Narrator: We are presenting a reader’s theater from the book *The President Has Been Shot!* by James Swanson. It is an account of the events on November 22, 1960; one of the most infamous assassinations in the history of the United States. An exhausted, Jacqueline Kennedy has not slept in over 20 hours after witnessing the death of her husband, John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The vice-president, Lyndon B. Johnson, has arrived at the side of Mrs. Kennedy. It was advised that he fly back to Washington and abandon Mrs. Kennedy, who refused to leave without the body of her husband. Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson are in Jacqueline Kennedy’s private compartment in the presidential plane, Air Force One, to offer their condolences. Lady Bird is read by ______________, Jackie Kennedy is read by ______________, Lyndon Johnson is read by ______________, and I am ________________, your narrator.

Lady Bird: (compassionately) Dear God, it’s come to this.

Jackie Kennedy: (relieved) Oh, what if I had not been there. Oh, I am so glad I was there.

Lady Bird: (kindly) Would you like to change into fresh clothes?

Jackie Kennedy: (resolutely) No. I want them to see what they have done to Jack.

LBJ: (awkwardly) Well, about the swearing in…

Jackie Kennedy: (nodding in understanding) Oh, yes, I know, I know. What’s going to happen?

Narrator: Traditionally, when a president took the oath of office he stood alone. LBJ had something else in mind. He wanted his wife and Jackie Kennedy by his side. This was looked at as a bold, and to some, an outrageous and offensive request. How could he possibly expect her to pose for pictures? He realized his request demanded sensitivity, tact, and delicacy.

LBJ: A federal judge will administer the presidential oath aboard Air Force One before the plane flies back to Washington. I want you by my side.

LBJ: Are you sure you don’t want to change into some fresh clothes?
**Jackie:** (insistently and desperately) No. I want them to see what they’ve done. I want them to see what they’ve done.

**Narrator:** Jackie prepares for the swearing in ceremony in her small bathroom. She sees her reflection in the mirror for the first time. Her whole face is spattered with blood and hair…she wipes it with Kleenex and immediately regrets it. She wanted blood and caked hair as they took the photo. She returns for the swearing in.

**Jackie:** I should have kept the blood on.

**LBJ:** (resolutely) I do solemnly swear that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States. So help me God.

**Narrator:** Jacqueline Kennedy’s appearance shocked everyone. Some of the photographers were horrified and aimed the lens high to crop off the lower part of her body to hide the bloody skirt and stockings. Lyndon Johnson was sworn in as our 36th President of the United States. If you would like to be a part of the events surrounding the assassination of Kennedy, read the non-fiction book *The President Has Been Shot!* by James Swanson. The insights and photos will take you back to November 1960.