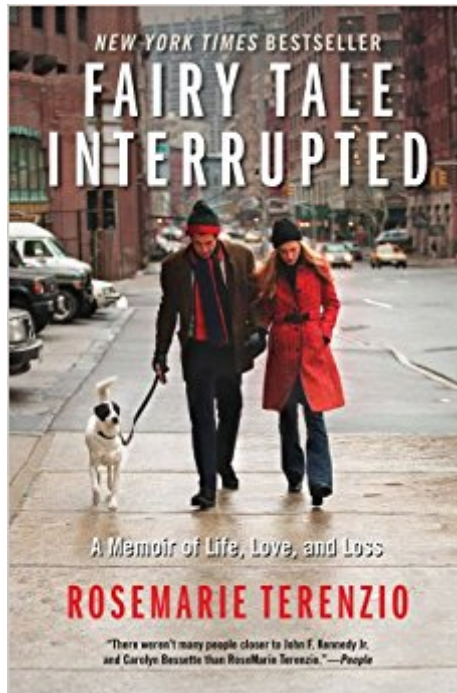




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# Fairy Tale Interrupted: A Memoir Of Life, Love, And Loss



## Synopsis

Working Girl meets What Remains in this New York Times bestselling, behind-the-scenes story of an unlikely friendship between America's favorite First Son, John F. Kennedy Jr. and his personal assistant, a blue-collar girl from the Bronx. Featured in the documentary I Am JFK Jr.! From the moment RoseMarie Terenzio unleashed her Italian temper on the entitled nuisance commandeering her office in a downtown New York PR firm, an unlikely friendship bloomed between the blue-collar girl from the Bronx and John F. Kennedy Jr. Many books have sought to capture John F. Kennedy Jr.'s life. None has been as intimate or as honest as *Fairy Tale Interrupted*. Recalling the adventure of working as his executive assistant for five years, RoseMarie portrays the man behind the icon—patient, protective, surprisingly goofy, occasionally thoughtless and self-involved, yet capable of extraordinary generosity and kindness. She reveals how he dealt with dating, politics, and the paparazzi, and describes life behind the scenes at *George* magazine. Captured here are her memories of Carolyn Bessette, how she orchestrated the ultra-secretive planning of John and Carolyn's wedding on Cumberland Island—and the heartbreak of their deaths on July 16, 1999, after which RoseMarie's whole world came crashing down around her. Only now does she feel she can tell her story in a book that stands as “a fitting personal tribute to a unique boss . . . deliriously fun and entertaining” (Kirkus Reviews).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“A window into the time a president's son tried to make it in New York publishing,

in the final giddy years before the Internet changed everything. • The Washington Post • “Terenzio doesn’t dwell any longer than necessary on Kennedy’s death . . . but she was in his apartment that night and has a story to tell. • The Boston Globe • “Amazing revelations. . . . Working Girl meets What Remains in this behind-the-scenes story. • Good Reads • “No one is better at observing the affairs of a magazine than the boss’s assistant: with sprezzatura to spare, Terenzio delivers tantalizing accounts of staff cattiness and celebrity dealings. . . . A case study of the fascinating relationship between the often unsentimental executive who requests the impossible and the loyal, fiercely protective assistant. • Macleans • “Candid. . . . Terenzio deftly reconstructs the wonderfully addictive yet strange and high-pressure world in which she worked. . . . She chronicles her time with Kennedy within the glorious but often brutal bubble that encircled his world, and what he taught her about living. • Publishers Weekly • “A memoir of the late nineties, and an era gone by. . . . A suitably emotional ending, an up-close-and-personal account. • Celebrity Books • “Fairy Tale Interrupted joins a long list of books about one of America’s most tragic families. It’s probably one of the most personal and heartfelt narratives. . . . It makes Kennedy more human and shows a lovable side that should be regarded as sweet tribute to his memory. • Austin American-Statesman • “Captivating | told with style and grace. • Kirkus Reviews

RoseMarie Terenzio was born in the Bronx and served as personal assistant, publicist, and confidante to John F. Kennedy, Jr.

Working Girl meets What Remains in this New York Times bestselling, behind-the-scenes story of an unlikely friendship between America’s favorite First Son, John F. Kennedy Jr. and his personal assistant, a blue-collar girl from the Bronx. Featured in the documentary I Am JFK Jr.! From the moment RoseMarie Terenzio unleashed her Italian temper on the entitled nuisance commandeering her office in a downtown New York PR firm, an unlikely friendship bloomed between the blue-collar girl from the Bronx and John F. Kennedy Jr. Many books have sought to capture John F. Kennedy Jr.’s life. None has been as intimate or as honest as Fairy Tale Interrupted. Recalling the adventure of working as his executive assistant for five years, RoseMarie portrays the man behind the icon – patient, protective, surprisingly goofy, occasionally thoughtless and self-involved, yet capable of extraordinary generosity and kindness.

She reveals how he dealt with dating, politics, and the paparazzi, and describes life behind the scenes at George magazine. Captured here are her memories of Carolyn Bessette, how she orchestrated the ultra-secretive planning of John and Carolyn's wedding on Cumberland Island and the heartbreak of their deaths on July 16, 1999, after which RoseMarie's whole world came crashing down around her. Only now does she feel she can tell her story in a book that stands as "a fitting personal tribute to a unique boss." My Thoughts: As a fan of all things Kennedy, I relished the opportunity to look behind the scenes at the prince of that clan, and the one least known to me. We all recall him saluting at his father's funeral; we were there while his mother was trying to protect him and his sister from the paparazzi while they were growing up; and we watched while he started his magazine George, hoping to carve out his own niche. And then grieved as he and his wife and sister-in-law lost their lives in that fatal plane crash in 1999. I did enjoy the author's voice as she described the working relationship she had with John while serving as his assistant, and also the friendship that developed between her, John, and Carolyn, sometimes even mediating their disagreements. I would have loved seeing some personal photos, and having a greater insider view of their personal world but no one book can give us everything we want about the life of someone we admire and want to know more about. I liked the author's writing style, which felt like a conversation between the reader and the author, so despite what was missing for me from *Fairy Tale Interrupted: A Memoir of Life, Love, and Loss*, I give this book 3.5 stars.

I listened to this on Audio and appreciate the fact that the author read it herself. Unfortunately I found it to be slow-moving and ultimately not very interesting. It was nice to learn that Kennedy was a warm, kind person who treated her well and that his wife Carolyn was also a kindhearted girl's girl who loved to plop down on the couch for a chat. Maybe this felt a bit flat to me because I had just finished the poetic and beautifully written book *What Remains* by Carole Radziwell and this could not compare. If you are interested in learning about John and Carolyn from an insider, and you appreciate a well-written book, I encourage you to give that one a try.

It is hard for me to be objective about anything having to do with John Kennedy, Jr even after all these years. I lived through his father's presidency -- short as it was - and in awe of his mother who doted on him. He was the anointed prince of Camelot, and his untimely death was devastating. That being said, I think RoseMarie Terenzio did an excellent job of depicting both John and his wife as

down to earth people. She describes both the maddening and the endearing characteristics of John Kennedy and does so well. Clearly, RoseMarie thought the world of John, but she manages to portray him honestly as a man and a human being.

A very sweet (both delightful & sad) written by John's assistant during his marriage and editor responsibilities at his magazine, GEORGE. Guess who was responsible for packing up his belongings after he and his wife died so tragically? This author, so trusted by Caroline & Ted. Witty & heartbreaking.

I am always amused by those who read Kennedy related memoirs and either slam the Kennedys (why oh why are you reading this if you hate this family?) or are furious the person doesn't provide information outside the sphere of their connection with the family (seriously! It's a "memoir" - get a dictionary). So if you fall in camp A or Camp B like the other negative critics here you won't like this so move along and try something else. BUT for those of you who, like me, are interested in the Kennedy family AND are hoping to gain insight from another angle then this is the book for you. RoseMarie writes candidly and openly about her relationship with not only John and Carolyn but her broader family and friends. She has a wonderful way of expressing herself and I quickly developed an emotional connection with her and found tears rolling down my face twice during the book. As you'd expect the book is peppered with information about the trivial incidents which make up everyday life that paint a strong picture of not only John and Carolyn's lives but RoseMarie's life as well - which is also very interesting! This is an easy read by anyone's standards (it took me less than two hours start to finish) but is definitely well worthwhile. I thoroughly recommend it (and if you love this do try Carole Radziwill's "What Remains").

Although the Kennedy family fascinates me, I always find most books about them to be very gossipy and full of speculations, non-facts and hearsay. This book, however, changed my mind. I loved that RoseMarie told her story from her heart, a very honest place that you won't necessarily see from books written about this famous family. I appreciated that it wasn't salacious and didn't dive too much into the marriage of Mr. Kennedy and his wife Carolyn. She did paint a beautiful portrait of love and flaws that are abundant in each and every one of us. It humanized them and I loved that. Very honest, fair and heart wrenchingly painful that I felt lumps in my throat throughout. What a book! Thank you.

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