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If you purchase an independently reviewed product or service through a link on our website, SheKnows may receive an affiliate commission. On this day in 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr and his wife Carolyn Bessette tragically lost their lives in a plane crash that shook everyone, and continued the theories that the Kennedy family has some kind of unlucky
curse surrounding them. Fast forward to today, and so many different reports claim so many perspectives on their final weeks before that fateful night. Many claim their marriage was on the rocks, while just as many said they loved each other so much, it was just a stressful time for them. While there's a lot of conflicting information, firsthand,
resurfaced accounts have confirmed quite a bit — including the reason they didn't have children. Related story Insider Addresses Dermot Mulroney's Finances After He Requested Spousal Support From Estranged Wife The pair met back in 1992, and didn't start dating until 1994. They later wed in 1996, and while insiders claim John was ready to
have children, there was one heartbreaking reason Carolyn decided against it for years: the paparazzi. In her book entitled Jackie's Girl: My Life With the Kennedy Family, author Kathy McKeon said, "She couldn't take it. She wasn't brought up with it. John was, Carolyn wasn't... She said, 'I'm terrified of them.'" The paparazzi were relentless with the
two, oftentimes with them trying to bombard private evenings like their honeymoon, per People. McKeon wrote how a friend of Carolyn's told her that she said "I hate living in a fishbowl. John may be comfortable living like this, but I'm not. How could I bring a child into this kind of world?" Before you go, click here to see photos of JFK and Jackie O.'s
grown-up grandkids. It's hard to believe that it's been so many years since two families were torn apart by tragic loss. John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy and Jacqueline Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President John F. Kennedy Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President Jr., the 38-year-old son of former President Jr., the 38-year-old son of former Presiden
into the Atlantic Ocean on July 16, 1999. The shocking moment when the plane and a piece of Lauren's luggage recovered from the Atlantic. It would be three days until substantial wreckage and the bodies of all three were recovered. More from
LittleThings: The Kennedy Family Fortune Was Built On Risky Deals And Good Luck Instead Of Bootlegging The loss was shocking and heartbreaking to so many who felt attachment to these two families. The Kennedy family had long been marred by an alleged curse that this would become another example of. It is almost impossible to hear the name
"Kennedy" and not to think of the popular Democratic president whose assassination in 1963 shook the world. The images of the famous Zapruder film, show John F. Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline traveling in an armed motorcade through the streets of Dallas, Texas, before the president is shot to death in broad daylight. But the assassination of JFK
was only the most prominent of the many tragedies to befall the Kennedy family. Two of JFK's brothers also died in tragic circumstances, as did his son, the lawyer, journalist, and socialite John F. Kennedy Jr., a beloved figure in New York society who died when a plane he was piloting crashed into the Atlantic Ocean not far from Martha's Vinyard,
Massachusetts, after taking off in poor conditions. On board the flight were two passengers alongside Kennedy Jr.: his wife, the fashion publicist Carolyn's sister, Lauren Bessette, and Carolyn's sister, Lauren Bessette, Lauren Bessette, Lauren Bessett
felt. However, tensions emerged in the years that followed concerning who exactly was at fault for the crash, leading to a high-profile legal battle in which the Bessettes sued the presidential family for wrongful death. On July 16, 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr.'s plane took to the air from a runway in Essex County, New Jersey, en route to Martha's Vinyard,
where he was due to drop off his sister-in-law before he and his wife Carolyn took off again to Cape Cod, where they were planning to attend a wedding. The aircraft was a Piper Saratoga, a light aircraft that Kennedy Jr., who had just 300 hours of flight experience under his belt, would steer by eye having yet to pass the exam to use flight
instruments. The journey was around 200 miles, but despite the conditions and his relative lack of flight experience, Kennedy Jr. had declined to be accompanied by a flight instructor. Conditions were dark and hazy, and as the aircraft approached Martha's Vinyard, the sky and the sea became interchangeable. It is believed that Kennedy, who issued
no distress call, lost control of the plane which plummeted thousands of feet in the space of a few seconds, suggesting that Kennedy Ir. had become severely spatially disorientated. All three died on impact. Shortly after the crash, a recovery team undertook the grim and grueling task of recovering the bodies from the bottom of the ocean, while the
National Transportation Safety Board set about its investigation into why the deadly crash happened. Carolyn Bessette had long been a target of tabloid scrutiny thanks to her relationship with John F. Kennedy Jr., and struggled with the attention she received as part of one of America's most famous couples. At the height of her fame, she was
routinely criticized for her lifestyle and by those who believed that she had entered into the Kennedy family for personal profit rather than love. She was reportedly frustrated by the fact that some believed her achievements in life were down to her connections, rather than her talents. Sadly, Bessette's reputation took even more of a hammering in the
aftermath of the tragic crash. As noted by The Independent, one story that emerged in news outlets claimed that Bessette had delayed take off on account of a pedicure so that Bessette could have just the right shade of toenail polish. In doing so, it was said that her husband was forced to pilot at night, rather than in the daytime as originally intended,
and Bessette was therefore responsible for the deaths of those onboard. Several figures close to the couple published "tell-all" books in the aftermath of the fatal crash, some of which painted unflattering portraits of Bessette. She was characterized as a demanding and unpredictable figure who cared more about using cocaine with her friends than
she did about her husband, with many commentators also critical of her hesitancy when it came to having children. By the start of the 21st century, Bessette was held by many as the reason for Kennedy Jr.'s downfall, an impression that the Kennedy family did little to dispel. Tangling with a dynasty as powerful as the Kennedys is no small venture, as
the family of the late Carolyn Bessette was undoubtedly aware. Nevertheless, as the years passed and Carolyn Bessette family decided that enough was enough. In 2001, it was widely reported that they had taken legal action against the
estate of John F. Kennedy Jr. for the wrongful deaths of the Bessette sisters and that a judge had granted permission for the family to settle to the amount of $15 million, however, an attorney involved in the case told the Cape Cod Times, "I don't know where they got that number." The judgment was consistent with the findings of the investigation
into the crash that found that the crash was the result of "pilot error," per The New York Times. In 2019, Kennedy Jr.'s college friend, the historian Steven M. Gillon, published a new book, "America's Reluctant Prince," in which he was compelled to conclude that his old pal was wholly responsible for the crash that meant the deaths of three young
people. Speaking to People, Gillon admitted: "He should not have gone up that night and flew inland, away from the ocean, spend the night somewhere and then pick up the next morning ... John bears the responsibility of his recklessness that night and John alone.'
Did JFK Jr. and Carolyn Bessette have children before they died together, along with Carolyn's sister, Lauren, in a tragic plane crash in 1999? An ABC documentary, airing on January 3, 2019, is bringing renewed attention to the documentary is called
Last Days of JFK Jr. and it contains interviews and video of Kennedy and his wife. (You can see more photos of the couple here.) The answer to the question is that, no, JFK Jr. and his wife. (You can see more photos of the couple here.) The answer to the question is that, no, JFK Jr. and his wife. (You can see more photos of the couple here.) The answer to the question is that, no, JFK Jr. and his wife. (You can see more photos of the couple here.) The answer to the question is that, no, JFK Jr. and his wife.
too - John Schlossberg. "Biography: JFK Jr—The Final Year" will run on Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 9 p.m. ET on A&E Network. "July 16, 2019 marks the 20-year anniversary of John F. Kennedy Jr.'s death. This two-hour documentary special, airing on the anniversary, reframes the last year of his life in an entirely new way," A&E wrote in a statement.
Here's what you need to know: The Couple Had Only Been Married Three Years The wedding of JFK Jr. and the former Calvin Klein publicist was a storybook one shrouded in secrecy and surprise. However, the sad truth is that the fallen president's son and his new wife didn't have much time to have children before they died, and, in the short time
they were married, the union was propelled repeatedly into tabloid headlines that trumpeted rumors of great strife. This 01 May, 1999, file shows John F. Kennedy Jr. and his wife Carolyn Bissette as they leave at the end of the White House Correspondent's annual dinner in Washington, DC, 01 May. The couple was married three years before the
plane crash, in 1996, on tiny Cumberland Island in Georgia. The wedding photo released to the press quickly became iconic: According to Southern Living, the ceremony was held in the "tiny First African Baptist Church, filling the church's eight pews with family and friends and no media. They held the reception at the historic Greyfield Inn, the lone
hotel on the secluded island, some 20 miles off the coast of Georgia." No one knew outside those invited until after the wedding was over. Vanity Fair Magazine reported, though, that the marriage was troubled, alleging, "The hidden chapter was the gradual unraveling of their marriage as it slid from wedding-day hysterics into a spiral of depression,
drugs, and violence. In an excerpt from his new book, Edward Klein explores the conflicts—over starting a family." The magazine alleged that JFK Jr. had said, "I want to have kids, but whenever I raise the subject with Carolyn, she turns away and refuses to have sex with me." Caroline Kennedy's Son Looks a Lot Like John F. Kennedy Jr. Jack
Schlossberg introduces the former US president Bill Clinton at the first international symposium on President Kennedy. Although JFK Jr. didn't live long enough to become a father, his sister, Caroline, is the mother to three children - two girls and a boy. The boy has grown into a man, and John Schlossberg looks a lot like his famous uncle, right down
to the shock of thick black hair. He is the son of Caroline Kennedy and her husband, Edwin Schlossberg have the future in politics that his uncle never did?
He got political in 2016 in an essay chastising Republican. "Were my grandfather alive today, he'd be excited about how far we have come as a nation since 1963, he would feel a sense of urgency about the challenges that lie ahead and he most certainly would not be
a Republican," wrote Schlossberg. Caroline's other two children are named Tatiana and Rose. Incidentally, Rose bears a remarkable resemblance to another famous Kennedy: Jackie. Check it out: Looking at photos of Caroline's kids, now grown, reminds one of the children that JFK Jr. and Carolyn might have had were fate to deal them a better hand.
This article is about the late daughter-in-law of John F. Kennedy. For her sister-in-law, see Caroline Kennedy Jr. Her life and fashion sense
became the subjects of intense media scrutiny afterwards. The couple, along with her older sister Lauren, died in a plane crash off the coast of Martha's Vineyard in 1999. Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy in 1999BornCarolyn Jeanne Bessette (1966-01-07) January 7, 1966White Plains, New York, U.S. Died July 16, 1999 (1999-07-16)
(aged 33)Atlantic Ocean, near Martha's Vineyard, U.S.Cause of deathPlane crashAlma materBoston University (BA)OccupationpublicistSpouse John F. Kennedy Jr. (m. 1996), in White Plains, New York, the youngest child of William Joseph Bessette
(born 1942), a cabinet salesman, and Anne Marie (née Messina; born 1939), an administrator in the New York City public school system. She had two older sisters, twins Lauren and Lisa.[1] Her paternal family is originally French Canadian being a direct descendant from Jean Besset who arrived in Quebec during the 17th century.[2][3] She is also of
Lithuanian and Italian descent. Bessette's parents divorced when she was very young. Her mother later married Richard Freeman, an orthopedic surgeon, and moved to Old Greenwich, Connecticut, while Bessette's mother was a substitute
teacher. Raised in a Roman Catholic household, Bessette later attended St. Mary's, Bessette was voted by her classmates the "Ultimate Beautiful Person".[7] During her high school.[4] At St. Mary's, Bessette was voted by her classmates the "Ultimate Beautiful Person".[7] During her high school experience, Bessette was voted by her classmates the "Ultimate Beautiful Person".[8] She had initially started
high school at Greenwich High School, but her parents transferred her to St. Mary's because they felt she was not taking her studies seriously.[8] After graduating in 1988 with a degree in elementary education.[9] While there, she dated John Cullen,
star of the school's ice hockey team, who would later play professional hockey in the NHL.[10] Bessette briefly attempted a modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although her modeling career, and hired a professional photographer to take pictures for her portfolio.[8] Although 
B.U."[8] After college and until her marriage in 1996, Bessette worked for the American fashion label Calvin Klein.[8] During her career there, she went from being a saleswoman at the Chestnut Hill Mall in Newton, Massachusetts, to becoming the director of publicity for the company's flagship store in Manhattan.[4][8] While working for Klein in
Boston, Bessette was noticed by Susan Sokol, a traveling sales coordinator for the company.[8] Sokol, impressed with Bessette's grace and style, later recommended her for a position dealing with Klein's high-profile clients, such as actress Annette Bening and newscaster Diane Sawyer.[8] By the time she left Calvin Klein, she was the director of show
productions, earning a salary in the low six figures.[9] Bessette first met attorney and publisher John F. Kennedy Jr., son of the 35th United States president John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, in 1992, while he was dating actress Daryl Hannah.[10] Bessette and Kennedy began dating in 1994 and became a popular paparazzi
target, and gossip columns detailed where they ate and shopped, and even covered their public disagreements. Paparazzi often waited outside the couple's Tribeca apartment to snap photographs.[4][11] Bessette was introduced to John's uncle, Senator Ted Kennedy, in the late summer of 1994. Following the marriage, the senator would tell the press:
"You could tell right away that there was something special between the two of them."[12] Bessette moved into Kennedy's Tribeca loft in the summer of 1995, and the couple became engaged later that year.[13] Further information: Wedding dress of Carolyn Bessette Kennedy and Bessette wed on September 21, 1996. Their wedding was unknown to
the press, avoiding media onlookers.[14] The ceremony took place by candlelight on the remote Georgia island of Cumberland, in a tiny wooden chapel, the First African Baptist Church. The bride selected the then-little-known designer Narciso Rodriguez of Cerruti for her wedding dress of pearl-white silk crêpe. The groom's older sister, Caroline
Kennedy, was matron of honor, and Anthony Radziwill, the son of his aunt Lee Radziwill-Ross, served as Kennedy's two daughters, Rose Kennedy Schlossberg and Tatiana Kennedy Schlossberg and Tatiana Kennedy's two daughters, Rose Kennedy's two daughters, Rose Kennedy Schlossberg and Tatiana Kennedy's two daughters, Rose Kennedy's two daughters, Rose Kennedy Schlossberg and Tatiana Kennedy Schlossberg and Tatiana Kennedy's two daughters, Rose Kennedy Schlossberg and Tatiana Kennedy Schlossberg and Tatiana Kennedy's two daughters, Rose Kennedy Schlossberg and Tatiana Kenne
wedding, the media attention surrounding the couple intensified, and Bessette-Kennedy often found it difficult to deal with the harassment.[16] When the couple returned from their honeymoon, a mass of reporters was waiting on their doorstep. John said, "Getting married is a big adjustment for us, and for a private citizen like Carolyn even more so. I
ask you to give her all the privacy and room you can."[17] Bessette-Kennedy was badly disoriented by the constant attention from the paparazzi. The couple were permanently on show, both at fashionable Manhattan events and on their travels to visit celebrities such as Mariuccia Mandelli and Gianni Versace.[18] Bessette-Kennedy told her friend,
Carole Radziwill, that the only way to avoid the paparazzi was to leave her apartment at 7 in the morning.[19] She also complained to her friend, journalist Jonathan Soroff, that she could not get a job without being accused of exploiting her fame.[20] Her minimalist "throwaway chic" fashion sense was chronicled by various fashion publications and
drew repeated comparisons to her mother-in-law, former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.[6][8] While the interest surrounding the couple continued, Bessette-Kennedy became more involved with charity work and
often accompanied her husband to dinners at the White House. The couple were given a White House tour by President Bill Clinton in March 1998,[21] and she acted as the hostess at parties for her husband's political magazine George.[22] According to some reports published posthumously, the Kennedys were experiencing marital problems and
contemplating divorce in the months preceding their deaths.[16] The couple had various disagreements, including her refusal to start a family, John's work on the George magazine, where she felt forsaken, and her dislike of John's publishing partner Michael Berman. According to author Edward Klein, Bessette-Kennedy's "insecurity fueled a need to
control and manipulate; her frequent use of cocaine made her paranoid". Moreover, Bessette-Kennedy was jealous of and barely on speaking terms with her sister-in-law Caroline Kennedy, who reportedly criticized the bride for being late to her own wedding and wearing heels on the beach.[23] However, close friends reject the divorce claims. Robert
Littell, who spent the weekend with John and Carolyn a week before the accident, also rejected the allegation that the couple were living apart at the time of their deaths.[19] In his book, The Kennedy Curse: Why Tragedy Has Haunted America's First Family for 150 Years, Klein claimed that the couple's problems reportedly stemmed from Bessette-
Kennedy's difficulty dealing with the media attention surrounding her and the marriage, accusations of infidelity, disagreements about having children, and Bessette-Kennedy's alleged cocaine use.[11] Although Klein is the author of several Kennedy books, according to Rosemary Terenzio's book Fairy Tale Interrupted', John Kennedy Jr. himself said
of Klein, "he is a guy who had lunch with my mother twenty years ago and has been dining out on it ever since."[24] Friends of the couple, including John Perry Barlow and Christiane Amanpour, said that Bessette-Kennedy and Kennedy fought on occasion and that Bessette-Kennedy had trouble adjusting to the intense media coverage, but denied that
she used drugs or that the couple was planning to divorce. [16][25] The couple began seeing a marriage counselor in March 1999 and sought counselor grown Cardinal John O'Connor in the summer of 1999. [26][27] Main article: 1999 Martha's Vineyard plane crash Bessette-Kennedy died on July 16, 1999, along with her husband and older sister
Lauren, when the light plane John Jr. was piloting crashed into the Atlantic Ocean off the western coast of Martha's Vineyard. The Polot's failure to maintain control of the airplane during a descent over water at night, which was a result of spatial
disorientation. Factors in the accident were haze and the dark night."[28] After a five-day search, the wreckage was discovered in the late afternoon of July 21. The bodies were recovered from the ocean floor by Navy divers and taken by motorcade to the county medical examiner's office, where autopsies revealed that the crash victims had died upon
impact. At the same time, the Kennedy and Bessette families announced their plans for memorial services. [29] Toxicology testing was conducted on the pilot and drugs. [30] In the late hours of July 21, the three bodies were taken from Hyannis to Duxbury, where they were cremated in the Mayflower
Cemetery crematorium.[31] On the morning of July 22, their ashes were scattered from the Navy ship USS Briscoe off the coast of Martha's Vineyard.[32] Before marrying Kennedy, Bessette was in a relationship with Calvin Klein model Michael Bergin, who wrote a memoir titled The Other Man: John F. Kennedy Jr., Carolyn Bessette, and Me, which
was published in 2004.[33] In 2004, Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, Robert T. Littell, published The Men We Became: My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, Robert T. Littell, published The Men We Became: My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, Robert T. Littell, published The Men We Became: My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, Robert T. Littell, published The Men We Became: My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, Robert T. Littell, published The Men We Became: My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, Robert T. Littell, published The Men We Became: My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, Robert T. Littell, published The Men We Became: My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, Robert T. Littell, published The Men We Became: My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, Robert T. Littell, published The Men We Became: My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, Robert T. Littell, published The Men We Became: My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University alumnus and ex-roommate, My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University Alumnus and Ex-roommate, My Friendship With John F. Kennedy's fellow Brown University Alumnus and Ex-roommate, My Friendship With 
Fate, Friendship and Love, that includes her memories of the plane crash that took place just weeks before her own husband's death from cancer. [35] Rosamund Pike was encouraged by Gone Girl director David Fincher to base her character, Amy Dunne, on Bessette-Kennedy. Fincher said of Bessette-Kennedy, "She crafted herself, she re-invented
herself, and invented that persona. That's where I began." Pike searched unsuccessfully for audio of her, though she would concede her character should be created from the "outside in".[36] In 2015, Wes Gordon, known for disliking discussion about the influences of his collections, admitted Bessette-Kennedy's impact on the clothing for women in
that year's collection. Gordon was long interested in JFK Jr. and Carolyn's Wedding: The Lost Tapes, a two-hour special on TLC, along with interviews with family and guests. [38][39] Biography portal Kennedy curse ^ Florio, Gwen (July 13, 2019, footage of their secret wedding was released in JFK Jr. and Carolyn's Wedding: The Lost Tapes, a two-hour special on TLC, along with interviews with family and guests. [38][39] Biography portal Kennedy curse ^ Florio, Gwen (July 13, 2019, footage of their secret wedding was released in JFK Jr. and Carolyn's Wedding: The Lost Tapes, a two-hour special on TLC, along with interviews with family and guests.
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Heymann, C. David (2007). American Legacy: The Story of John and Caroline Kennedy. Simon and Schuster. ISBN 978-0-7434-9739-8. Retrieved from "New York Daily News Archive//Getty ImagesTo the outside world, Carolyn Bessette's relationship with John F. Kennedy Jr. may have seemed like a fairytale. After all, she married into the closest thing
America has to a royal family. But Carolyn and John had their ups and downs just like any other couple, maybe even more so. And at a screening last week for the new documentary JFK JR: The Final Year, those who knew the couple well shed light on their courtship. Answering a question by her friend and former Real Housewives co-star Dorinda
Medley, Carole Radziwill revealed that Carolyn and John were first introduced through Bessette's job at Calvin Klein. "They met when he went in for a fitting at Calvin Klein, I believe, and she was the person who dealt with celebrities coming in to get free clothes—I'm sure he paid for his clothes though," said Radziwill, who was married to John's
cousin Anthony Radziwiłł. "I think he just liked her, and then they started dating—this was in I'm going to say '92. We were sharing a summer house, Anthony and I and John, and he brought her for memorial day weekend. They had been seeing each other for a few months super on the DL [down low]. And that's when I first met her. "Tyler
Mallory//Getty Images John F. Kennedy, Jr. gives his wife Carolyn a kiss on the cheek during the annual White House Correspondents dinner in May of 1999. Radziwill remembers being drawn to Carolyn immediately. "She was just so much fun right away. You just felt like you knew her your whole life," she said. "And then, he broke up with her a few
weeks later because he got back with his ex-girlfriend Daryl Hannah." It was during that break, that Carolyn's mom offered her daughter some tough advice on love. "There was this period where John was going back and forth, but didn't say anything to Carolyn. He just kind of went off the radar. And then she opened up the newspaper and there he
was at a movie premiere with Daryl," RoseMarie Terenzio, JFK Jr.'s chief of staff, said during the panel. "And her mom, who is hilarious sent her the article in the mail: 'Carolyn, please get on with your life, love mom.' With a sad face. "But just a few years later, following the death of Kennedy's mother Jackie, John and Carolyn would get back together.
They married in September of 1996, and tragically died less than three years later. JFK JR: The Final Year airs Tuesday, July 16 at 9 p.m., on A&E. Caroline Hallemann Digital Director at Town & Country, where she covers culture, society, and entertainment, as well as the British royal family, among a variety of
other topics. Prior to leading the digital team at T&C, she served as the brand's Senior News Editor and Digital News Director, and has previously held positions at Travel + Leisure, DailyCandy, and Parenting Magazine. Caroline is also currently writing a book about the Kennedy family and the British royals, and she lives in Nashville, Tennessee with
her husband and their son, Tommy. You can find her on Instagram at the handle @challemann and on TikTok at @carolinehallemann. (Publicist for 'Calvin Klein') Birthday: January 7, 1966 (Capricorn)Born In: White Plains, New York, United States Carolyn Jeanne Bessette-Kennedy was a 'Calvin Klein' publicist and the wife of American lawyer,
magazine publisher, and journalist John F Kennedy Jr., her life became a favorite for the paparazzi and media. Considered a trendsetter by many, Carolyn had a great fashion sense. Her involvement in charitable
causes and her efforts in protecting her and her husband's privacy made people compare her to her mother-in-law, Jacqueline Kennedy. According to sources, Carolyn had trouble dealing with the continued media attention surrounding her life and marriage. It was speculated that such harassment, along with other issues, such as her denial to start a
family and her husband's work on the magazine 'George,' eventually gave rise to marital strain between the couple. Reportedly, they were contemplating divorce. However many of their close friends and associates rebuffed the divorce claims. Carolyn, her husband, and her sister died in a plane crash. The plane was being piloted by John F Kennedy
Jr. ANN ARBOR, Mich. — A sleepy, tree-lined street in the shadow of the University of Michigan features rows of well-appointed homes, scampering children and even a cultural arts center offering yoga classes several times a week. Nestled in the suburban enclave of North Burns Park, it looks like any well-to-do boulevard in America. But it's here
where one of the most tragic figures in our country's modern history resides — Lisa Bessette, who lost her twin, Lauren, and sibling Carolyn on a doomed flight piloted by John F. Kennedy Jr. 20 years ago, leaving her the lone surviving sister. "I can imagine that this anniversary with everything happening is a really difficult time for her," a Bessette
acquaintance told The Post, recalling the awful events of July 16, 1999. "She was devastated." That fateful evening, the Kennedy scion plunged his Piper Saratoga II into the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Martha's Vineyard. Investigators and experts later cited JFK Jr.'s inexperience and "spatial disorientation" as the cause of the crash. The tragedy
drove Lisa into a life off the grid. Even after settling in Ann Arbor, she kept her circle of friends and acquaintances small. She has no known social media accounts and even recent images of her are nearly impossible to find. John F. Kennedy Jr. gives his wife, Carolyn, a kiss on the cheek during the annual White House Correspondents Association
dinner on May 1, 1999. Getty Images Today, she lives a quiet existence in the college town, occasionally working part-time at the University of Michigan Art Museum as a "contract editor." "She had a really hard time when they passed away and was strong for her mother and her family and has since decided that she doesn't want to be in any way
public," said the acquaintance. On the day of the tragedy, John Jr. and Carolyn were flying to the wedding of his cousin Rory Kennedy in Hyannis Port along with Lauren. (Lisa was studying abroad at the time, and Lauren was going to be dropped off at Martha's Vineyard.) Rush-hour traffic delayed their takeoff, forcing Kennedy to fly during more
dangerous nighttime conditions, even though he was only authorized to pilot the plane using visual cues, not instruments. They went down in the waters off Martha's Vineyard at 9:40 p.m. All three were killed instantly, although it took five days to find the bodies, still strapped into their seats. New York Post front page July 1999. John Kennedy and the waters off Martha's Vineyard at 9:40 p.m. All three were killed instantly, although it took five days to find the bodies, still strapped into their seats. New York Post front page July 1999. John Kennedy and the waters off Martha's Vineyard at 9:40 p.m. All three were killed instantly, although it took five days to find the bodies, still strapped into their seats.
wife Carolyn Bessette killed in plane crash. The death symbolized the final end of Camelot, the toddler seen saluting his own father's coffin now himself felled by tragedy. He "seemed to belong not only to our family, but to the American family. The whole world knew his name before he did," his uncle Sen. Edward Kennedy said during a memorial
service for the couple at the Church of St. Thomas on the Upper East Side. Some 350 mourners were there that day to pay their final respects, including President Bill Clinton, Muhammad Ali and John's sister, Caroline Kennedy-Bessette relationship
descended into acrimony not long after. "The family was never comfortable with the marriage. Their mom at the wedding the night before gave a toast where she essentially said she didn't think this was the right marriage for her daughter," Steven M. Gillon, a historian and author of "America's Reluctant Prince: The Life of John F. Kennedy Jr.," a
new biography, told The Post. "Then of course their worst fears were realized." Lisa's surviving family reaped a bitter windfall in 2001 after settling a wrongful-death claim for a reported $15 million. While the exact details still remain a mystery, The Post reported at the time that the sum would be paid from Kennedy's estate, which was left to his
sister, Caroline, and a trust dedicated to other friends and family. After that, the surviving family made a conscious decision to disappear. "We never cooperate with the media, no interviews, no questions, and that is still our position," Lisa's stepfather, Richard Freeman, now 88, told The Post. Lisa Ann Bessette was born on Nov. 5, 1964, in White
Plains, NY, the daughter of Ann Messina Freeman, a teacher, and William Bessette, who worked at the kitchen design firm TNT distributors. William exited the picture amid a nasty divorce shortly after the girls were born. Lisa's mother married Richard Freeman, a prominent orthopedic surgeon. The family relocated to Greenwich, Conn. When her
younger sister, Carolyn, got hitched to John Jr. during a small and secretive ceremony on Georgia's Cumberland Island in 1996, Lisa was there too. She "was very close to both of her sisters," said the acquaintance. At the time of the crash in 1996, Lisa was in Munich working on a doctorate in Renaissance studies for the University of Michigan. She
completed her academic work in 2005. Though she never married, she eventually began a relationship with Howard Lay, a popular professor in the art history department 11 years her senior. This is a view of the neighborhood where Lisa Bessette now lives. Elaine Cromie The pair won't be in Michigan for the 20th anniversary of the Kennedy crash on
Tuesday, but instead in Paris, where Lay teaches a six-week summer course, adding that she's never seen her. "She hasn't come to my classes. But he speaks of her a lot." In her more than
500-page dissertation on "the visualization of the contents of the past her grief. There was also a cryptic note for the man who would become her life partner. "A number of people, though they may not have contributed directly to the project,
were essential to its completion, having seen me through six very difficult years," she wrote in her thesis acknowledgments. "Finally I would like to express my appreciation to Howard Lay for patiently accepting what he could not understand." Lay did not respond to multiple emails from The Post. Reps for Lisa at the university declined to offer
anything beyond confirming her occasional employment at the school art museum. Lisa's mother, Ann, 79, still married to Richard Freeman, declined to comment. Lisa's privacy is guarded with near-religious zeal. Multiple staff and faculty members at the
University of Michigan reacted with visible hostility to inquiries. "Are you a journalist? I can't talk to you. You'll get the same answer from everyone in the department," Professor Achim Timmermann told The Post. Another faculty member threatened to call campus police if questions to staffers about Lisa continued. Her home with Howard, a five-
bedroom, ivy-adorned residence, is a picture of suburbia. A Volkswagen Golf and Mini Cooper were parked in the driveway. A bird feeder sat empty. The shades were drawn. A cat perched on the windowsill. Shrubs and bushes were manicured. Over the years, Lisa has also gone to great lengths to keep her past hidden from newer friends and
relations. Most neighbors interviewed by The Post were unaware of her family tragedy. "I house-sit for them in the summer and she's never breathed a word about it to me," said a woman named Martha who answered the door to their home. "They don't socialize," said neighbors kira Birditt, a research professor at the Institute for Social Research.
 "They're a little quiet," she added, noting the couple was not married and didn't appear to have children. "They do a lot of nice gardening, especially Lisa," Margaret Dewar, another neighbor, "Dewar added. "They keep up that place. They don't have loud
parties. We have lots of students who are not like that. They don't call and complain about things." There is still much of Lisa's story that remains shrouded in mystery, and under Ann Arbor's cone of silence, it may stay buried forever. JFK Jr. rocked the world when he died in a fatal crash alongside his wife, Carolyn, and her sister. Today, her parents
are still grieving. By Jamie LernerPublished June 13 2024, 12:26 p.m. ETSource: Getty ImagesIt has been 25 years since John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn Bessette-Kennedy, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, died in the plane crash that shook America and contributed to the Kennedy family's troubles. On July 16, 1999, JFK Jr. was piloting a flight to
Martha's Vineyard for a wedding that resulted in all three of their premature deaths. The Bessette sisters were survived by their parents and Lauren's twin, Lisa. Article continues below advertisement and Lauren's twin,
In addition, Lisa Bessette has continued to maintain privacy, but some reporting has figured out where she is today. Source: FindAGrave.comArticle continues below advertisementGrowing up, the Bessette sisters were raised mostly by their mother, Anne, and their stepfather, Richard Freeman. Anne and William Bessette, the girls' father, married in
1963 and divorced in 1974, when Carolyn was just 8 years old and her twin sisters were 10 years old. Anne then remarried Richard, an orthopedic surgeon, and the family moved to Greenwich, Conn., where Carolyn attended high school. After the crash in 1999, Anne blamed JFK Jr.'s recklessness and settled with the Kennedys. "Anne is still mad at
John — she blames him for her daughters' deaths," a friend told the Irish Sunday Mirror at the time. "I also think Anne regrets that her daughters were spread at sea off the coast of Martha's Vineyard."Article continues below advertisementSource: Getty
Images"Anne Freeman has been through hell in the five years since the plane crash off Martha's Vineyard," said another family friend. "With the exception of attending the burial at sea for Carolyn and the memorial service in Greenwich, Conn., for Lauren, Anne has remained indoors." Anne's mother passed away the same year while Lisa moved to
Europe to manage her own grief. Article continues below advertisement she privately filed a wrongful death lawsuit and was awarded $15 million from the Kennedy estate after federal investigators concluded that pilot error and inexperience were the cause of the crash. Anne and Richard built a new home in Old Greenwich on a more secluded road
according to the Hartford Courant in 2000. Source: Getty ImagesArticle continues below advertisementWhile managing her grief, friends say Anne continued to go out and meet with close friends, but was living a "broken life." She set up a fund in Carolyn's memory at the Greenwich-based Kids in Crisis shelter and set up a scholarship fund in
Lauren's name at Hobart and William Smith College. While the New York Post reported that Anne was still married to Richard, however, seems to still be alive, now 93 years old. He seems to have moved back to White Plains, N.Y., where he continued his
orthopedic practice after Anne's death. "We never cooperate with the media, no interviews, no questions, and that is still our position," he told the Post in 2019. Article continues below advertisement told the Irish
Sunday Mirror. "He won't talk about his daughters deaths. He is very bitter about what happened. 'It seems like the only piece of happiness he's had in the past year has been a new lady he has been dating — a flight attendant." Williams also
remained mum whenever the press reached out. "He no longer answers the phone or the door at his White Plains, N.Y., apartment," the Hartford Courant wrote. William passed away on Nov. 21, 2014, "peacefully in his sleep" at 85 years old in Hampden Courant wrote. William passed away on Nov. 21, 2014, "peacefully in his sleep" at 85 years old in Hampden Courant wrote.
kennedy and then found out she died in a plane crash 25 years ago— alyssa (@breadlosing) June 3, 2024 Article continues below advertisementAfter losing her sisters and later her parents, we can imagine that Lisa hasn't lived the easiest life. Sources say that she occasionally works part-time at the University of Michigan Art Museum as a "contract
editor." In 2010, Lisa, who has a Ph.D, was appointed as a Lecturer in History of Art at the University of Michigan. "I can imagine that this anniversary with everything happening is a really difficult time for her," an unnamed acquaintance told The Post around the 20th anniversary of her sisters' deaths. "She was devastated. She had a really hard time
when they passed away and was strong for her mother and her family and has since decided that she doesn't want to be in any way public." Article continues below advertisement professor, Howard Lay.
Lisa's colleagues and friends have continued to respect her privacy throughout the years, while she has kept her past tragedy behind closed doors. "I house-sit for them in the summer and she's never breathed a word about it to me," a woman named Martha who answered the door to their home told The Post. Other neighbors added similar
sentiments. "They don't socialize," she said. "They're a little quiet," and don't have children. Others had kind words. "They do a lot of nice gardening, especially Lisa," said one neighbor, while another added, "She's a good neighbor. They don't have loud parties." It seems like peace, quiet, and privacy are the best ways to
respect Carolyn and Lauren's memory on the 25th anniversary of their death. Latest Human Interest News and Updates
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