



Handwritten letter from Jacqueline Kennedy to Jim Bishop  
written on September 17, 1964 in which she asks Bishop  
not to write about the assassination of President Kennedy.

The letter is two pages front and back and is on letterhead that reads "Mrs. John F. Kennedy" in black printed text. The body of the letter is written in blue and black ink with a black border around the edge of the front of the pages. In the letter Jacqueline Kennedy argues that Mr. Bishop's proposed book, "The Day Kennedy Was Shot," would not add anything new to the story given that she had already hired William Manchester to write the definitive account of the assassination and to "protect President Kennedy and the truth." She planned to control when and how Manchester's book, "The Death of a President," would be released. Combined with the soon to be released Warren Commission report, Jacqueline Kennedy felt there would be nothing more to say and that Mr. Bishop's book would only cause more suffering and pain. In conclusion, she pleaded with Bishop to respect her feelings and not go ahead with the publication of his book. After selecting noted author William Manchester to write his account, she was unwilling to accept the idea that any other books would be published on the subject. Jacqueline Kennedy was accustomed to carefully crafting and controlling the public image of her family, and ultimately, she recognized the importance of trying to control the story of President Kennedy's death and legacy.