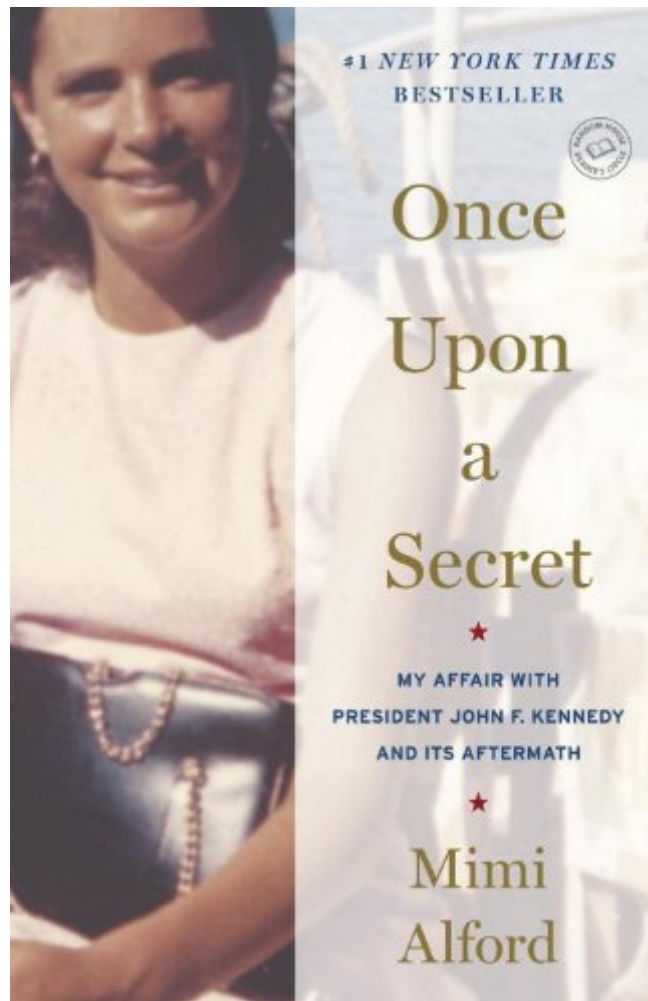


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# Once Upon A Secret: My Affair With President John F. Kennedy And Its Aftermath



## Synopsis

#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER <sup>Â</sup> In the summer of 1962, nineteen-year-old Mimi Beardsley arrived in Washington, D.C., to begin an internship in the White House press office. After just three days on the job, the privileged but sheltered young woman was presented to the President himself. Almost immediately, the two began an affair that would continue for the next eighteen months. Emotionally unprepared to counter the President's <sup>TM</sup>s charisma and power, Mimi was also ill-equipped to handle the feelings of isolation that would follow as she fell into the double life of a college student who was also the secret lover of the most powerful man in the world. After the President's <sup>TM</sup>s assassination in Dallas, she grieved alone, locked her secret away, and tried to start a new life, only to be blindsided by her past. <sup>Â</sup> Now, no longer defined by silence or shame, Mimi Alford finally unburdens herself with this unflinchingly honest account of her life and her extremely private moments with a very public man. This paperback edition includes a special Q&A, in which the author reflects on the intense media attention surrounding the book's <sup>TM</sup>s initial release. *Once Upon a Secret* is a moving story of a woman emerging from the shadows to reclaim the truth. <sup>Â</sup> <sup>â</sup> œWith the benefit of hindsight and good old-fashioned maturity, [Mimi Alford] writes not just about the secret, but the corrosive effect of keeping that secret. . . . You can't help liking her, or her elegant and thoroughly good-natured book.â <sup>•</sup>â "The Spectator" œWhat [Alford] sacrificed in lucre she has more than recovered in credibility and dignity.â <sup>•</sup>â "The Washington Times" <sup>Â</sup> <sup>â</sup> œCompelling . . . a polished voice telling a credible story you can take to the bank.â <sup>•</sup>â "Seattle Post-Intelligencer" <sup>Â</sup> <sup>â</sup> œExplosive . . . searingly candid.â <sup>•</sup>â "New York Post" Look for special features inside. Join the Circle for author chats and more.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book tells the story of Mimi Beardsley Alford, who as a 19 year old White House intern, had a sexual relationship with President Kennedy for an approximate 18 month period from June, 1962 to November, 1963. A relatively short book, it provides information about Alford's family background, her education, her affair with JFK, the fallout that came from keeping the relationship secret and then having it outed 40+ years later. While the veracity of her claims have come under a lot of scrutiny, I tend to think that she is telling the truth. I also get it in regard to how a young woman can get hoodwinked into a sordid affair with a powerful man. What I don't get is why this very short book was written. I saw Alford on a 60 minute television interview with Meredith Viera tonight after I finished this book. Truthfully, the interview basically covered the main points covered in the book. While on tv and in this book Alford remembers JFK with fondness, I thought JFK came off badly and at times really quite perverse. It was very obvious that Alford was one of many women that JFK used for sex. Speaking of her personal experiences with the president, Alford was blunt but not overtly graphic. Mostly she talked about the sexual liaisons in the White House and on the road, playing what she called the "waiting game" which consisted of being sequestered in a hotel room (to avoid detection) until JFK had time for sex. She also had a pregnancy scare which turned out to be a false alarm, though first friend Dave Powers flew into action and managed to provide her with the phone number of an abortionist. Apparently the realities of her situation didn't shake up Alford enough as the relationship with Kennedy sputtered on for another year.

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