Let Me Stand Alone: The Journals of Rachel Corrie by Rachel Corrie

A Beautiful Collection Of Writing

One young woman’s voice—intense and poetic—grapples with universal ideas as it chronicles a personal journey cut short. How do we find our way in the world? How do our actions affect others? What do we owe the rest of humanity? These are the timeless questions so eloquently posed by Rachel Corrie, a young American activist killed on March 16, 2003, as she tried to block the demolition of a Palestinian family’s home in the Gaza Strip. She was twenty-three years old. Let Me Stand Alone reveals Corrie’s striking gifts as a poet and writer while telling her story in her own words, from her earliest reflections to her final e-mails. Her writing brings to life all that it means to come of age—a dawning sense of self, a thirst for one’s own ideals, and an evolving connection to others, near and far. Corrie writes about the looming issues of her time as well as the ordinary angst of an American teen, all with breathtaking passion, compassion, insight, and humor. Her writing reverberates with conviction and echoes her long-held belief in the oneness of humanity: “We have got to understand that they dream our dreams, and we dream theirs.”

My Personal Review:
Rachel Corrie’s narratives are written as though she would look back at the transcript in later years to remind herself of who she had been and exactly what she had thought and done. Tragically, she cannot look back since she is dead, victim of the struggle she chronicles with such passion.

I do not get an impression of Rachel as anti-semitic or anti-Jewish, or even anti-Israel. She has aligned herself with the Palestinians in Gaza who are being forcibly removed from their homes, which are being bulldozed. That same Israeli government has forcibly removed Jews from their unauthorized settlements. This was about standing up to an inhumane process. What a very high cost she paid for that opposition.
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