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## New book says Manhattan DA dumped probe of columnist's JFK-linked death

By [Susan Edelman](#)

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Dorothy Kilgallen  
The Everett Collection

A new book on the late newspaper columnist Dorothy Kilgallen blasts Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance Jr. for slamming shut a **purported re-investigation** into her mysterious death.

The glamorous reporter and TV personality, 52, was found dead in her Manhattan townhouse on Nov. 8, 1965, amid her own probe of President John F. Kennedy's assassination two years earlier.

In "**Denial of Justice: Dorothy Kilgallen, Abuse of Power, and the Most Compelling JFK Assassination Investigation in History**," author Mark Shaw pursues a theory outlined in his prior book, "**The Reporter Who Knew Too Much**," that she was murdered to quash her dogged pursuit of the truth.



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The video player shows a man with a shaved head wearing a grey t-shirt with 'SPRINGFIELD' printed on it. He is being escorted by police officers in tactical gear. The video player interface includes a 'TOP ARTICLES 1/5' indicator, the 'NEW YORK POST' logo, and navigation controls (back, play, forward) at the bottom right. A red bar at the bottom of the video player contains the text 'US military veteran sentenced to life in prison over contract killing' and a 'READMORE >>' link.

### 'Denial of Justice,' by Mark Shaw

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To be published on the 55th anniversary of JFK's death, the book accuses Vance of a cover-up. Shaw claims a "reliable source close to the DA's office" told him that Vance's staff found Kilgallen's missing JFK file and "buried it."

"We will decline comment," a Vance spokeswoman said in response.

The morning after Kilgallen's last appearance as a panelist on the hit TV game show "What's My Line?," her body was found slumped in bed, naked under a blue bathrobe, still wearing the makeup, false eyelashes and floral hair accessory she had donned for the show.

The city's then-chief medical examiner ruled her death an accident caused by a combination of booze and sleeping pills.

Shaw contends Kilgallen was drugged by accomplices of New Orleans Mafia boss Carlos Marcello, who feared her planned book would accuse him of plotting the JFK assassination and the killing of JFK assassin Lee Harvey-Oswald, who was shot to death by nightclub owner Jack Ruby.

Kilgallen, a syndicated columnist for the New York Journal-American, covered Ruby's murder trial and scored a brief interview with him.

Aiming to reconstruct why Kilgallen disputed the widely accepted "Oswald alone" theory, Shaw analyzed the 2,000-page transcript of the 1964 Ruby trial. He cites little-known testimony that, as JFK was killed, Ruby sat in a Dallas Morning News advertising office with a direct view of the Texas School Book Depository, where Oswald fired the fatal shot.

Others testified that Ruby got into press conferences that night and the next day "making like a reporter." A parking garage manager overheard Ruby on a pay phone discussing Oswald's transfer to the county jail.

"He told whoever he was talking to that he would be there," the witness said.

Ruby later maintained his shooting of Oswald was spontaneous.

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Shaw also quotes a friend of Jill Kollmar, Kilgallen's daughter, who told him that Kollmar once said, "My mother was murdered."

Reached by The Post, however, Kollmar denied it, saying she and brother Richard suspect no foul play whatsoever.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's a lot of hoopla," she said.

Shaw met with investigator Richard Ramos in the DA's "Cold Case Project." Ramos was enthusiastic and called Kilgallen "a victim," Shaw writes. But eight months later, Assistant DA Eugene Hurley III told Shaw their "thorough" probe had found no evidence of a homicide.

The DA's office never spoke to witnesses Shaw listed, he said, and refused to disclose any records. He [sent Vance a letter Friday](#) demanding a grand jury re-investigation of Kilgallen's death.

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