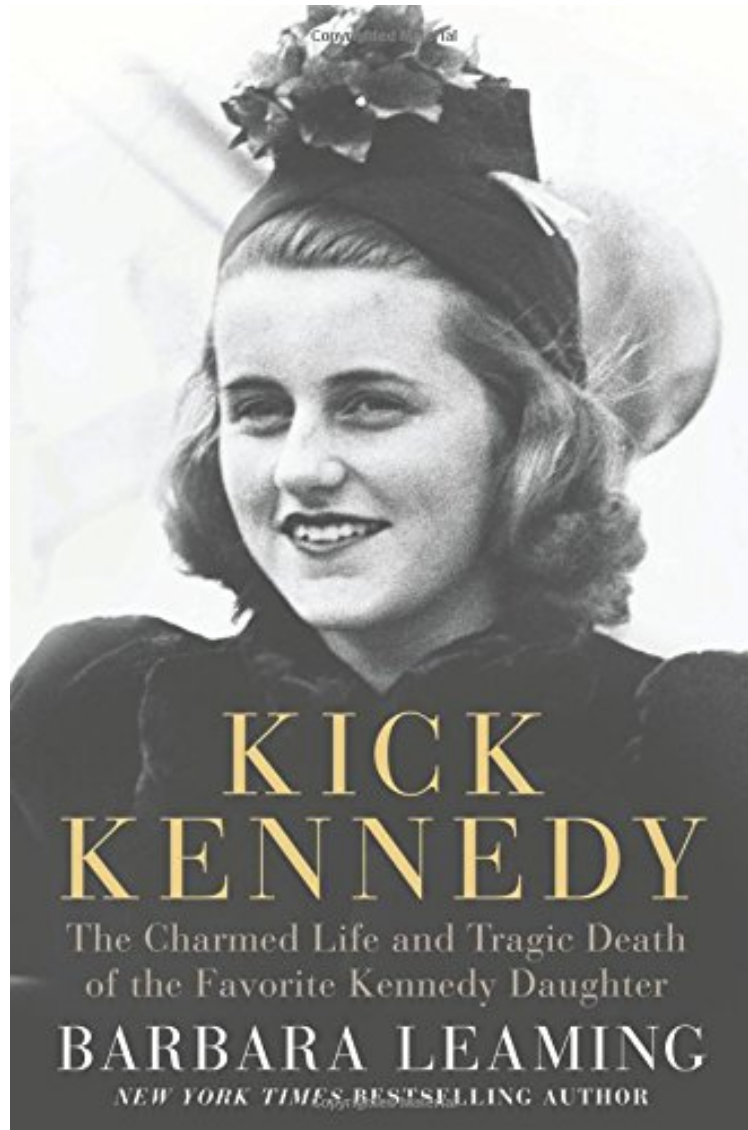


# Kick Kennedy: The Charmed Life and Tragic Death of the Favorite Kennedy Daughter

Barbara Leaming

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**Barbara Leaming : Kick Kennedy: The Charmed Life and Tragic Death of the Favorite Kennedy Daughter** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kick Kennedy: The Charmed Life and Tragic Death of the Favorite Kennedy Daughter:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. An Interesting StoryBy L. K. WhitleyThis is an interesting story

about a little-known Kennedy. It really pulls back the curtain on the Kennedy myth of wealth and privilege. It does not show the father, Joseph Kennedy, nor the mother, Rose Kennedy, in a good light. Kick Kennedy lived a short troubled life where reality and dreams seemed to collide. It was a good read. I would recommend it. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Kick had it all, what might have been had she lived...we will never know...By Faye Nordquist Wow this book is full of information not only about Kick but about the workings of the English government during World War II, including Winston Churchill and a lot of people I hadn't known before I read this book. It also gave me a new look at the relationship between Kick and her parents. I hadn't realized that Kick knew her husband several years before they were finally married, of course without her parents' consent, and they were only married a few short months before his untimely death. A very interesting and informative look at someone who has always been a shadowy figure in the history of the Kennedy family. 18 of 20 people found the following review helpful. A wonderful biography that places the subject in the dying world ...By Silvia N. Pena A wonderful biography that places the subject in the dying world of Britain's aristocracy before, during and after World War II. It is so engrossing that I read it in one day. I highly recommend it.

A Los Angeles Times Bestseller Kathleen Kick Kennedy was the incandescent life-force of the fabled Kennedy family, her father's acknowledged favorite of all the children and her brother Jack's psychological twin. She was the Kennedy of Kennedys, sure of her privilege, magnetically charming and somehow not quite like anyone else on whatever stage she happened to grace. The daughter of the American ambassador to the Court of St James's, Kick swept into Britain's aristocracy like a fresh wind on a sweltering summer day. In a decaying world where everything was based on stultifying sameness and similarity, she was gloriously, exhilaratingly different. Kick was the girl whom all the boys fell in love with, the girl who remained painfully out of reach for most of them. To Kick, everything about this life was fun and amusing until suddenly it was not. For this is also a story of how a girl like Kick, a girl who had everything, a girl who seemed made for happiness, confronted crushing sadness. Willing to pay the price for choosing the love she wanted, she would have to face the consequences of forsaking much that was dear to her. Bestselling and award-winning biographer Barbara Leaming draws on her unique access to firsthand accounts, extensive conversations with many of the key players, and previously-unseen sources to transport us to another world, one of immense wealth, arcane rituals and rules, glamour and tragedy, that has now disappeared forever. It was a world of dukes and duchesses, of grand houses, of country house weekends, and of wild rich boys. But it was also a world of blood and war, and of immeasurable loss. It was a time of complete upheaval, as reflected in the life of this most unlikely and unforgettable central character. Kick Kennedy reveals her story, that of a young girl learning about love, sex, and death and doing it all at warp speed as the world races toward war and then reels in the war's chaotic aftermath. This is the coming-of-age story of the female star of the Kennedy family, and ultimately a tragic, romantic story that will break your heart.

Praise for Kick Kennedy It is Barbara Leaming's achievement to have coaxed some reticent upper-class Englishmen and Englishwomen all now dead into sharing their candid memories of Kick. The resultant book is supremely an exercise in European ancient-regime nostalgia and therefore more strikingly original than yet another tome on the self-seeking Kennedys. The Wall Street Journal "Biographer Leaming candidly demystifies the life of one of the least-known Kennedys and vividly illuminates the complex world of British aristocracy." Booklist "The fascinating, little-known story of an unforgettable woman Riveting. Examiner.com Barbara Leaming evokes the luminous spirit of Kick Kennedy." Vanity Fair "The age of Downton Abbey offers fresh context for this story of American royalty and its more tradition-minded British counterpart." -Kirkus "The memories of Kennedys contemporaries bring to life Kick's effervescence... Leaming excels in providing a rich historical backdrop to Kick's story. The Washington Post Barbara Leaming reveals fresh insight into the Kennedy daughter who died in a plane crash. -People Magazine "Leaming, author of groundbreaking books about both John and Jacqueline Kennedy, delivers a vivid, sympathetic portrait of the irresistible charmer known to most as Kick." -Austin American-Statesman "An absolute must-read biography that flows like a richly woven novel." -The Knot "Poignant... Leaming ably intertwines Kennedy family history and English war history into a lively personal drama that is also an important historical record." -The Missourian Leaming, a Kennedy scholar, has the distinct advantage over Byrne... Leaming's account is more nuanced, more authoritative, more compelling. -The Sydney Morning Herald Barbara Leaming weaves a colorful, interesting tale Masterfully written I found myself intensely reading like there was no tomorrow. -momzinga.com "Barbara Leaming provides by far the more perspicacious and politically astute of the two books. Extensive interviews with surviving members of the Devonshire circle richly supplement the Kennedy archive to present a complex portrait of how English Protestant power and privilege came to admit this American Catholic during the social upheaval of the second World War. -The Irish Times "Leaming's huge amount of research made the story real...an impressive work." -Redding Record Searchlight From the Author From the Author: Why I wrote Kick Kennedy: The Charmed Life and Tragic Death of the Favorite Kennedy Daughter: Kick Kennedy is a fascinating, complicated character. But while her story is a riveting personal drama, it is an important piece of history as well. Most unexpectedly, the story of Kick's life between

the ages of 18 and 28 affords us a way into a normally closed world, the world of the British aristocracy, which during those years was a world in tumultuous upheaval. When Kick arrived in England and fell in love with the young man who was heir to one of England's great Protestant families, the aristocracy was in the process of losing the political power and influence it had wielded for centuries. To tell Kick's story--a story of love and war, of ambition and terrible loss--was also to have the extraordinary opportunity to tell the story of that moment in history in a very intimate way. The book I've written, therefore, is not the typical Kennedy story--most decidedly not--though it is most surely also an important part of that family's history too. It is a story that takes place largely in Great Britain between the years 1938 and 1948 as war approaches and then changes everything forever. Writing this book was a great adventure. I love doing archival research, and to write Kick Kennedy I worked in public and private archives on two continents. I've worked with enormous quantities of recently released materials by and about Kick and her world. And in addition to the letters, diaries, and scrapbooks held in public archives, I was also generously given access to important materials still held in private hands. But these papers were only part of what made telling this story possible. For, particularly with Kick's own letters and diaries, it is crucially important to understand that this is a case where a biographer cannot depend completely on what Kick writes or the scenes she depicts. Many of Kick's letters--and even some parts of her diaries--were written as much to conceal as to reveal. In order to accurately understand Kick's story, to know what was really happening--especially at the most important and dramatic moments in her life--I had to be able to interview those in whom she confided the things she would not or could not commit to paper. I had to be able to interview the people who were eyewitnesses to certain events, the people who in some cases understood things Kick did not, could not. Without those interviews, Kick's story could not be accurately told. And so this book turned out to be also a matter of luck and timing. The interviews it required could not have been done if I had started work on the project just a few years ago as the key witnesses are all gone now. I began to research Kick's story when the key witnesses, the people who had been closest to her in these years, the people with whom she had shared her most intimate confidences, were still alive and able to be interviewed. Over the course of years, these people talked to me at length in intense and intimate conversations about a young woman and a time that they had puzzled over and discussed among themselves for 5 decades. These people entrusted me, as they saw it, not merely with Kick's story, but with important history. I wrote the book because I was given a great gift by them--the unique opportunity to see a tumultuous time in history from a very intimate angle, to depict a world and characters who have now vanished forever.

About the Author Barbara Leaming is the author of the New York Times bestsellers, including *Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis*. Leaming's previous book *Churchill Defiant* received The Emery Reves Award from the International Churchill Centre. Her groundbreaking biography of America's thirty-fifth president, *Jack Kennedy: The Education of a Statesman* was the first to detail the lifelong influence of British history and culture and especially of Winston Churchill on JFK. Her articles have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Vanity Fair*, *the Times of London* and other publications. She lives in Connecticut.