

*The Housewives Underground:
The Untold Story of the Women Who Made the JFK Assassination
Our Most Enduring Mystery*

Kaitlyn Tiffany

497 pps. Illustrated, Notes, Bibliography, Index.

New York: Crown, 2026, £23.00, hb, (Amazon).

Anthony Frewin

The title and sub-title seriously misrepresent what is a deeply researched and thoughtful work on this aspect of the JFK assassination, but we should not hold the author responsible. These have all the hallmarks of the publisher's publicity department ('Housewives like reading about housewives. We've got a ready market already!'). Further, only two of the women were married and the claim this is the 'story of the women who made the JFK assassination our most enduring mystery' is risible. Contributed, yes. And that phrase 'our most enduring mystery' reduces the assassination to something like a fireside whodunnit.

The three women are Maggie Field in Beverly Hills, Shirley Martin in Idaho, and Sylvia Maegher in New York, who is the most widely known of the three for *Accessories after the Fact* (1967), still an important work after all these years that contrasts what the Warren Commission *Report* claims with what is actually said in the twenty-six volumes of *Hearings and Exhibits*.

Tiffany begins her narrative with the first critical rumblings that started even before the Warren *Report* was published and then describes the coalescence of the critical community and its subsequent disagreements and rivalries.

We follow our 'housewives' through the publishing of the *Report*, the rise of Mark Lane ('cavalier with facts'), almost immediate disenchantment with Jim Garrison, the House Select Committee and so on.

Tiffany presents a portrait of the critics against their time. A valuable work.