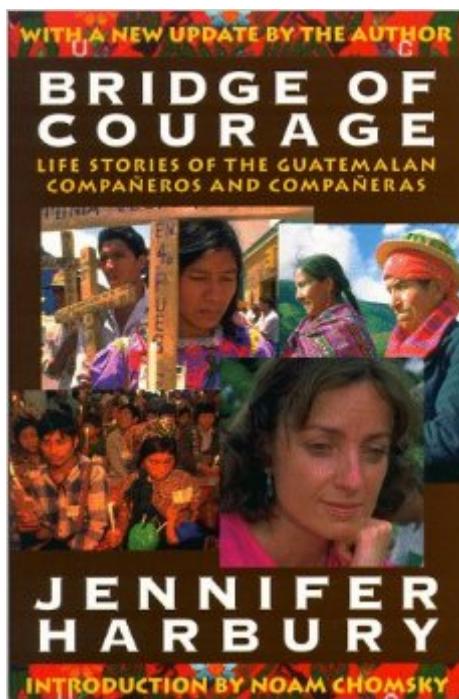


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Bridge Of Courage: Life Stories Of The Guatemalan Companeros & Companeras



Synopsis

From the Woman Who Blew the Lid Off the CIA--The Book Jennifer Harbury Wrote When She Met Her Husband. After carrying out multiple hunger strikes, in 1995 Jennifer Harbury forced the CIA to reveal that one of its paid agents had murdered her husband, Efrain Bamaca Velasquez, whose nom de guerre, Comandante Everardo, has become a symbol of freedom in Guatemala. In Senate Intelligence Committee hearings the CIA admitted to covering up its role in his death, and misleading Congress by "sweeping it under the rug." Why would the CIA want these people dead? And what about these people so touched her heart that she would risk her life to help them? Through the guerrillas's stories of unparalleled heroism, bravery and commitment, BRIDGE OF COURAGE throws an extraordinary light on the human spirit. BRIDGE OF COURAGE reveals: Comandante Everardo's story in his own words; The story of Anita, a doctor charged with the responsibility of treating wounded guerrillas unmatched by a physician's worst nightmare; How, amidst the daily battle for survival in the mountains, there is still the dealing that humor can bring to deadly situations; The unspeakable horror of the Guatemalan military's efforts to wipe out entire villages; The words of Tomas, whose tale of battle among the Mayan ruins of his ancestors conveys indigenous wisdom that leads to victory despite being hopelessly out-gunned by a U.S.-backed army.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As someone who has never been able to easily learn from typical history books, I found Bridge of

Courage VERY easy to read. Best of all, I actually remember what I learned, and feel that I have a real concept of the life and predicament of the compañeros. I have an incredible amount of respect for both the author and the story-tellers, and can't wait to read "Searching for Everardo".

The oral histories will pull at your heart strings and make you look for ways to help the Mayans in Guatemala. The accounts have such vivid nightmare quality images, you will find it hard to put down. The introduction by Noam Chomsky is a little dry, but very helpful in letting the reader know what is really going on with the CIA and Guatemala. If you like this book, you should also look at "Searching for Everardo", Harbury's second book about her search for her husband after he is captured by the Guatemalan military.

I've been trying to tell Americans about our genocidal role in Central America for decades. I've given this book to people more than any other. There's no need for academic mind numbing monologues by people like Noam Chomsky, this book is totally down-to-earth, nobody can say they didn't understand. In fact, skip the intro by Chomsky because he almost ruins this book with his usual poorly written run on sentences and confusing academic style. If you can read this without shedding a tear, then you must have a coal black heart. The U.S. has seen to the disappearance and murder of over 100,000 civilians in Guatemala who were simply struggling to get some of the same basic human rights we claim as Americans are fundamental. But as far as the U.S. is concerned, those rights are not for everybody. And we'll kill you to stop you from trying. The real force behind this is our control of their land for corporate agriculture. Please read this book, and wake up!

I met Mrs. Harbury once ago, right after the publication of this book. After former US President Clinton's official apologies for the US contribution to the repression in Guatemala, I felt nauseated and recalled passages from this book. Usually, the US establishment and its accomplice, the US mainstream media, need to create a hero out of common people. They disregard true heroes like Jennifer Harbury, whose courage transpires through this book. Overcoming literary styles she let the truth shine through every page, reflecting the lives... and deaths of so many Guatemalans struggling for a more just society.

If you want to understand what happened and is happening in Guatemala. Reading this book will change the way you think.

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