Searching for Everardo: A Story of Love, War, and the CIA in Guatemala
by Jennifer K. Harbury

This Book Gives Me Hope

Though the civil war in Guatemala ended in December of 1996, the conflict still rages for human rights activist Jennifer K. Harbury. Searching for Everardo is an often chilling account of her search for her husband, a communist guerrilla leader, who was tortured and killed in 1992 by members of the Guatemalan army. While desperately clinging to the hope that he was still alive, Harbury spent three years battling the governments of both Guatemala and the U.S. to discover his fate, gaining insights into the covert dealings of the CIA in Guatemala. Her contention is that members of the CIA knew what happened to her husband, but withheld the information in an attempt to cover up the actions of its agents. The Guatemalan government did a similar dance around the facts in order to hide the brutality of its own military forces. After unwavering pressure and protests, legal action, and three hunger strikes, Harbury finally forced the two governments to release the information they held on her husband and reveal the painful truth. This powerful memoir details her struggle in the most personal terms while offering a detailed—if one-sided—examination of the insidious political forces at work in the conflict.

My Personal Review:
Harbury's book tells a gripping and human story about a woman's search for the truth. A "Reader" who left a negative review is mistaken in his/her accusation that Harbury and Bamaca were never married, sadly this is one of the lies that the Guatemalan Government has spread in an attempt to discredit Harbury. As to atrocities committed by the Guerillas, its true 3% of all human rights abuses were committed by the Guerillas (this figure is from the UN truth commission the Committee for Historical Clarification). And while there is no excuse for these violations of human rights it must be put into the perspective and compared to the 93% of human rights violations committed by the Guatemalan Army. Harbury's story puts a
human face to this effects of a very violent and tragic civil war. However if you want to know more I would recommend "Guatemala: Never Again" by the archdioceses of Guatemala.

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