



The Kennedy Curse: Why Tragedy Has Haunted America's First Family for 150 Years

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Death was merciful to Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, for it spared her a parent's worst nightmare: the loss of a child. But if Jackie had lived to see her son, JFK Jr., perish in a plane crash on his way to his cousin's wedding, she would have been doubly horrified by the familiar pattern in the tragedy. Once again, on a day that should have been full of joy and celebration, America's first family was struck by the Kennedy Curse.

In this probing expose, renowned Kennedy biographer Edward Klein-a bestselling author and journalist personally acquainted with many members of the Kennedy family-unravels one of the great mysteries of our time and explains why the Kennedys have been subjected to such a mind-boggling chain of calamities.

Drawing upon scores of interviews with people who have never spoken out before, troves of private documents, archives in Ireland and America, and private conversations with Jackie, Klein explores the underlying pattern that governs the Kennedy Curse.

The reader is treated to penetrating portraits of the Irish immigrant Patrick Kennedy; Rose Kennedy's father, "Honey Fitz"; the dynasty's founding father Joe Kennedy and his ill-fated daughter Kathleen, President Kennedy, accused rapist William Kennedy Smith, and the star-crossed lovers, JFK Jr. and Carolyn Bessette. Each of the seven profiles demonstrates the basic premise of this book: *The Kennedy Curse* is the result of the destructive collision between the Kennedy's fantasy of omnipotence - an unremitting desire to get away with things that others cannot-and the cold, hard realities of life.

The Kennedy Curse: Why Tragedy Has Haunted America's First Family for 150 Years Details

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Rebekah Welch says

I can't decide if I think this book is mean spirited and biased or simply pointing out a family's lack of morals and scruples. Update: I just read Fairytale Interrupted where Rosemarie Terenzio quotes John Kennedy as commenting that Edward Klein had lunch with his mother one time and is working to make as much bank from that one lunch as possible. That makes sense--I was wondering why the book was so mean when Klein made it out like he was a close friend of Jackie Kennedy.

Elaine says

This was an interesting take on why the Kennedy family, especially the males, have met such tragic ends. Author Edward Klein believes it's the "Kennedy curse" and is due to their arrogance and narcissistic personalities. Hubris and tempting fate all play a part as well. I enjoyed this book...while it was sad to read of the tragic events that affected so many family members, I found myself thinking perhaps if they were less egocentric and more humble and not believe themselves to be invincible, there may have been different outcomes. Who knows?

KOMET says

Reading this book has been both a startling and revelatory experience. For close to 80 years, the Kennedy Family -- with President John F. Kennedy representing the apogee --- has cast a dazzling light on the U.S. (and the world, by extension). From the time the first Kennedy (Patrick Kennedy) arrived in Boston from famine-stricken Ireland with his wife Bridget in 1849, the Kennedys have been strivers, gamblers, and at times reckless in their pursuit of economic and political power. Being Irish and Catholic placed many

obstacles across their path in a society that denigrated and marginalized both minority groups.

This book takes a look at the lives of a number of the Kennedys (and President Kennedy's grandfather, John F. "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald, who was a power in Massachusetts politics in the early 1900s) across time. What is remarkable is how resilient the Kennedys have been in view of the many tragedies it has suffered. The author has done considerable research, as the listing of interviews and bibliographic information at the back of the book will attest. Here the reader will see how a family dynasty, which has achieved much that is good and positive in public service and politics, inspiring many, has, nevertheless, like Icarus, flown sometimes too close to the sun, and fell into the abyss. Hence, the Kennedy Curse. I highly recommend this book to any reader with a keen interest in history as shaped by personality.

Carol says

I tried to read several books lately and nothing fictional seemed to work for me. I picked up *The Kennedy Curse* and was able to get into the book immediately. It was fascinating. I particularly was interested in the segment on Kick Kennedy, the sister who was killed in a plane crash, I did not know about her. This is a sad book but extremely interesting.

Hubert says

When I first started reading this book, I felt it to be tawdry and overly sensationalist, working too hard to invoke scandal which have been rehashed in the Kennedy lore.

The work contains chapter-by-chapter exegeses of the various tragedies that have befelled many of the members of the familial political dynasty. The book tears away at the mythology surrounding the Kennedys and portrays them in a more-or-less unflattering light. Klein offers up hubris among family members across generations, and a general lack of self-control, as the motivating factors behind each tragedy. It serves more as a popular history, and placed in a particular narrative driven by the author, rather than a carefully cross-checked document (though the author is very acquainted with members of the family and their close acquaintances, and has done a lot of interviews and examined many sources for the book, some of the juicier tidbits are backed up by a single anonymous source).

As someone who hadn't really been interested in reading about the Kennedys, this book piqued my interest, and I look forward to reading more.

Courtney says

I have a love/hate relationship with this book. One one hand, it is a very entertaining, informative and interesting read (5 Stars!). On the other hand, the author completely fails to go into any depth on the character of the infamous Ted Kennedy, or live up to his claim that this is "a detective story". In addition, Bobby Kennedy's assassination is given all of ONE line at the end of the section on JFK (3 Stars!).

I knew quite little about the Kennedy family when I started this book, and after having finished it (or really, after having finished the introduction) I have come to completely abhor them. I always thought of "The

"Kennedy Curse" as encompassing the tragedies that befell a great American family. Having read about the PEOPLE of the Kennedy family (as opposed to their policies), I find it hard to consider any of it a tragedy. Why has tragedy haunted the American family? - They brought it upon themselves.

Some reviewers have said that Klein was attacking the Kennedy's in this work. I disagree. He has called them narcissistic, but never used the more colorful words that truly describe them. Remember my love/hate relationship? I hate it because Klein is far too kind and doesn't dig deep enough. There exists the possibility that Klein was too easy-going on Ted Kennedy because he was still alive at time of publication. A follow-up book about the senator might prove or dismiss this point as it was published shortly after the senator's death.

Klein's writing is easy to read and easy to follow (if you're good at keeping names straight).

This book is not about political stances, its about personality and people. I highly recommend it, but give it only 4 stars because, while I enjoy the content that this there, it is lacking in several areas.

Joan Colby says

. Unfortunately, what could be a fairly interesting history of the Kennedys and Fitzgeralds suffers from an overload of psychobabble attributing the risk taking behavior of many of the family members to narcissism and feelings of Irish inferiority. While there may be some truth here, the over-emphasis detracts from the narrative. Further, there's rather a gossipy tone throughout. The book focuses on various family members including Patrick Kennedy who emigrated from Ireland in the 1840's thus the information about him is mainly anecdotal, Joe Kennedy who enlarged the family fortune with ruthless energy and fought hard to put one of his sons in the White House, Jack Kennedy with an emphasis on his womanizing while President, Kathleen Kennedy and her unfortunate love life, William Smith who was tried for rape and acquitted and John Kennedy Jr. whose recklessness led to his fatal plane crash. All these incidents are attributed to the Kennedy Curse according to author Klein.

Patsy Anderson says

Gossipy, tabloid style writing. I don't believe that the Kennedy's are cursed even after reading this book. They are extremely narcissistic risk-takers. Don't waste your time reading this book.

Elaine says

[e.g. Joe Kennedy, Jr., who volunteered for a highly ri

Kasey says

I have been fascinated by the Kennedys for years, so much so that I wrote my high school term paper on Jackie O and I cried when I heard the news about JFK Jr and Carolyn Bessett. Anyone that knows me also

knows that I am obsessed with all things paranormal so when I saw this book on sale for \$5 at some ghost shop in St. Augustine a few weeks ago, I had to have it. Out of all of the books I'm currently reading, this one has piqued my interest the most. I'm amazed at how much I've learned about the Kennedys, the Irish and politics already just from reading this book. I've also learned that the Kennedys were most admired and respected not for the fact that they were charming or even good people, but for how they never refused to quit fighting their way to the top of the social and political hierarchy.

Nancy Loe says

Witless, unredeemable, unsourced, warmed-over, rumor-mongering, trashy clip job. Give me a minute and I'll really realize how much I hated it.

Ali Kutner says

My first dive into the world of The Kennedy's... I found it to be a quick and interesting read. I recognize that it barely scratched the surface, and practically ignored some topics completely. But it seemed like a good starting point. I felt it provided just the right amount of background info on the family's arrival in the US- it set the stage without going overboard.

Jean Fausto says

Ok, I think I just picked my 2016's worst book of the year.

Sensationalism is a good word to describe this book.

Klein makes supposition upon supposition to draw some ridiculous, personal conclusions and mingles them with (often unverifiable) facts. Not to mention the absurdity about the so-called ""Curse"" and the fact he repeated his arguments a dozen times.

(Lies repeated too many times DO NOT constitute truths).

I guess I shouldn't have expected much better from a gossip columnist, but well...

Anyway, to more specific criticisms:

- THIS AUTHOR KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT OR EVER READ ANYTHING WRITTEN BY NIETZSCHE

Seriously, he reproduces the concept of Übermensch that the nazis themselves used without a pause to reflect Nietzsche's concept was not that.

(I'm a bit touchy about my favorite philosophers).

- A WHOLE CHAPTER TO WILY SMITH AND NEXT TO NOTHING ABOUT ROBERT OR HIS MURDER?????

Seriously. Even Kathleen's love story gains attention, but Robert receives none.

- Masculinity and virility bullshit.

- I guess every Irishman is cursed, then.

- Many psychological interpretations that sound like bullshit (again). Seriously, with next to no evidence.

Anyway, I think I gave enough reasons why I disliked this.

I think I finished it because I usually can't put a book down, however bad; it was one of the books on my shelf I hadn't read yet; but mostly because I wanted to write a review criticizing how much bullshit there was in it.

That's it. Sensationalist bullshit sums it up.

Rachel says

This book was fascinating. I would have liked to read more about the Kennedys' treatment of Rosemary and also about Ted, but for someone who knew little of the Kennedys to begin with, it was a great read.

Donna says

Well researched and well written, but I didn't learn much more about the Kennedy family except their interesting history in Ireland.

If you have read other books about the Kennedy family and its tragedies, you probably will not learn much more in this book. If this is your first book about the Kennedy curse, it is worth reading.

I was disappointed because I thought it would trace the actual curse generationally. However, this process seems to be beyond the experience of the author.

If you are interested in curses and how they affect family lines and how to deal with them, this is not the book for you.

If you are interested in psychological traits that are learned and/or inherited through chemical imbalances, etc., then this book has interesting insights into the very self-destructive behavior of the Kennedy clan; it traces the roots of abnormal controlling desires for power, fame, money, publicity and also for love and acceptance from women which was unattainable because of a mother who was emotionally distant and could never be pleased and a father who did not respect women as anything but "arm candy". It explains the dependence on drugs and the violence and the public sexual escapades of the Kennedy men and the belief that their money places them above the law and above the church.

Although there are valid psychological reasons for their behavior, psychology alone cannot deal with a spiritual problem. The spirit is more powerful than the soul (mind, will and emotions). If there is a series of generational curses, then someone with spiritual discerning would be able to trace these curses, identify their roots and remove them for the sake of the remaining Kennedy descendants. This is a common ministry in some Christian denominations including the Catholic church to which the Kennedy family belonged. However, this was not dealt with in this book.

Although I am disappointed for this reason, that is not a reason for others not to read this book. It does have an excellent psychological basis with a lot of personal details to back up their claims.

However, be warned, it is not light reading. It could be depressing to some people, and is certainly negative because there is "no light at the end of the tunnel", no reason to believe that the Kennedy curse is over.

But there is something positive in an author who can unemotionally dissect the intricacies of human relationships to reveal the outcome of parental behavior on children. And perhaps we can ask ourselves if we have ever treated our children this way, withholding love except for exceptional achievement and never allowing children to express their emotions of disappointment, fear, confusion, etc. JFK said that his "mother was a nothing." Noe even a nobody, but less than a person, a "nothing".

We might blame the Kennedy clan for their outrageous behavior, but perhaps, if we had been raised the same way, where it was more important for children to behave to protect the public image of the parents than to learn to control their behavior for the sake of their own self-perception, we would have turned out the same way.

We cannot judge them. We can be horrified and disappointed (I remember Camelot) but I am actually saddened that people with such potential had so much tragedy.

It is an interesting book.
