What a great idea for a deep-dish tell-all! JFKs lonely, classy wife, Bobbys athletic, competitive wife, and Teds meek, alcoholic wife, together at last between covers, soothing each other when not fighting like fishwives. Taraborrellis breathless prose makes you a fly on the wall when formidable mother-in-law Rose Kennedy walks in on Joan commiserating with Ethel about their honeymoons: I think Bobby was finished before I got into the room! said Ethel. Now what are you ladies talking about? asked Rose. Jackie, who was present, cooed, Oh, we were just saying how well Bobby sleeps at night. He gets that from me, said Rose. Ethel should never have been so catty when gentle, simple Joan joined the clan: Goodbye wine and cheese, hissed Ethel. Hello macaroni and cheese. And she shouldnt have mocked Jackie for being unable to compete in touch football--with the Kennedys, it was more like claw, scratch and bite football. And what about when she rubbed it in that she and Bobby were closer than Jackie and Jack? After all, when Lee Remick phoned Ethel to say Youre on the way out, and Ethel replied that Bobby was home in bed,
Bobby was in fact (says Taraborrelli) in bed with Lee Remick. You may have heard that JFKs dad, Joe Kennedy, offered Jackie $1 million not to divorce JFK, but did you hear Jackies alleged reply? The price goes up to $20 million if Jack brings home any venereal diseases. Did Ethel betray Jackies discontent to Joe--and then go ballistic when Joe only gave Ethel $500,000? Youd think Joan would be the clinker in the group, like Zeppo Marx. She was a bit dim, but should Ted have put her down as dumb? Hes the one who showed up soused with a prostitute for dinner with the king and queen of Belgium, whose priceless antique couch Teds date ruined by wetting it. Who knows how historians will judge this book, but it sure does a great job of making history into a Jackie Collins novel. --Tim Appelo

Personal Review: Jackie, Ethel, Joan : Women of Camelot by J. Randy Taraborrelli

Heard the cassette version of JACKIE, ETHEL, JOAN: WOMEN OF CAMELOT by. J. Randy Taraborrelli and enjoyed it--in a guilty pleasure sort of way.

It is a tell-it-all about the three Kenney wives and listening to it helped me relive some days of my younger days when John, Robert and Ted Kenney were alive and running for various political offices.

For some reason, I never followed too closely the dirt behind their respective careers . . . yet this book more than made up for anything I may have missed.

If everything in it is to be believed, I now know that Joe Kennedy offered Jackie $1 million not to divorce JFK and Jackie allegedly replied, "The price goes to $20 million if Jack brings home any venereal diseases." . . . also, that Bobby had an affair with actress Lee Remick who actually called Ethel to tell her that they were sleeping together--only to be told by Ethel that he was home in bed (when he was actually with Remick) . . . and that Ted once showed up for drunk with a prostitute for dinner with the king and queen of Belgium, whose priceless antique coach Teds date ruined by wetting it.

Overall, the book left me feeling sorry for the Kennedy women . . . although they appeared so glorious from afar, how they were forced to live their lives because of the constant spotlight made life anything but easy for them.

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