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Monroe diary was poems, actor says — and stolen

By Jay Arnold
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LOS ANGELES — An actor who had said he had Marilyn Monroe's diary now says the journal is nothing more than a book of poems — and that it has been stolen.

But a private investigator who believes the diary contained embarrassing government secrets says he "smells a rat."

"The book I had was not the book they were looking for," actor Ted Jordan said Friday night. "It was poems, India love lyrics, that we [he and Monroe] used to go over. Evidently, it's not the book they're looking for.

"But somebody else must have thought it was," he said. "The book was taken out of my car between the hours of 3 o'clock and 7:30 last night."

Jordan had said that he had the red-bound diary, whose existence never has been officially confirmed. The last person who claimed to have seen it said the journal disappeared shortly after the actress's death more than 20 years ago, on Aug. 5, 1962.

The death was ruled a suicide, but friends of Monroe who said they believe the diary exists say she was killed because she was about to reveal its contents — purported government secrets she learned through an alleged romance with Robert F. Kennedy, then the attorney general. Those secrets reportedly included a CIA plot to kill Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

Jordan said his book contained no references to the CIA or to the Kennedys but did have annotations in Monroe's handwriting.

He said that on Friday he told district attorney's investigators about the book of poetry, which he said he acquired in the 1950s, and about its theft. "I was not able to show it to them," he said.

Deputy District Attorney Mike Carroll, who has been looking into allegations about Monroe's death at the request of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, could not be reached for comment.

But a private investigator, who started the search for the diary earlier this month by offering \$10,000 for

it, is skeptical of Jordan's account. "I don't buy his [Jordan's] story one bit," said Milo Speriglio. "Knowing the contents of a book he said was the diary was actually poetry, he left it in a car to be stolen. . . . It doesn't make any sense at all. Why he said all this is beyond imagination."

He suggested that Jordan might have changed earlier statements and said that the book was stolen as part of negotiations for a deal with several who have expressed an interest in rights to the actor's story.