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Books Reviews

Into the Nightmare: My Search for the Killers of President John F. Kennedy and Officer J.D. Tippit – Book Review

By Jeff Swindoll Aug 5, 2013, 14:55 GMT

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"AMERICA'S NEED TO **WALK** INTO THE NIGHTMARE . . ."
. . . was how **Norman Mailer** predicted the tumultuous period that led to **President** John F. Kennedy's 1963 murder on a public street and the fifty years of controversy that have followed that turning point in our nation's history. Journalist and historian Joseph McBride, a volunteer in JFK's 1960 **Wisconsin** presidential primary campaign, began studying the assassination **minutes** after it happened. In 1982, McBride launched his own investigation. Both epic and intimately **personal**, Into the Nightmare: My Search for the Killers of President John F. Kennedy and Officer J. D. Tippit incorporates rare interviews with key people in Dallas, archival discoveries, and what novelist Thomas Flanagan, in The **New York** Review of Books, called McBride's "wide knowledge of American social history." McBride chronicles his evolving skepticism about the official story and shines a fresh, often surprising spotlight on Kennedy's murder and on one of the murkiest, most crucial aspects of the case, its "Rosetta Stone," the Tippit killing.

You may know writer Joseph McBride as a writer of film biographies, criticism, several AFI **Life Achievement Award** ceremonies, or even the screenplay of Rock n **Roll** High School. What you may not know about McBride is that in 1960 the then young man attended a rally on the Milwaukee campaign leg of John F. Kennedy as well as attending another rally that was immortalized in the film Primary.

Camelot would end on November 22, 1963 and McBride was in shock that the young President he so admired was felled by an assassin's bullet.

The shock of the murder and his skepticism of the reported facts would compel McBride to stage his own investigation into **what really happened** to on that day in Dallas, Texas. This year will mark the fiftieth anniversary of the day that the “nightmare” became reality and left many with vivid memories of where they were when they heard that the youthful, vibrant President was dead. What may differ this book from others is that McBride is an old school journalist of the kind perhaps missing in today's sound bite, tweet obsessed media.

The book is a labor of love since the story and investigation affected him so deeply. The book is broken down into three acts. The first is about the young McBride and his brush with Kennedy and his shock at the assassination, as well as his seminal interest in journalism and the pursuit of the truth that would end in the publication of this book. The second part brings together the copiously researched evidence and the third and final act delves deeply into the murder of Officer J.D. Tippit and his belief that these events are the Rosetta **stone** of his theory.

His stature allows him to **interview** some heretofore untapped,

silent voices and public figures on the matter as well as being able to question famous faces from the events. Along the way he highlights personal memories and cultural analysis as he doggedly pursues what really happened. I won't spoil his conclusions, to **discover** them you'll have to purchase this excellent book.