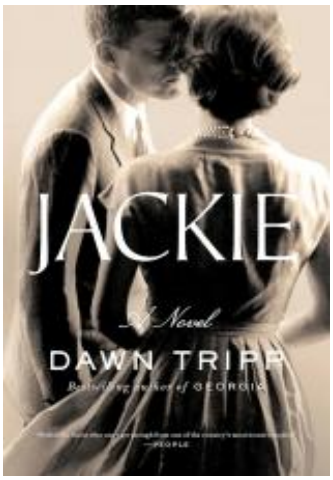
Jackie

by Dawn Tripp



About the Book

In this mesmerizing novel about Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, acclaimed author Dawn Tripp has crafted an intimate story of love and power, family and tragedy, loss and reinvention.

The world has divided my life into three:

Life with Jack
Life with Onassis
Life as a woman who goes to work because she wants to.

My life is all of these things, and it is none of these things. They continue to miss what?s right in front of them. I love books. I love the sea. I love horses. Children. Art. Ideas. History. Beauty. Because beauty blows us open to wonder. Even the beauty that breaks your heart.

JACKIE is the story of a woman --- deeply private with a nuanced, formidable intellect --- who forged a legacy out of grief and shaped history even as she was living it. It is the story of a love affair, a complicated marriage, and the fracturing of identity that comes in the wake of unthinkable violence.

When Jackie meets the charismatic congressman Jack Kennedy in Georgetown, she is 21 and dreaming of France. She has won an internship at *Vogue*. Kennedy, she thinks, is not her kind of adventure, yet she is drawn to his mind, his humor and his drive. The chemistry between them ignites. During the White House years, the love between two independent people deepens. Then, a motorcade in Dallas: ?Three and a half seconds --- that?s all it was --- a slivered instant between the first shot, which missed the car, and the second, which did not.... A hypnotic burst of sunlight off her bracelet as she waved.?

This vivid, exquisitely written novel is at once a captivating work of the imagination and a window into the world of a

woman who led many lives: Jackie, Jacks, Jacqueline, Miss Bouvier, Mrs. Kennedy, Jackie O.

Discussion Guide

1. What was your opinion of Jackie Kennedy Onassis before you started reading this novel? How did Jackie change --- or align with --- your previous view?

2. Discuss the idea that a novel can tell us more about what a person feels than a straightforward biography. In what ways can fiction provide a ?truer? picture of a person?s life?

3. What surprised you most about Jackie, as Dawn Tripp wrote her?

4. Books were central to Jackie?s life. She loved literature and poetry, and both she and Jack were passionate about reading. How did books shape Jackie?s evolution? What did they offer to her?

5. Tripp describes Jackie as ?an artist whose medium was fame.? Discuss what you think she means by this. Was Jackie the first of her kind? Do you think this line could describe anyone in the public eye today?

6. How were fame and celebrity different during the 1950s and 1960s than they are today? How might that have informed choices Jack and Jackie made, and failed to make?

7. How would you characterize Jackie and Jack?s marriage? Do you think they would have stayed together?

8. What traits did Jack bring out in Jackie? What traits did Onassis bring out? How did these versions of Jackie differ from the working girl --- both Jackie the Camera Girl and Jackie the Editor?

9. What parts of herself did Jackie feel she needed to hide in her marriages --- or throughout her life? Which parts did she exaggerate?

10. ?It occurred to me that if the marriage question were neatly settled, to a perfectly respectable catch, I might be not more trapped...but free,? Jackie says. Explain her reasoning.

11. Jackie?s fierce love for her children shaped her determination to create a stable sense of family despite extraordinary circumstances. Discuss how Jackie?s identity as a mother determined many key choices that she made.

12. What scene from the book stands out the most to you?

13. Jackie was a woman who worked to shape her own identity and brand in ways that were progressive for her time. How do the complex politics of power, love, marriage and gender play out in the novel?

14. What did you think of the brief sections from Jack?s point of view? What did they add to the narrative?

15. ?Such an easy net to get tangled in, isn?t it? That belief a woman sometimes has that she can change herself to change a man.? Discuss this quote. Have you ever fallen prey to this belief? Why do you think it?s so pervasive?

16. JACKIE is the story of a woman who lives through incredible trauma and loss, who strives to forge an independent life and balance societal and cultural expectations. How are these aspects of Jackie?s experience aligned with the experiences of women today?

17. Toward the end of the novel, Jackie reflects, ?And why does it seem like such a radical thing? The idea of a woman in love with her own life?? How did this resonate with you, both in terms of Jackie?s story and how we understand it, and in light of your own experience?

Author Bio

Dawn Tripp?s fourth novel, GEORGIA, was a national bestseller, a finalist for the New England Book Award, and the winner of the Mary Lynn Kotz Award for Art in Literature. She is the author of three previous novels: GAME OF SECRETS, MOON TIDE and THE SEASON OF OPEN WATER, which won the Massachusetts Book Award for Fiction. Her short story "Mojave" was published in *Gay Magazine*. Her poetry and essays have appeared in the *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *AGNI*, *Conjunctions* and NPR, among others. She graduated magna cum laude from Harvard and lives in Massachusetts with her family. Her latest novel is JACKIE.

Jackie
by Dawn Tripp

Publication Date: June 10, 2025
Genres: Fiction, Historical Fiction, Women's Fiction
Paperback: 512 pages
Publisher: Random House Trade Paperbacks
ISBN-10: 081298708X
ISBN-13: 9780812987089