Well written. Credible.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Book reviewBy snowbear1967Great book.

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER In the summer of 1962, nineteen-year-old Mimi Beardsley arrived in Washington, D.C., to begin an internship in the White House press office. After just three days on the job, the privileged but sheltered young woman was presented to the President himself. Almost immediately, the two began an affair that would continue for the next eighteen months. Emotionally unprepared to counter the Presidents charisma and power, Mimi was also ill-equipped to handle the feelings of isolation that would follow as she fell into the double life of a college student who was also the secret lover of the most powerful man in the world. After the Presidents assassination in Dallas, she grieved alone, locked her secret away, and tried to start a new life, only to be blindsided by her past. Now, no longer defined by silence or shame, Mimi Alford finally unburdens herself with this unflinchingly honest account of her life and her extremely private moments with a very public man. This paperback edition includes a special QA, in which the author reflects on the intense media attention surrounding the books initial release. *Upon a Secret* is a moving story of a woman emerging from the shadows to reclaim the truth. With the benefit of hindsight and good old-fashioned maturity, [Mimi Alford] writes not just about the secret, but the corrosive effect of keeping that secret. . . . You cant help liking her, or her elegant and thoroughly good-natured book.The SpectatorWhat [Alford] sacrificed in lucre she has more than recovered in credibility and dignity.The Washington Times Compelling . . . a polished voice telling a credible story you can take to the bank.Seattle Post-Intelligencer Explosive . . . searingly candid.New York PostLook for special features inside. Join the Circle for author chats and more.

With the benefit of hindsight and good old-fashioned maturity, [Mimi Alford] writes not just about the secret, but the corrosive effect of keeping that secret. . . . You cant help liking her, or her elegant and thoroughly good-natured book.The Spectator What [Alford] sacrificed in lucre she has more than recovered in credibility and dignity.The Washington Times Compelling . . . a polished voice telling a credible story you can take to the bank.Seattle Post-Intelligencer Explosive . . . searingly candid.New York PostAbout the AuthorMimi Alford lives in western Massachusetts with her husband, Dick. Together they have seven grandchildren. This is her first book.