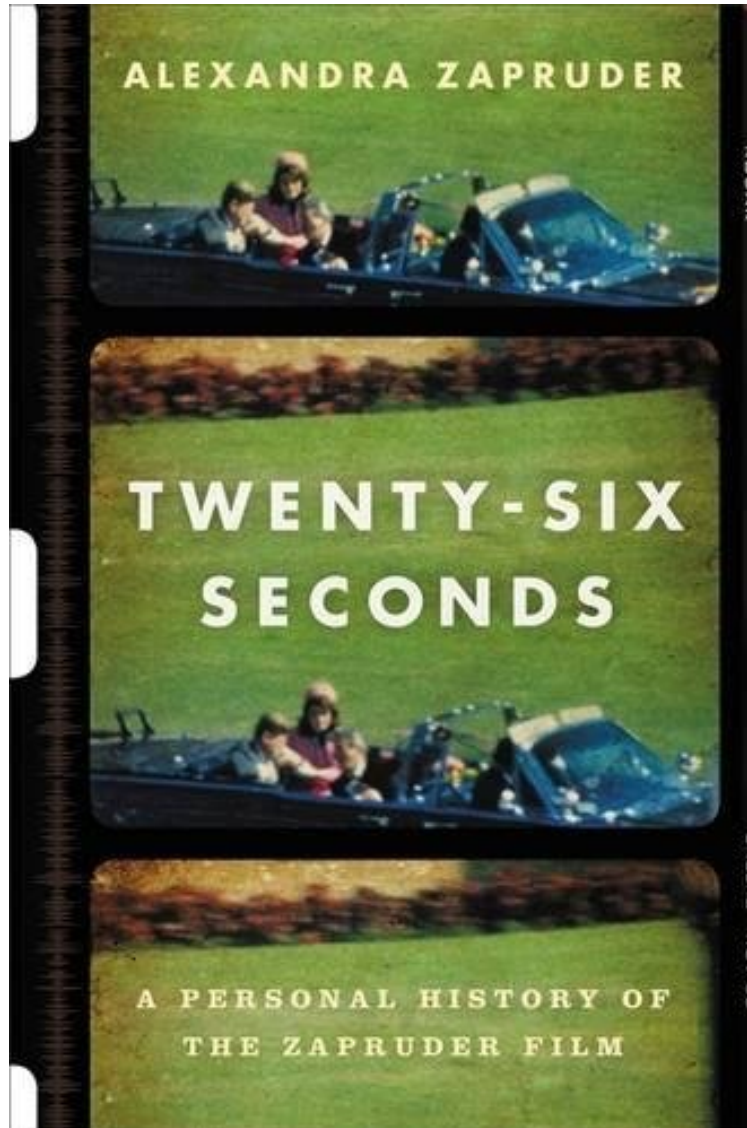


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## Twenty-Six Seconds: A Personal History of the Zapruder Film

Alexandra Zapruder

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**Alexandra Zapruder : Twenty-Six Seconds: A Personal History of the Zapruder Film** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Twenty-Six Seconds: A Personal History of the Zapruder Film:

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. An extraordinary bookBy Rebecca E. RizviThis book tells the story of Abraham Zapruder, the businessman who made the famous film of the moment when John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. His granddaughter recounts how this fateful moment affected him, and the entire family, for

fifty years. Beautifully written, historically fascinating -- a tender account of a family suddenly and brutally drawn into a national tragedy.<sup>22</sup> of 25 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book

By P. Blevins  
Twenty-Six Seconds: A Personal History of the Zapruder Film was written by Alexandra Zapruder. The book is more than a history of the Zapruder Film, but a study of a family who was drawn into history by accident. Whereas other books deal with the film itself, this book deals with the interpersonal relationship the book had on a family since 1963. Abraham Zapruder was a quiet man who loved his family and cared for the workers in his dress manufacturing business. He had very strong and high moral character and anyone who knew him was impressed by his honesty and integrity. He was an avid photographer and always had the best and latest photography equipment. On November 22, 1963, he left his business to go to Dealey Plaza in Dallas, Texas, to watch the Presidential motorcade. His assistant, Lillian Rogers suggested he get his new movie camera and take pictures of the Presidential motorcade as it rounded Dealey Plaza. After getting his camera, Abraham found a place on a four-foot-high concrete abutment where he could see above the people to the parade route. As the motorcade entered Dealey Plaza, he began taking pictures and continued until the motorcade had left the area on the way to the hospital. Abraham had frozen while taking his pictures and was blessed with a remarkably steady picture of the death of President John F. Kennedy. He was horrified at the picture he took of Mrs. Kennedy as she screamed. Knowing he had some information, he tried to find a secret service member to give the film to. No one seemed to want it. Finally, through the Dallas Morning News, he was able to get it developed and a copy to the Secret Service. Thus, began the long history of the film. Alexandra Zapruder lets us in on the reactions and decisions by the Zapruder family during its fifty-three years of existence. It is now public domain and the original film belongs to the US Government. She traces its long voyage through the annals of history to the present. She lets us in on the family reactions to everything that took place with the film. She presents proof of the desire of the family to follow Abraham's mandate that the film not be exploited. He tried to give the film to the government free of charge at the beginning and the family offered free digital copies of the film to the government rather than have imminent domain step in and require the government to pay for it. She sets the record straight that the family was not interested in the power and money the film produced. The book is one which should not be missed by anyone who lived through the horrific event in 1963. Prior to reading the book, I would have sworn that we immediately saw the film on news broadcasts. This was impossible since the first official public viewing of the film wasn't until 1975. Alexandra writes the book in language the ordinary person can easily understand and yet shows her intense research into the film. She personalizes the story and the book so we understand the misconceptions drawn about the man behind the film and his incredible family. The reader can feel her pain at revealing family reactions and feelings towards such a personal piece of historical evidence. The love the family holds for its members and their moral standards are evident through her writing. The film was more than historical evidence to the family, it was the symbol of their grandfather's pride and love for his country and the President it lost so suddenly. She brings humanity to the film.<sup>3</sup> of 3 people found the following review helpful. Facts explode the fantasies of the Zapruder film

By Leon Pascucci  
Superb story of the famous film as well as the Zapruder family. Gracefully written with affection and with facts, it's an engrossing piece of American history explained. A valuable addition to our knowledge of the awful events of 11/22/63.

The moving, untold family story behind Abraham Zapruder's film footage of the Kennedy assassination and its lasting impact on our world. Abraham Zapruder didn't know when he ran home to grab his video camera on November 22, 1963 that this single spontaneous decision would change his family's life for generations to come. Originally intended as a home movie of President Kennedy's motorcade, Zapruder's film of the JFK assassination is now shown in every American history class, included in Jeopardy and Trivial Pursuit questions, and referenced in novels and films. It is the most famous example of citizen journalism, a precursor to the iconic images of our time, such as the Challenger explosion, the Rodney King beating, and the 9/11 attack on the Twin Towers. But few know the complicated legacy of the film itself. Now Abraham's granddaughter, Alexandra Zapruder, is ready to tell the complete story for the first time. With the help of the Zapruder family's exclusive records, memories, and documents, Zapruder tracks the film's torturous journey through history, all while American society undergoes its own transformation, and a new media-driven consumer culture challenges traditional ideas of privacy, ownership, journalism, and knowledge. Part biography, part family history, and part historical narrative, Zapruder demonstrates how one man's unwitting moment in the spotlight shifted the way politics, culture, and media intersect, bringing about the larger social questions that define our age.

"A fascinating and cautionary tale."<sup>?</sup>Wall Street Journal"Zapruder is a gifted writer and storyteller who delicately unravels a minor mystery few people know or care about, but that she makes human, complex and quite interesting."<sup>?</sup>New York Times Book "Making use of family and government archives, interviews, and her own memory, Alexandra offers a supple, tender portrait of a family lashed to history."<sup>?</sup>Boston Globe"The fifty year saga of the most important witness to the JFK assassination-a home movie shot by Abraham Zapruder-is a high-stakes morality tale, suspenseful, thought-provoking, and at times nasty. Zapruder's embattled descendants defend their claim

to the film, while researchers, conspiracy theorists, disapproving editorial writers and the federal government swirl around them, and millions of dollars hang in the balance."?John Berendt, New York Times bestselling author of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*"A first-rate work of biography and history, addressing the film and the family in all their complexity and character...absorbing, deeply researched."?USA Today"Enlightening...an intelligent blend of memoir and cultural criticism that breaks fresh ground in the crowded field of JFK assassination studies."?San Francisco Chronicle"A moving and enlightening account of the famous film."?Joyce Carol Oates, *The Washington Post*"Riveting...offers up a complex and highly entertaining story of an assassination, a reel of film, and a Texas-based clan, which also draws in Dan Rather, *Life* magazine, Geraldo Rivera, the Warren Commission, a pile of money, and a whole lot more."?The National Book "The odyssey of America's most famous amateur footage is recounted with skill and sensitivity....Alexandra is a fine storyteller... the story never lags...Alexandra Zapruder has written a book which transcends the film and the tragedy in Dallas."?Washington Independent of Books"Riveting."?The Dallas Morning News"It is rare to find a book like *TWENTY-SIX SECONDS* that uncovers new information about one of the most tragic events in American history...an intelligent examination of the changing media landscape, sudden notoriety, and its aftermath."?Washington Times"[A] well-written exploration of conspiracy, propriety, copyright, and public good versus private gain...reaffirming [the film's] position as a true relic, one of the few in a secular world."?Publishers Weekly (starred review)"An intriguing history of one of the most significant home movies ever recorded."?Kirkus s"Exhaustively researched."?Bookreporter"Zapruder offers a unique perspective."?New York Post"A fascinating history."?Men's Journal"Connects the complex dots between [the author's] grandfather's chance footage of the attack (he was an amateur camera buff catching the president's motorcade) and the film's controversial and lasting impact on America's psyche, politics, culture, and laws-as well as the ways it strengthened and hurt the Zapruders over the next 50 years."?Elle.com"A wholly unique family memoir and a fascinating monograph about one of the most consequential artifacts in recorded history...So much has been written and said about the Kennedy assassination that a reader might wonder what is left to be said. In the pages of *TWENTY-SIX SECONDS*, Alexandra Zapruder says it."?Jewish Journal "Adds a fresh narrative to an old tragedy."?People"Zapruder evokes the tension and horror of the assassination. Scrupulous facts are woven into an intensely personal, sometimes painful, family history....*TWENTY-SIX SECONDS* is an important contribution to our understanding of history on a grand scale, and to the personal history of a private family reluctantly thrust into history's spotlight."?Lone Star Literary Life About the AuthorAlexandra Zapruder began her career on the founding staff of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Smith College, she later earned her Master's Degree in Education at Harvard University. She is the author of *Salvaged Pages: Young Writers' Diaries of the Holocaust*, which won the National Jewish Book Award in the Holocaust category. She also served as the guest curator for an exhibition of original diaries at Holocaust Museum Houston. She wrote and co-produced *I'm Still Here*, a documentary film for young audiences based on *Salvaged Pages*, which was awarded the Jewish Image Award for Best Television Special by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture and was nominated for two Emmy awards. Alexandra has traveled around the country and spoken to thousands of teachers, students, and others about her work.