



# Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter

By Kate Clifford Larson

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**Rosemary: The Hidden Kennedy Daughter** By Kate Clifford Larson

**One of *People's* Top Ten Books of 2015**

"[Larson] succeeds in providing a well-rounded portrait of a woman who, until now, has never been viewed in full."—*Boston Globe*

"A biography that chronicles her life with fresh details . . . By making Rosemary the central character, [Larson] has produced a valuable account of a mental health tragedy and an influential family's belated efforts to make amends." — *New York Times Book Review*

Joe and Rose Kennedy's strikingly beautiful daughter Rosemary attended exclusive schools, was presented as a debutante to the queen of England, and traveled the world with her high-spirited sisters. Yet Rosemary was intellectually disabled, a secret fiercely guarded by her powerful and glamorous family.

In *Rosemary*, Kate Clifford Larson uses newly uncovered sources to bring Rosemary Kennedy's story to light. Young Rosemary comes alive as a sweet, lively girl adored by her siblings. But Larson also reveals the often desperate and duplicitous arrangements the Kennedys made to keep her away from home as she became increasingly difficult in her early twenties, culminating in Joe's decision to have Rosemary lobotomized at age twenty-three and the family's complicity in keeping the secret. Only years later did the Kennedy siblings begin to understand what had happened to Rosemary, which inspired them to direct government attention and resources to the plight of the developmentally and mentally disabled, transforming the lives of millions.

"The forgotten Kennedy is forgotten no longer. *Rosemary* is a rare thing, a book about the Kennedys that has something new to say." — Laurence Leamer, author of *The Kennedy Women*

"Heartbreaking." — *Wall Street Journal*



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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"The author presents a well-rounded portrait of Rosemary before the lobotomy, a beautiful young woman full of spunk and love, and the destruction of that vibrant person as a result of the operation . . . A well-researched, entertaining, and illuminating biography." --*Kirkus Reviews*

#### From the Inside Flap

**They were the most prominent American family of the twentieth century. The daughter they secreted away made all the difference.**

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Major new sources Rose Kennedy's diaries and correspondence, letters from Rosemary's teachers and doctors, and exclusive family interviews bring Rosemary alive as a girl adored but left far behind by her competitive siblings. Kate Larson reveals both the sensitive care Rose and Joe gave to Rosemary and then as the family's standing reached an apex the often desperate and duplicitous arrangements the Kennedys made to keep her away from home as she became increasingly difficult in her early twenties. Finally, Larson illuminates Joe's decision to have Rosemary lobotomized at age twenty-three and the family's complicity in keeping the secret.

*Rosemary* delivers a profoundly moving coda: JFK visited Rosemary for the first time while campaigning in the Midwest; she had been living isolated in a Wisconsin institution for ten years. Only then did the siblings understand what had happened to Rosemary and bring her home for loving family visits. It was a reckoning that inspired them to direct attention to the plight of the disabled, transforming the lives of millions.

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#### From the Back Cover

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KATE CLIFFORD LARSON is the author of two critically acclaimed biographies: *Bound for the Promised Land: Harriet Tubman, Portrait of an American Hero* and *The Assassin's Accomplice: Mary Surratt and the Plot to Kill Abraham Lincoln*.

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